

International Workshop on  
**Improving E-Learning  
Policies and Programs**

PROCEEDINGS



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ADB Institute

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# FOREWORD

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Development Bank Institute recognize the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) to foster development in the Asia-Pacific region. The adoption of new learning technologies for billions of people in Asia has stimulated governments to incorporate ICT in their policies and plans. Private organizations have also recognized their roles in facilitating ICT development to serve their needs.

The education sector is a focus area of ADB, and ADB has acknowledged that ICT is a crucial instrument in bringing education to everyone. Many countries in Asia and the Pacific have already shown interest in this new learning tool.

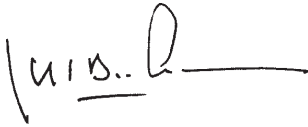
Innovative technology that develops the human resource base is a key to improving people's lives. Rapid innovation in ICT is transforming the way we work, the way we interact, and the way we learn. In the education sector, e-learning improves education by making it possible for students to fit their education into family and work schedules, and by providing a greater choice of quality courses. E-learning allows students to enroll simultaneously in more than one good school in order to achieve their particular learning goals in the most timely manner. At the same time, each school can maintain a different set of general education tools, prerequisites, academic specialties, and other institutional requirements.

The growth of e-learning changes the very nature of education—how it is designed, administered, delivered, supported, and evaluated. As more developed countries adopt anytime-anywhere learning, students in developing countries are faced with the digital divide and widening gap in academic achievement. This gap results from an interaction of several factors, but if left unaddressed, unequal access to digital resources and differences in ICT skills will allow the "haves" to increasingly outpace the "have nots."

This book, the proceedings of a high-level workshop on Improving E-learning Policies and Programs, explores the issues and benefits of e-learning. The status of e-learning and ICT in 19 Asian developing

countries is presented. The aspirations of their governments to uplift the educational level of their populations through e-learning—that is, to bridge the digital divide in academic achievement—are then described in a series of draft action plans.

We hope that the discussion here will inspire not only the participating countries but also other countries in the region to take positive action toward developing e-learning capabilities and to make them accessible to all their people.



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# PREFACE

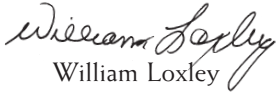
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) conducted an international workshop on Improving E-learning Policies and Programs on 9–13 August 2004 in Manila. The workshop was jointly coordinated and sponsored by the governments of Australia and Republic of Korea and two private companies: International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation and Microsoft Corporation. There were 28 participants, who were decision makers in government ministries of education, economy, finance, or planning from 19 countries. There were also speakers and resource persons from IBM; Microsoft; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; Australia; and Republic of Korea. Others from the private sector were also invited to share their knowledge in their specific fields of expertise.

The objectives of the workshop were to review, compare and evaluate e-learning policies and programs in the selected countries and to draft action plans to improve them or to introduce e-learning policies and programs.

The presentations were organized into three parts: macro analysis of components facing e-learning in countries; micro analysis of these components, and case studies. A forum was held during the workshop to share and discuss ongoing applications of e-learning projects in developing countries. A major outcome of the workshop was a series of 25 draft action plans prepared by the participants for their respective countries.

In the draft action plans, the use of e-learning has been proposed by the countries involved to develop school networks, to upgrade nonformal systems to improve literacy and life skills, for teacher education, for development of policy in information and communications technology systems, and for modernizing curricula and learning methods. Together, they represent major trend lines for the region over the coming years as countries begin to focus on e-learning technology as a way to increase access to and improve the quality of both formal and nonformal education systems.

ADBI, ADB, and the private sector organizers are committed to continue the process of integrating e-learning in Asia and the Pacific with all forms of knowledge sharing and awareness campaigns. In 2005, an international conference on mobile learning or m-learning is scheduled to continue the e-learning series of conferences. In 2006, e-textbooks and in 2007, an e-teacher training conference will be highlighted. In addition, the organizers will search for ways to fund selected concepts developed during these conferences, including the provision of technical assistance to pilot innovations in e-textbooks and e-teacher training.



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The workshop could not have been successfully completed without the help of a large number of staff from the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Asian Development Bank (ADB): at ADBI, Peter McCawley, Dean; Raymond Z. H. Renfro, Director, Capacity Building and Training; Jeoung-Keun Lee, Senior Capacity Building Specialist; and Doi Tomoko, Program; and at ADB, Jan van Heeswijk, Director General, Regional and Sustainable Development Department; Robert Dobias, Director, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Social Sectors Division (RSAN); William Loxley, Principal Education Specialist, RSAN; Ma. Virginita A. Capulong, Sr. Sector Officer, RSAN; Sheela Rances, Administrative Assistant, RSAN; Jocelyn Bolos, Administrative Assistant; and Ma. Socorro Duenas, Rapporteur.

In addition, special thanks are due to ADB and ADBI support staff members who prepared the workshop hall and materials.

Participants greatly appreciated the work done during the workshop by the elected chairperson, Mr. Anura Dissanayake, Director, National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka, and vice-chairperson, Ms. Khin Maung Ba, Deputy Director, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development of Myanmar.

Finally, the workshop would not have been successful without the strong support and assistance given by resource persons and by the participants from developing member countries. Their expert advice and country-specific experiences were valuable in making the workshop relevant to the needs of the developing member countries.

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# ABBREVIATIONS

ALIC	-	Advance Learning Infrastructure Consortium
ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
ADBI	-	Asian Development Bank Institute
ADDIE	-	analyze, design, develop, implement, and evaluate
AEN	-	Asian E-learning Network
ASEAN	-	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CD-ROM	-	compact disc-read only memory
CLC	-	computer learning center
CSAT	-	College Scholastic Aptitude Test
CompTIA	-	Computer Industry Trade Association
DMC	-	developing member country
DVD	-	digital video disc
EBS	-	Educational Broadcasting System
EFA	-	Education For All
EMIS	-	educational management information systems
ESP	-	Education Strategic Plan
ESSP	-	Education Sector Support Program
e-VRC	-	e-Vidhata resource center
GDP	-	gross domestic product
GISP	-	Government Information Systems Plan
HEI	-	higher education institution
IBM	-	International Business Machines Corporation
ICT	-	information and communications technology
ID	-	instructional design
IDRC	-	International Development Research Centre
IP	-	Internet protocol
IPR	-	intellectual property rights
ISD	-	instructional system design
IT	-	information technology

ABBREVIATIONS  
POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

ITU	-	information technology unit
K-12	-	kindergarten to grade 12
LMS	-	learning management system
MDG	-	Millennium Development Goal
MoEYS	-	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
MONTE	-	Ministry of National Education
NCC	-	National Computer Center
NCI	-	National Computer Institute
NIE	-	National Institute of Education
NUOL	-	National University of Laos
PC	-	personal computer
PDA	-	personal digital assistant
RTTC	-	regional teacher training centers
SESP	-	Secondary Education Support Programme
TTCN	-	teacher training centers network
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USQ	-	University of Southern Queensland
VCD	-	video compact disc
VOIP	-	voice-over Internet protocol
WiFi	-	wireless fidelity
XML	-	extensible markup language