Message from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

It is a fact that the majority of the people in the ASEAN region still depend on subsistence farming for their livelihood. Providing these most disadvantaged people with a hand-up in the form of education is one of the most important things we, as leaders, can do for our people.

eLearning has the potential to reach out to more people than hitherto possible with conventional learning methods, not only geographically, but demographically. eLearning is a valuable development tool that can reach out to the underprivileged and help build a culture of life-long learning into society at large. It can give those too busy, too poor, too weak or too old an equal opportunity for education and a degree or diploma on which to build a better life for themselves.

This year’s inaugural International Conference for Knowledge-based Society is built around the ASEAN TELMIN theme, “Building eLearning culture towards K-ASEAN”. It is important that eLearning, and indeed, life-long learning becomes part of our culture and not just a passing fad or one-off project. Indeed, ASEAN support will help create communities of practice that transcend the limited experiences and resources of just one country for the benefit of all.

It is indeed an honour and a privilege that Thailand has this opportunity to host the first of what I am sure will be a highly successful series of conferences. Today we have planted the seeds of the future knowledge-based society. We must look after it well if it is to become strong and offer shade and resources for our children and our grandchildren.

Khunying

(Dhipavadee Meksawan)
Permanent Secretary