

### **An Integrated Approach To Bridging The Digital Divide through Supporting the Development of e-Educational Leadership**

A component of the APEC CYBER EDUCATION COOPERATION (ACEC) PROJECT  
Funded by the APEC Education Foundation

The following groups, CITE, EDNET, KERIS, and the 2020 Communications Trust Group, have formed a consortium for APEC Cyber Education Cooperation (ACEC) under the auspices of the APEC Education Foundation to undertake a project to make available to teachers and administrators in APEC member economies information and services to improve the use of ICT in education.

The purposes of the consortium are as follows:

1. Engage in projects that help to narrow the digital divide in the APEC region.
2. Make available to teachers and administrators in the APEC region information and services to improve education, in particular the use of ICT.
3. Coordinate the work of various APEC economies to enhance multilateral educational cooperation in the region and avoid duplication of projects.

The e-Educational Leadership program is a component of the ACEC project.

#### **Rationale for the e-Educational Leadership program**

- ◆ Use of ICT in education needs to be coupled with educational reforms aimed to address human resource demands created by the emerging knowledge economy
- ◆ Need to develop students' capacities for self-learning, problem-solving, information seeking and analysis and critical thinking as well as the ability to communicate, collaborate and learn from each other. These abilities figured much less importantly in previous school curricula
- ◆ Leading schools into the information age is not simply a process of technological adoption but one of innovation and change. The greatest challenge is for different levels of leadership in a nation, from the ministry, district education boards, through to school principals, department heads in schools to individual teachers to establish a common vision as well as effective implementation strategies at the various levels that can be dynamically adjusted during the course of innovation
- ◆ Efforts to bridge the digital divide must emphasize issues of leadership, change management and good pedagogical practices – in short, the focus should be on ***partnership in leadership***

#### **Purpose and Focus**

- ◆ To provide APEC member countries with the necessary knowledge and working methods to be able to develop national ICT policies and strategies that can be implemented at an institutional level.

## Appendix 4.2.1



Centre for Information Technology in School and Teacher Education



- ◆ Includes the facilitation of strategic planning at 3 levels of leadership:
  - ministerial policy makers
  - school principals
  - key teaching staff involved in planning or implementing ICT integration
- ◆ Focus on capacity building through:
  - establishing an online training materials repository
  - conducting research and training workshops in APEC countries
  - supporting APEC member countries to develop a similar repository for their own national training materials.

### Why focus on educational leadership?

- ◆ Research on exemplary practices using ICT reveal that best practice arises in schools that have a visionary leadership. Leaders who are able to inspire, support and guide the innovation.
- ◆ Leadership at school level operates within the context of and in tandem with national implementation policies and strategies

### How these goals can be achieved?

- ◆ Build on existing expertise and knowledge, especially the SITES research teams and case studies data in the APEC countries (eg see <http://sites.cite.hku.hk/>)
- ◆ Form national leadership teams that will identify country specific priorities, needs and contexts
- ◆ Support the national leadership teams in developing their ICT policies and strategies at the three levels of leadership such that these are coordinated and mutually supportive
- ◆ Build up the core capacities for further developments in the participating APEC countries through setting up and strengthening the national leadership teams and the establishment of country-specific training materials databases
- ◆ Consolidate and extend the **network for partnership in leadership** related to ICT educational integration through the establishment of a regional refereed journal on leadership in ICT in education: the *Asian Pacific Journal of e-Educational Leadership*.

### Information about CITE

The Centre for Information Technology in School and Teacher Education (CITE) is a Centre established in the Faculty of Education, University of Hong Kong, to provide support for the education community in promoting the use of information technology (IT) for quality education. The mission of the Centre is to stimulate and undertake research and development projects and to disseminate the research products and findings to the education community both locally and internationally. CITE also offers degree programmes ([MSc\[ITE\]](#)) and [BEd\(ITE\)](#), [BEd\(LIS\)](#) to teachers, educators and education-related professionals to meet their increasing needs and interests in furthering their studies and to equip them with the necessary academic and professional knowledge about IT in education. For details, please consult CITE homepage: <http://www.cite.hku.hk>.

### Enquiries about the e-Educational Leadership program

Please email your enquiries to: Dr. Bob Fox, mail to: [bobfox@hku.hk](mailto:bobfox@hku.hk)