

The Implementation of Instructional Innovations and Assistive Technologies in Emerging Developing Countries within the Asia-Pacific Region

Mas Nida MD KHAMBARI^{a*} & Niwat SRISAWASDI^b

^{a b}Organizers of WICTTEE 2017

^aFaculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

^bFaculty of Education, Khon Kaen University, Thailand

**khamasnida@upm.edu.my*

Most of the emerging developing countries within the Asia-Pacific region are actively elevating their education system to greater heights. Technologies are considered as instrumental in fostering effective and inclusive learning environment and moving pedagogical stance towards a learner-centered instruction (UNESCO, 2016). Instructional innovations and assistive technologies are high on the agenda in emerging developing countries within the Asia Pacific region. Harnessing ICT in learning institutions are one of the aspirations outlined in Education 2030 as a means to strengthen the education system, knowledge dissemination, and information access, and quality and effective learning (UNESCO, 2017).

In response to the growing research diversity among emerging developing nations within the Asia-Pacific region, the Sixth International Workshop on ICT Trends in Emerging Economies (WICTTEE 2017) is held in conjunction with the 25th International Conference on Computers in Education, Christchurch, New Zealand. WICTTEE 2017 is organized by the SIG on Development of Information and Communication Technology in the Asia Pacific Neighbourhood—DICTAP. The visions of DICTAP are to:

- Share ideas and best implementation practices related to government policies and incentives aimed at promoting human resource development, technology transfer, effective e-learning strategies and implementation, software and content development suitable for each member of the Asia-Pacific neighborhood;
- Coordinate and promote community-based e-learning activities, global sharing and management of information and knowledge. Examples of such communities are the Asia-Pacific Society on Computers in Education (APSCE) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN); and
- Coordinate and promote student and staff exchange among Asia-Pacific neighborhood member nations to promote more effective sharing of knowledge and practices.

The missions of DICTAP are to:

1. Connect researchers from emerging developing countries within the Asia-Pacific region to share scholarly findings and professional insights in ICT development in the field of education;
2. Establish networking opportunities among researchers, reduce the research gap between the researchers from more developed and less developed countries; and
3. Foster, enhance and sustain collaborations among these researchers.

WICTTEE 2017 is the sixth workshop that we are organizing in the hope to realize the aforementioned visions and missions. The workshop is a continuation of our relentless effort to provide a dynamic platform for practitioners and researchers alike to come together to share their country experiences.

We are extremely pleased that practitioners and scholars with university affiliations from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Nigeria and India will be congregating in Christchurch, New Zealand to present their research findings and share their views at WICTTEE 2017. A total of ten papers will be presented in a half day workshop.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors who submitted their papers to WICTTEE 2017. We would like to record our sincerest appreciation to our Program Committee Members who dedicated their time and expertise to the most challenging and demanding task of reviewing the paper submissions. Last but not least, we would like to thank DICTAP's Advisory Committee Members for their wisdom and guidance in making WICTTEE 2017 a reality.

References

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