

## International Conference

16–18 October 2007 • Asian Development Bank, Manila, Philippines

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### *Best Practices in Learning Contents via Multi-media – Capacity Building in Thailand*

Thailand represents an example of a progressed economy, yet with considerable opportunities for reforms in the human development area. The economic crisis of the 90s has exposed Thailand with the appalling reality that the nation has lagged behind in terms of education, science and technology, and research and development. The new educational system, embracing lifelong learning, comprises formal education, non-formal education, and informal education. This system is moving toward decentralization focusing on restructuring the framework of resource allocation, organizational structure, curriculum, the teaching and learning process, and professional development. ICT plays an important role as a tool for managing these changes.

In 2005, under a bilateral agreement, the Thai Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) approved a 14-month project to assist the MOE develop capacity for the design, development, storage and distribution of digital curriculum resources in the form of 'learning objects' (components of interactive multimedia), relevant to the needs of the Thai school sector. The Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST) an autonomous body within the MOE was designated as the implementing agency. The project promoted skills transfer in curriculum design, development, and the distribution of curriculum to the school level. Through the project, Curriculum Corporation, Australia assisted the MOE develop appropriate frameworks for interoperability standards and specifications upon which sound e-learning can be based. Capacity building, remaining at the core of this activity, the MOE was also assisted in the development of a model for partnerships between the public and private sectors in Thailand for the production of educationally-sound digital curriculum resources for use by schools and school training-centres. Curriculum Corporation's knowledge through managing the key Australian national digital curriculum resources project (A\$120 million) helped to develop an initial repository of digital curriculum resources for use in Mathematics and Science teaching.



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The project provided the MOE with a sound model for the ongoing sustainable development of digital curriculum resources. In the first instance, it developed the leadership and management capacity of IPST for the use and development of digital curriculum resources in Mathematics and Science. These capabilities were intended to be subsequently transferred to other Thai agencies for the development of digital curriculum resources in additional subject areas.

This presentation will report on Project design, implementation challenges and outcomes. A good example of capacity building practice, the project outcomes could benefit other ASEAN and Central Asia Education for ICT contexts.

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**Mak Khan** is Director, Curriculum Corporation International, the international arm of Curriculum Corporation, Australia. A development practitioner who has been working as adviser and consultant to the UN, ADB, World Bank and AusAID, Mak's strength lies in the areas of capacity building, Results Based Management (RBM), regional cooperation and training. A former UNDP staff member and an academic at the University of Melbourne, Mak has designed and managed numerous development interventions in the areas of governance, education, health and aid coordination. He has special interest and expertise in ICT for Education and social marketing of development messages, especially in the context of capacity building and training needs assessment. In several health and education projects (Nepal, PNG, Philippines, Bangladesh) involving HIV/AIDS, drug abuse prevention, environment and governance (anti-corruption), Mak had developed ICT based prevention and awareness building strategies and products on behalf of development partners.

**Susan Atkins** is Director Online Initiatives, The Learning Federation project of Curriculum Corporation, Australia which and responsible for the development, implementation, documentation, monitoring, research and review of processes to support best practice learning design for educational standards, both nationally and internationally. As a specialist in online learning, pedagogy, instructional design and the development of educational multimedia Susan plays a strategic role in promoting ICT for Education within the context of e-learning materials and policies surrounding e-learning. She holds overall responsibility for content procurement including, project management, educational design and quality assurance for procurement of online content nationally and internationally. Susan has initiated and coordinated the development and delivery of a variety of e-learning training and development programs nationally and internationally, including Thailand which will feature in Curriculum Corporations presentation in this conference. Susan has also initiated and developed interactive science and environmental education programs and has extensive experience in delivery of quality content via the Internet and Satellite Television to remote schools, teachers, and students.

