

Exploring Educational Transformation through ICT in Emerging Developing Countries within the Asia-Pacific Region

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Governments in emerging developing countries have started to take incremental but concrete steps to leverage on the potential of ICT to transform education at all levels in their respective countries (Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, 2010). Many countries have started allocating an appropriate amount of their yearly budget for ICT development in education. Indeed, this is a bold step to bridge the gap between education and economy. No doubt, education policy makers are “attracted to the prospect that ICT can improve student achievement, improve access to schooling, increase efficiencies and reduce costs, enhance students’ ability to learn and promote their lifelong learning, and prepare them for a globally competitive workforce” (Kozma, 2011, p. 4).

Often, the educational transformation through ICT is full of challenges and can sometimes be messy. On one hand these challenges can be unique to each country and on the other hand be common among the emerging developing countries. Obviously, there is much to explore and learn about the transformation that is taking place in these countries’ education system. In response to the growing research diversity among emerging developing nations within the Asia-Pacific region, the Second International Workshop on ICT Trends in Emerging Economies (WICTTEE 2013) is held in conjunction with the 21st International Conference on Computers in Education, Bali, Indonesia. WICTTEE 2013 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 2013 is the second workshop that we are organizing in the hope to realise 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 China, Malaysia, and Indonesia will be congregating in Bali, Indonesia to present their research findings and share their views at WICTTEE 2013. A total of seven papers will be presented in a full day workshop.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the authors who submitted their papers to WICTTEE 2013. 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 2013 a reality.

References

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