Message from the Chairman of the Organizing Committee

In the year 2004, eLearning is only about 10% of classroom-based learning. However, 10 or 20 years from now, eLearning will be more than 50% of all learning, i.e. eLearning will become the main stream, and classroom-based learning the supporting part. The concept of eLearning has been applied to all fields of studies in US universities, including even the field of medical sciences where strong opposition to eLearning had been raised earlier. The number of students in eLearning in the US is increasing about 30% every new academic term. Peter Drucker, a top US authoritative figure, has stated that the amount of money spent on eLearning will eventually be higher than that on eCommerce.

Delivering education through eLearning is for “Anyone, anywhere and anytime”. Furthermore, using the Internet as the technology of choice will make it possible for “everyone to be equal in terms of education”, because the Internet is readily available at low cost for everyone. All countries are turning to or thinking about joining the eLearning train. Not many would like to miss the fast-moving train and be left far behind. Many “radio universities” and “television universities” as well as other educational institutions are turning to eLearning.

It is highly appropriate and timely that the Government of Thailand, especially the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, wholeheartedly support eLearning and the first 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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