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# NZCS and Communities of Practice (CoP) – Where to?

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**Abstract**

The NZ Computer Society (NZCS) is developing impressively towards significant national presence. This poster summarizes the range of NZCS initiatives as possible contribution towards future larger study regarding Communities of Practice (CoP).

**Keywords**

Computing practice, Community of Practice

**Introduction**

Wegner (2006) states that "Communities of Practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly". Professional associations are increasingly using concepts of CoP for learning activities. At NACCQ 2009 conference, three papers referred to CoP by ICT practitioners, in relation to capstone projects (Chard et al), virtual teams (Martin & Nesbit) and online learning (Seitzinger et al). A significant CoP case study of NACCQ has been published by Nesbit (2009).

**NZCS**

A CoP is sometimes studied with use of a framework summarizing (eg. UNESCO 2006). The NZCS Vision Statement states "To advance ICT Professionalism and Education for the benefit of New Zealand" while the Mission Statement says "NZCS promotes education and sets policies, standards and practices for ICT in New Zealand" (underlining added). From this and observation of NZCS website (2010), a five-point framework is used: Professionalism & Practice, Education & Development, Networking & Events, Advisory & Representation, Operations/Admin. The

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populated model in Figure 1 might be used for further study CoP study of NZCS.

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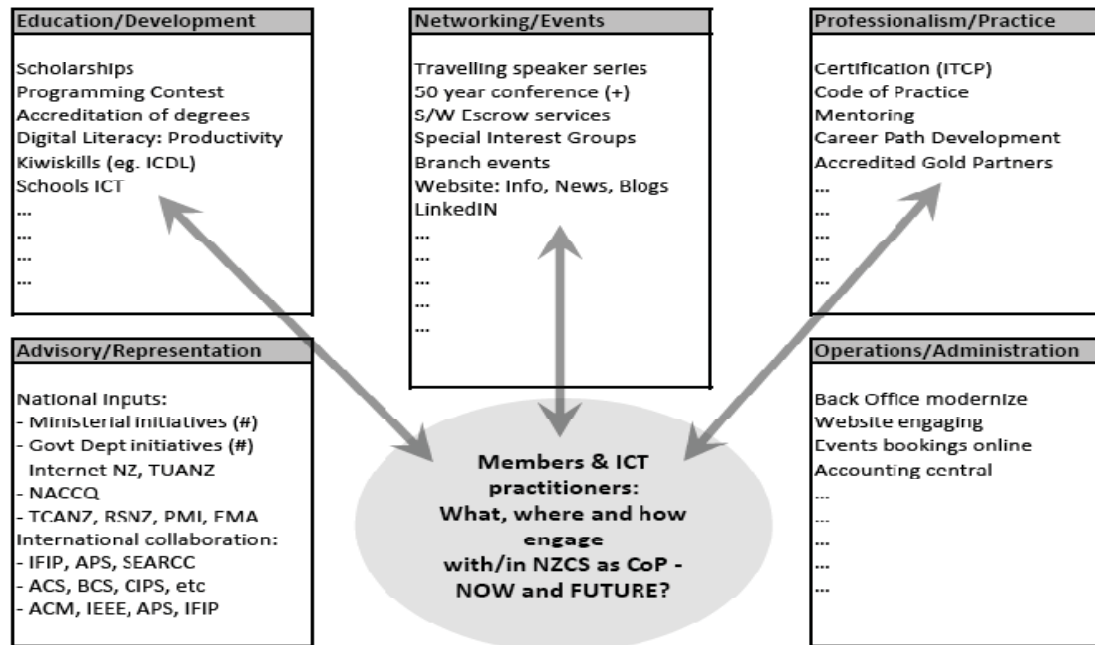


Figure 1: NZCS initiatives