Message from
His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra
Prime Minister of Thailand

Learning and education can never be overstressed as one of the key fundamentals of society. Learning takes a lifetime, but its benefits last for a lifetime too. In this regard, Thailand needs a skilled workforce ready to adapt to new, unforeseeable challenges, if we are to realise our goal of a knowledge-based society.

Today, eLearning encompasses a variety of models such as using electronic means to disseminate quality learning to a wider audience. Distance learning is one such example and is today an integral part of our education programme to provide quality education for all Thai citizens, even if they live in the remotest of areas. eLearning also paves the way for knowledge-on-demand and lifelong learning. People should never feel too old to learn new things, and new media such as the world wide web now give people the opportunity to learn only what they need to know, when and where they want to learn it. Giving people a basic education is important; giving them the desire to learn all their lives is simply invaluable.

It is thus indeed a great honour for Thailand to host this inaugural International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society. The Conference should help expand our awareness of the importance of eLearning, not just as users, students and teachers, but as decision-makers and policy-setters in Thailand, and indeed the entire Asia-Pacific region.

(Thaksin Shinawatra)
Prime Minister