

## “AEN Conference 2002” Summary Report

2002.8.23

ALIC

Date: Wednesday July 24 and Thursday July 25th, 2002

Participants: About 200 participants (about 50 overseas participants) from organizations involved in e-learning, including governments, associated councils, universities, and corporations, from 12 Asian nations (10 ASEAN countries and Korea) including Japan.

### Summary

At the ASEAN+3 (Japan, China, and Korea) Economic Ministers Meeting held in Vietnam in September 2001, the “Asia e-Learning Initiative,” proposed by Mr. Takeo Hiranuma, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), was approved. In response, governments, universities, and the e-learning industries of Asian nations gathered together and held the first Asia e-Learning Network Conference 2002 of the Asia e-Learning Network (AEN) at the Tokyo Waterfront Subcenter from July 24th to 25th of this year. The purpose of the conference was to decide on concrete policies and approaches for the future development of the e-learning market in Asia. Participants were from 12 countries consisting of the 10 ASEAN nations, Korea, and Japan, and included people from governments, associated councils, universities, and e-learning industries.

On July 24th, the conference adopted the AEN Tokyo Statement proposed by Japan. On July 25th, the participating members mainly exchanged information about the latest trends of e-learning standardizing and about the situation of e-learning in each country.

### July 24th: AEN Establishment Meeting and Launch of Experimental project

On the July 24th, Mr. Lim Kin Chew, Executive Manager of E-Learning Competency Centre in Singapore, Ms. Maria Cristina D. Padolina, Chair of ITECC HRD Committee in Philippines and Mr. Kenji Ito, Executive Director of ALIC introduced the each e-Learning Consortium. Then, the participants from 12 countries discussed the establishment of the Asia e-Learning Network (AEN). It is based on the e-Learning consortium. They described their opinions to the AEN Tokyo Statement. After that the participants adopted the AEN Tokyo Statement, and officially established the AEN. Japan, as the host country, sent China the materials of this conference and China gave consent to the AEN Tokyo Statement under the condition of receiving the latest one of the statement.

The conference declared three major objectives of the AEN.

(a) To share the latest trends and technology of e-learning.

- (b) To encourage mutual operation of systems and contents.
- (c) To promote the knowledge and effective utilization of e-learning.

To achieve these objectives, the member countries agreed to engage in the following activities.

1. To construct a cooperation system which binds together government, industry, and academic sectors related to e-learning, and promote information exchange on AEN activities.
2. To engage in joint projects and share the results.
3. To promote the exchange of information, know-how, experience, and examples of best practices, by using the Internet or through actual meetings.

Furthermore, it was agreed that the AEN would deepen exchange with other organizations promoting various e-learning activities in not only the Asian region but also in other regions as well.

(Reference: A picture of Participating Members in the morning of July 24th)

The list of Participating Organizations

Country	Participate organization
Japan	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
	Advanced Learning Infrastructure Consortium (ALIC)
Singapore	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
	E-Learning Competency Centre (ECC)
Lao PDR	Science Technology and Environment Agency
	Sengsavanh College
Philippines	Commission on Higher Education
	De La Salle University
Indonesia	Directorate of Information Technology and Electronics Industry
	Technical Education Development Center (TEDC) Bandung
Brunei	Ministry of Education
	Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Cambodia	Offices of the Council of Ministers Prime Minister's Office
	Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication
Myanmar	Ministry of Science & Technology
	Myanmar Computer Industries Association
Thailand	Asian Institute of Technology
	Association of Thai Software Industry (ATSI)
Vietnam	Ministry of Education and Training Vietnam (MOET)
	Ministry of Trade
	Hanoi University of Technology
Malaysia	Multimedia University
	Unitem Coren University of Malaysia (UNITEM)
Korea	Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Energy
	Ewha Womans University

A picture of Participating Members in the morning of July 24th



As the FY 2002 experimental project under the AEN, several international projects were officially launched in an effort to ensure the mutual operation of e-learning systems and contents by universities and e-learning enterprises in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, and Japan, which are promoting advanced measures in the e-learning field.

In the afternoon of July 24<sup>th</sup>, the members of each project discussed the project positively though 4 hours and the projects started officially.

