



**Augmented Education  
Ambasciata d'Italia  
Londra, 13/03/2019**

**Closing remarks  
by  
Alessandro Solidoro  
Chairman of the Board of Collegio San Carlo**

Good evening,

first of all it is my pleasure to thank personally His Excellence the Ambassador of Italy to the UK, **Raffaele Trombetta** for the invitation to this event and, in a wider sense, for his important activity regarding the relationship between Italy and the UK, especially during these a little troubled times where, in both countries, the pride of diversity seems to be harder than the desire to be part of a wider and more common project.

Thanks also to the Minister **Alessandro Motta** and to the economic team of the Embassy for the proactive support to planning and executing the event.

Thanks again to the panelist, the discussant, and the speakers who contributed to the debate of the two roundtables.

Last but not least a very warm thanks to the audience and to each of you who have been so kind and interested to attend this meeting and I hope you enjoyed it.

It's challenging to sum up the topics and the ideas shared because of the vastness and the importance of the debates we have assisted to.

First of all I would like to highlight that the issue of education, and in particular, the education of youth is a strategic topic of the development of our country.

We must remark that there are more than 7 mil students enrolled in pre-university education, considering together primary, secondary and high schools in Italy.

5%, about 350.000 students, attending private schools, fully recognized by the Italian Authorities.

More or less 40% of these students are resident in the North-West of the Country (Piemonte, Lombardia, Liguria).

As it happens in all big realities, the different schools have different profiles: excellent ones, good ones, normal ones, and unsatisfactory ones.

This afternoon we have had the chance to meet two different educational institutions, a high school and a university that are fully comparable with the best international benchmarks: Collegio San Carlo and University Bocconi, both based in Milan.

Being conscious that rankings are very important, we are fully aware that they cannot run up the complex and articulate criteria to choose an educational institution for our children.

It's absolutely true that facilities, playing fields, extracurricular activities, faculty-student ratios, continuing professional training of teachers etc. are very important to influence the decision about choosing a school (and the educational institutions we have met today are fully compliant).

As responsible operators in the field of education we must promote those activities able to put the students at the heart of their actions, without forgetting the crucial role of the teachers, professors and families.

The primary endpoint of an education project is to ensure each student may express his/her potential, developing knowledge, mutual respect, appreciation of the diversity and the ability to adapt and interact in a multicultural context.

In this framework, the choice of a multi lingual school, with international recognized curricula, is not only a way to reinforce and widen the communication skills, but it is the gateway toward the ability to express thoughts the different language assumes.

In the context of a continues innovation and ever-changing world around us, both institutions we have met today face the challenges that technology introduce into education.

We use technological devices like interactive whiteboard , online registers, audio and video supports, smartphones or I pad, coding, educational apps and so on.

They are very important, but still tools.

We are engaged to seek a balance between tools that are deeply inside the life of youths, “digital natives” and the value of learning through a personal experiences and the ability to live and interact properly in the social environment, between peers, and in general in the communities where youths are called to become active players and not simply observers and consumers.

Last point I want to share with you is that today is the public kick off of the San Carlo alumni association London Chapter, which is called to aggregate the large number of San Carlo Alumni who live and work in the UK.

Alumni have a crucial and fundamental role for every educational institution.

Bocconi is a pioneer in Italy, considering that BAA – Bocconi Alumni Association – was founded in 1937 and has now more than 50 chapter all over the world.

First of all, Alumni are effective testimonials. Alumni may be considered a living bridge between schools and the community they live and work in keeping the prospective on a mutual and continues exchange of experiences.

We are living on accelerated dynamism of the social and economic environment so we are aware that tradition without innovation can quickly degrade the vision of the educational institutions, and make their programmes rapidly outdated.

Alumni are fundamental partners for the schools in order to have careful, empathic and qualified “sources” for the community and the professionals needs.

This is our vision, our feelings and our dreams, about the role of San Carlo Alumni Association and its first chapter (the Chapter) in London.

Mr. Di Cecio, who is the CEO of the new association, who is sited in the hall, is at your full disposal for any practical clarification after the closing of our works.

Thanks again everybody for your time and your attention.

