Special Issue of IJCIM

Proceedings of the International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society

Bangkok, Thailand. August 4 - 5, 2004

There are 46 papers including 8 keynote addresses. The names of the writers of keynote addresses given below are in alphabetical order followed by the titles of their contributions:

- Alhabshi, Syed Othman. Malaysia. “Content Development”.
- Charmonman, Srisakdi. Thailand. “Accreditation of eLearning Degree”.
- Darby, Jonathan. UK. “UkeU Experiences in Delivery of eLearning”.
- Miles, Wanda. USA. “Delivering Effective and Measurable eLearning”.
- Nori, Kesav V. India. “Some Lessons from an Experiment in eLearning”.

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Message from
His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra
Prime Minister of Thailand

Learning and education can never be overstressed as one of the key fundamentals of society. Learning takes a lifetime, but its benefits last for a lifetime too. In this regard, Thailand needs a skilled workforce ready to adapt to new, unforeseeable challenges, if we are to realise our goal of a knowledge-based society.

Today, eLearning encompasses a variety of models such as using electronic means to disseminate quality learning to a wider audience. Distance learning is one such example and is today an integral part of our education programme to provide quality education for all Thai citizens, even if they live in the remotest of areas. eLearning also paves the way for knowledge-on-demand and lifelong learning. People should never feel too old to learn new things, and new media such as the world wide web now give people the opportunity to learn only what they need to know, when and where they want to learn it. Giving people a basic education is important; giving them the desire to learn all their lives is simply invaluable.

It is thus indeed a great honour for Thailand to host this inaugural International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society. The Conference should help expand our awareness of the importance of eLearning, not just as users, students and teachers, but as decision-makers and policy-setters in Thailand, and indeed the entire Asia-Pacific region.

(Thaksin Shinawatra )
Prime Minister
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Message from Chairman and
Chief Software Architect, Microsoft Corporation
Vision for the New Knowledge-Based Society

Our common goal should be to provide every classroom in every school with Internet access. The Internet should be part of the curriculum, and we must help every teacher understand how best to use this incredible new tool. Every student starts out with amazing curiosity. They want to explore new subjects. They want to find kids who have similar interests. And the Internet is a fantastic means of letting people go out and explore things on their own. If it’s done properly, this knowledge can then be brought back to the classroom and shared with other students. We can also create a "connected learning community," where parents can go online to see homework assignments and assist their kids in researching a topic. But in order for this to become a reality, school curriculums need to be redesigned to take full advantage of the technology.

The Internet is the most amazing tool for educators that has ever been created, but technology alone is not the answer. The answer is great teachers. We need to invest in preparing teachers for the modern classroom. Because for kids born during this decade, the Internet will be a fact of life. And, given the right opportunities, this generation will show us how to take full advantage of this amazing technology.

Children start out with lots of curiosity about the world, and, as I’ve seen with my own children, they devote an amazing amount of energy to things they’re interested in. But if an adult is too busy or can’t answer a question, or if a textbook fails to meet a child’s particular needs, their curiosity often withers.

The PC helps stimulate that curiosity and encourage children to learn, while at the same time helping parents become more involved in the process. They can see what their children are learning at school, keep track of homework that has been assigned, and work with teachers to ensure that their children are getting the education they need. And at home they can spend time with their children on the PC, keep an eye on what they're using it for, and showing them how to use it appropriately.

I hope we can play a vital role in changing our society to become a Knowledge-based society. Best wishes for the conference.

(Bill Gates)
Chairman and Chief Software Architect, Microsoft Corporation
The International Journal of the Computer, the Internet and Management is very pleased to publish the “Pre-Conference” Proceedings of the International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society. There are nine keynote addresses and over 30 papers in parallel sessions. However, due to very limited amount of time available, it is understandable that some authors cannot complete the manuscript in time to be included in the special issue of IJCIM.

The nine keynote addresses are “Delivering Effective and Measurable eLearning” by Wanda Miles of MicroSoft Corporation; “Content Development” by Datuk Syed Othman Alhabshi of UNITAR, the first eLearning university in Malaysia; “Some Lessons from an Experiment in eLearning” by Prof. Kesav V. Nori, Tata in India; “Usability and User-centered Design” by Dr. Tomas Berns, Ergolab in Sweden; “UkeU Experiences in Delivery of eLearning” by University of Southampton in UK; “The Wang Klaikangwon School, Hua Hin Model: Moving Ahead Together through Distance Education, the Way Forward” by Khwankanee Vajaradaya, Distance Learning Foundation in Thailand; “Accreditation of eLearning Degree” by Prof. Dr. Srisaaki Charmonman, Assumption University of Thailand; “Experiences and Lessons of eLearning Development in Higher Education in China” by by Zhiting Zhu, China. The titles and authors of all papers presented are given in Appendix A.