Experimental projects and institutions are as follows:

Institutions conducting the experimental project

Japan side	Asia side
Kyoto University / Waseda University Vendor: NTT-X	< Malaysia > Multimedia University
Project name: MJeN (Malaysia - Japan e-Learning Network Project )	
Aoyama Gakuin University Vendor: Nihon Unisys, Ltd.	< Philippines > De La Salle University
Project name: International Experiment Project of Asynchronous Collaborative-learning Method	
The University of Tokyo / National Institute of Multimedia Education Vendor: IBM Japan, Ltd.	< Singapore > Nanyang Technological University
Project name: Issues around E-government and E-commerce in Singapore and Japan	
Tokyo Institute of Technology Vendor: Hitachi Electronics Services Co., Ltd.	< Thailand > Asian Institute of Technology
Project name: Synchronous and Asynchronous Distance Education of Graduate Programs between AIT and Tokyo Tech.	
Keio University Vendor: Hitachi, Ltd.	< Vietnam > Vietnam National University / Hanoi University of Technology
Project name: Network Campus Initiative for Asia e-Learning	

It was officially decided that the Advanced Learning Infrastructure Consortium (ALIC), the consortium for e-learning in Japan, would assume the role of the coordination center for the AEN project.

## **July 25th: Standardization of e-Learning, Overview and Country Reports, Presentation of the Experimental Projects**

On the morning of July 25th, Mr. Shinichiro Ota, Director-General of the Commerce and Information Policy Bureau in the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI), delivered the opening remarks. Next, Mr. Takashi Sakamoto, Chairman of ALIC and Director of the National Institute of Multimedia Education (NIME), commented on the establishment of the AEN, saying, “Asia must engage in the establishment of more advanced education, and exchange knowledge and wisdom via e-learning to promote educational reform. Let us create an Asia e-learning community and achieve educational reform in Asia.”

Following this, Mr. Shuichi Tashiro, the project leader from the Commerce and Information Policy Bureau in METI, introduced the “AEN Tokyo Statement.”

Regarding international standardization of e-learning, Professor Edward Walker, CEO of IMS, and Mr. Kiyoshi Nakabayashi, Deputy Director of ALIC, each made a keynote address.

The keynote addresses were followed by status reports from each of six countries involved in e-learning. (The participants gave in the country reports beforehand. The information written on the country reports were shared with the participants on July 24<sup>th</sup>.) Mr. Atsutoshi Oshima, Deputy Director of ALIC and AEN Coordinator, also commented on the general condition of e-learning in Asia and the importance of education and promotion activities utilizing websites and other IT-related medium.

In the afternoon of July 25th, some examples of best practices of e-learning in Japan and other Asian nations were presented. Representing Japan’s cases, Mr. Masahiro Mizutani, Manager of Seiko Epson Corporation, reported on the company’s commitment to e-learning. This was followed by the report of Mr. Lim Kin Chew, Executive Manager of the E-learning Competency Centre (ECC) in Singapore, who introduced several advanced cases.

Universities and collaborating companies from Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, and Japan presented the contents of each project as the FY 2002 AEN experimental project, and expressed their hopes for the future.

Finally, Mr. David Asirvatham, Director of Multimedia University in Malaysia, Ms. Maria Cristina D. Padolina, Chair, ITECC HRD Committee in Philippines expressed thanks to success of the AEN Conference 2002 as Asian representatives. Following this, Mr. Yoshimi Fukuhara, Vice chairman of AEN Promotion Committee presented the importance of utilizing international standardization such as SCORM in the experimental projects under AEN and he closed the conference.

### **Future Plan**

Information exchange and specific discussions are scheduled to be made regarding the specific problems and solutions related to the propagation and development of e-learning, including the standardization of e-learning and the establishment of a promotion body under the cooperation of government, industry, and academic sectors in various countries. For this purpose, the AEN website will be constructed and expanded. (URL: <http://www.asia-elearning.net/>)

In addition, the plan is for the achievements of AEN activities, including the results of the experimental project, to be reflected in the international standardization activities.

\* Attached document: AEN Tokyo Statement (July 24<sup>th</sup>)

\* Attached document: AEN Conference Programme 2002 (July 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>)