Asia e-Learning Network 2005
Chairman's Summary

Asia e-Learning Initiative

In the 21st century, it is essential that we make the utmost effort to dissolve the digital divide problem by utilizing IT resources to enable everyone to find better quality employment. At the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting plus three (the Peoples Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, and Japan) in August 2001, the Asia e-Learning Initiative has been approved as an AEM+3 project in order to initiate Asian cooperation to facilitate the spread of e-learning, and create a pan-Asian environment conducive to the trans-border development of educational contents and services of e-learning, which can contribute importantly to effective skill development and economic development.

The objectives of the initiative are to:
(a) Sharing information on the latest e-learning trends and technologies
(b) Building consensus to ensure interoperability of e-learning systems and contents
(c) Ensuring the quick spread of knowledge and effective use of e-learning

To achieve the objectives, we have agreed to form Asia e-Learning Network with certain contact points to review the progress and areas of cooperation.

Asia e-Learning Network

In July 2002, the Asia e-Learning Network (AEN) was established as a knowledge network to promote e-learning in Asia, and four AEN conferences were held in July 2002, December 2003, December 2004, and December 2005, in which we have got more than 500 participants in total from governments, academia, and companies.

(a) We have been sharing information on the latest e-learning trends and technologies at the AEN conferences where we made presentations of country reports and case studies in the AEN countries, several research

reports and technical materials in Japan, and so on.

(b) In order to ensure the interoperability, we have been promoting SCORM-conformed e-learning systems and contents by means of developing a methodology of creating multilingual SCORM contents enable to switch languages anytime, a SCORM viewer usable on stand-alone PCs, and so on. Moreover, we developed a multilingual SCORM test suite on the base of the ADL test suite, and conducted three demonstration experiments of interoperability among SCORM systems and contents made in various countries of AEN. As a result we have recognized the importance of ensuring interoperability of e-learning systems and contents.

(c) The AEN website (AEN portal) has been set up on the internet in order to ensure the quick spread of knowledge and effective use of e-learning. Many materials such as country reports, research reports, and AEN developed software are uploaded on the portal.

We recognize that we have achieved the goals of the Asia e-Learning Network, and end the current series of the AEN conferences and working groups. We will instead make effective use of the AEN portal on the internet to share information on the latest e-learning trends and technologies, and ensure the quick spread of knowledge and effective use of e-learning.

Each country is expected to continue promoting e-learning with the outcomes of the AEN activities, and making efforts to ensure the interoperability of e-learning systems and contents in Asia. Each country is expected to create SCORM contents of good quality, and then we share them via the AEN portal as many as possible. The AEN products can be utilized in the AEN countries as is.

The operation of the AEN portal will be reconsidered in a year in order to enhance the functions of exchanging views and sharing information of e-learning among AEN members as well as its management style including funding, etc. The SCORM viewer will be available among the AEN countries before long tentatively with one year limit.