Message from the Chairman of the Organizing Committee

Education is included in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). It is said that in the future more than 50% of learning will be in the form of eLearning, i.e. eLearning will be the mainstream and classroom-based learning will be the supporting part. The commercial value of eLearning will be greater than that of eCommerce, especially in Asia Pacific where eCommerce is not progressing as much as in the US. All countries, including those in Asia Pacific, are promoting eLearning because it is for “Anyone, anywhere and anytime”.

It should not be forgotten that “eLearning is learning through electronic means”. The emphasis must be on “learning” and not on “electronic”. Software for eLearning used to be very expensive a few years ago but free eLearning software packages are now available on the Internet.

It is less expensive now to produce eLearning courseware than it was a few years ago. Therefore, eLearning will make it possible for “everyone to be able to get equal opportunity in learning” and that will be beneficial to all concerned.

The Government of Thailand through the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology must be highly commended for supporting this Second International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society.

In my capacity as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Thailand, the ICT Ministry, the sponsors of the Conference, the speakers, the organizations whose representatives are members of the committee, the committee members themselves, the editors and staff as well as all other parties who have contributed to the success of the Conference.

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