The papers have been submitted to the editors from July 1 to July 15, 2004. In order for the Proceedings to be ready for distribution at the Conference on August 4, 2004, the camera-ready manuscript must be sent to the printshop on July 19, 2004. Two numbering systems for the pages were considered. The first option is to use 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, ... 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, ... 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, .... The second option is to use 1, 2, 3, .... With the first option, the papers could be included in the Proceedings in the order of presentation at the conference but the total numbers of pages in the Proceedings will not be readily obvious. Therefore, the second option is chosen by putting the papers or abstracts in the order of arrival in the office of the editors. Then an appendix is included with the list of authors in alphabetical order and pointers to the pages in the Proceedings.

The editors and staff of IJCIM as well as the staff of Thailand Chapter of the Internet Society, Thailand Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (acm), Thailand Joint Chapter of the Computer Society and the Engineering Management Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE), Association of Thai Internet Industry, Thailand Internet Association, KSC Foundation and the College of Internet Distance Education of Assumption University are very proud to take part in this important educational endeavor.

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Message from the Minister of Information and Communication Technology

Technology has a habit of changing much more than what its inventors had originally envisioned. First the wheel, then the car and then the aeroplane shrunk the world and made it a much more compact place. Information technology changed the way we worked and the very fabric of society no less profoundly than the industrial revolution of a century ago.

Today we are at the cusp of yet another revolution which has been borne out of the synergy where Information Technology and Communication Technology meet. It has affected every part of our lives, and the way we learn is no exception. eLearning has been around for quite some time, but before the advent of the World Wide Web, before Digital Rights Management and Public Key Infrastructure technology, it remained mainly a one-way medium. Today, that one-way street has the potential to be a two-way avenue, not just for learning per se, and not even for interactive learning but for building entire secure communities of practice and learning together, even though physically apart.

Education is a valuable investment in its own right, but ICTs have made it into an exciting new industry, complete with the challenges and opportunities that accompany the opening of any new frontier. Micro-payments through smartphones and the web will soon make education-on-demand a reality and the economies of scale will lead to lower prices and better services through increased competition. At the same time, a much larger number of people will benefit from these projects throughout Thailand and indeed, throughout the Asia-Pacific region, as we move beyond the elite and early adopters and towards the masses who have the most to gain.

It is indeed a great honour for the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of the Royal Thai Government to host this inaugural International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society. I am sure that it will be the first of many successful conferences that will help focus the future of eLearning not just in the Asia-Pacific region, but indeed, throughout the entire world.

(Surapong Suebwonglee)
Minister of Information and Communication Technology
Message from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

It is a fact that the majority of the people in the ASEAN region still depend on subsistence farming for their livelihood. Providing these most disadvantaged people with a hand-up in the form of education is one of the most important things we, as leaders, can do for our people.

eLearning has the potential to reach out to more people than hitherto possible with conventional learning methods, not only geographically, but demographically. eLearning is a valuable development tool that can reach out to the underprivileged and help build a culture of life-long learning into society at large. It can give those too busy, too poor, too weak or too old an equal opportunity for education and a degree or diploma on which to build a better life for themselves.

This year’s inaugural International Conference for Knowledge-based Society is built around the ASEAN TELMIN theme, “Building eLearning culture towards K-ASEAN”. It is important that eLearning, and indeed, life-long learning becomes part of our culture and not just a passing fad or one-off project. Indeed, ASEAN support will help create communities of practice that transcend the limited experiences and resources of just one country for the benefit of all.

It is indeed an honour and a privilege that Thailand has this opportunity to host the first of what I am sure will be a highly successful series of conferences. Today we have planted the seeds of the future knowledge-based society. We must look after it well if it is to become strong and offer shade and resources for our children and our grandchildren.

Khunying

(Dhipavadee Meksawan)
Permanent Secretary
Message from the Chairman of the Organizing Committee

In the year 2004, eLearning is only about 10% of classroom-based learning. However, 10 or 20 years from now, eLearning will be more than 50% of all learning, i.e. eLearning will become the main stream, and classroom-based learning the supporting part. The concept of eLearning has been applied to all fields of studies in US universities, including even the field of medical sciences where strong opposition to eLearning had been raised earlier. The number of students in eLearning in the US is increasing about 30% every new academic term. Peter Drucker, a top US authoritative figure, has stated that the amount of money spent on eLearning will eventually be higher than that on eCommerce.

 Delivering education through eLearning is for “Anyone, anywhere and anytime”. Furthermore, using the Internet as the technology of choice will make it possible for “everyone to be equal in terms of education”, because the Internet is readily available at low cost for everyone. All countries are turning to or thinking about joining the eLearning train. Not many would like to miss the fast-moving train and be left far behind. Many “radio universities” and “television universities” as well as other educational institutions are turning to eLearning.

 It is highly appropriate and timely that the Government of Thailand, especially the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, wholeheartedly support eLearning and the first International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society.

 In my capacity as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Thailand, the ICT Ministry, the sponsors of the Conference, the speakers, the organizations whose representatives are members of the Committee, the Committee members themselves, the editors and staff as well as all other parties who have contributed to the success of the Conference.

Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman
Chairman of the Organizing Committee