The Changing ICT Educational Landscape in Emerging Developing Countries within the Asia Pacific Region

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The developmental growth of ICT in many emerging developing countries within the Asia Pacific region has been phenomenal in recent years as the government of these countries view ICT as the key component of their educational reform agenda [1]. They have committed large financial resources to equip schools with relevant ICT infrastructure [2]. Students, therefore, must acquire the right ICT skills, knowledge and attitudes in order to compete successfully in the 21st century learning environment. ICT in education will provide the right opportunities for them to obtain new information, think critically, and show initiative to meet the challenges of globalization [2] As a result, researchers from these countries are beginning to focus on the ICT development in their respective countries. In response to the emerging research diversity among emerging developing nations within the Asia-Pacific region, the First International Workshop on ICT Trends in Emerging Economies (WICTTEE 2012) is held in conjunction with the 20th International Conference on Computers in Education, Singapore. WICTTEE 2012 is organized by the SIG on Development of Information and Communication Technology in the Asia Pacific Neighbourhood—DICTAP. The visions of DICTAP are to:

1. 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;
2. 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
3. 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 2012 is one of the many activities that we have planned for DICTAP to achieve the aforementioned visions and missions. WICTTEE2012 serves as a platform to highlight the emerging ICT Trends in developing countries with the hope of increasing

collaboration with more developed countries. We are extremely pleased that authors with university affiliations from Australia, China, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand will be converging in Singapore to present their research findings and share their views at WICTTEE 2012. A total of 12 papers will be presented in a full day workshop. We hope that WICTTEE 2012 will provide the platform for our presenters and participants to engage in meaningful and rich discourse in various topics of ICT in education. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors who submitted their papers to WICTTEE 2012. 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 2012 a reality.

References

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[2] Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (2010). *Report of the Status of ICT integration in Education in South East Asian countries*. Accessed 5 October 2012, http://www.icde.org/ filestore/Resources/Reports/SEAMEO_ICT-Integration-Education2010.pdf