Welcome Address by Mr. Yasuhiko WASHIYAMA
President, Tokyo Gakugei University
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Professor Yoshimi TANAKA, Director of the Center for the Research and Support of
Educational Practice, Tokyo Gakugei University,
Ms. Lay-Cheng TAN, Representative of APEID, UNESCO Bangkok,
Prof. Li ZHAO, Assistant Director, International Center of Teacher Education, East-China
Normal University,
Ms. Lucille GREGOLIO, Executive Director, Foundation for the Promotion of Science and
Mathematics Education and Research, the Philippines,

Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to have an opportunity to make a welcome speech at the opening
ceremony of the Tokyo-2007 Asia and the Pacific Regional Seminar - Workshop on
Educational Technology in Tokyo.

On behalf of Tokyo Gakugei University, I would like to express my warmest welcome to all the
participants from overseas and domestic.

The series of these kinds of seminar - workshop started in the year 1974. It has been just 33
years since it began As the first training course jointly organized with Japanese National
Commission for UNESCO and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA.

During these 33 years, these seminar -workshops have made, for the member states and for us
Tokyo Gakugei University, a great deal of contribution to developing new methods and contents
for elementary and secondary education, and higher institutions in the areas of educational
technology, teacher education and ESD coping with the progress of these area and with the
change of society such as school-oriented teaching learning society to the lifelong-learning
society in Asia and the Pacific regions.

Almost all activities have been carried out under the collaboration with the Japan Council of Educational Technology Centers and related higher education institutions gathering experts and professionals from the APEID Associated Centers and their closely related, relevant and innovative partners in this region.

We are now in the sixth year of the seventh programming cycle of APEID activities, the general theme of which is ‘Information - Communication Technology for Educational Innovations,’ and this year we are going to focus on the development of teacher training curriculum aiming at strengthening ICT integration into audiovisual technologies and ESD.

In addition, I would like to draw your special attention to the new and challengeable finance-support system to organize the UNESCO-related activities in line with the guidelines developed by UNESCO and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, or MEXT Japan.

Because of this, we Tokyo Gakugei University have the privilege to expand our capabilities to the citizens, who are interested in the theme carefully planned and set. At the same time, this year we asked collaboration with municipal education boards (MEBs) such as Kodaira, Kokubunji and Koganei MEBs, while we requested the advertisement of our present seminar-workshop on the homepages of theme-related associations like the Japanese Audiovisual Education Association and the Japanese Association of Broadcasting Education, which are also major cooperative institutions together with NHK, Japan Broadcasting Corporation.

In this connection, first day is open to the public and Professor Hiroki YOSHIDA of Tokoha Gakuen University kindly accepted to take the role of language translation and interpreter as well, from English to Japanese and vice-versa.

ESD covers broad spheres of study and research – environment, welfare, peace, development, gender, human rights education for children, education for international understanding, the eradication of poverty, literacy, AIDS, education for ending strife, etc.

In principle, ESD leads to mutual understanding and the sharing of values in order to cope with and respond to the globalization, information-oriented and lifelong learning societies in the
context of “Learning the Treasure Within,” promoting the “Four Pillars of Learning.”

Again the theme of the 2007 Seminar is on ‘Promotion of ESD-ICT Integration and Teacher Training,’ with strongly focusing on the remarkable trends like the word ‘The TV is going digital, while the computers is going visual’; namely

(1) the development of guidelines for ICT and Audiovisual Technologies Integration to improve teacher training curriculum for the quality education with special emphasis on ESD,

(2) the development of exemplar curriculum models for the ICT-ESD-Audiovisual technologies integrated teacher training, which are applicable and adaptive by those who are concerned in higher and/or lifelong learning institutions in the region, and

(3) the discussion on the establishment of international network of higher education and training institutions in view of looking at the progress in ICT and ESD that participating countries have made in this specific thematic area.

I hope that this seminar - workshop will bring all participants into a deeper understanding and friendship with one another.

I also hope your stay in Tokyo will be productive, meaningful and enjoyable.

Thank you.
Welcome Message by Mr. Isao KISO
Director-General for International Affairs, Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
and
Secretary-General of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Professor Washiyama, President of Tokyo Gakugei University,
Professor Tanaka, Director of the Centre for the Research and Support of Educational Practice, Tokyo Gakugei University
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, as well as the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), I am very pleased to extend my warmest welcome to all the participants from Asia and the Pacific Region.

Japan has been contributing financially and intellectually to the Asia and the Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development, APEID, since its inception in 1974. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Tokyo Gakugei University, which from the beginning has been cooperating in the field of educational technology as an Associated Center of UNESCO/APEID.

Last week, Japan’s Senior Vice-Minister for Education and Culture, Ms. IKENOBO Yasuko, expressed the importance of further promoting DESD at the 34th session of UNESCO General Conference. Substantial discussions are now being held in the relevant sub-committees.

Now please allow me to give you some background information about the current session of the General Conference.
Japan was among the first countries to advocate in 2002 the importance of Education for Sustainable Development, and has steadily promoted this initiative. The United Nations also proclaimed the ten-year period starting in 2005 as the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, DESD.
The promotion of ESD is significant not only from an environmental and development perspective, but also to achieve new advances in the fields UNESCO has been addressing since its creation: those of peace, human rights and international understanding.

Japan believes that ESD is a crucial initiative for future generations. Accordingly, the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO compiled in August a list of proposals for further progress on DESD, which were submitted to the UNESCO Secretariat and distributed among Member States. In these proposals, Japan urges UNESCO to significantly reinforce its efforts on ESD in the forthcoming Medium-term Strategy, and calls on Member States to contribute more to the attainment of the initiative’s objectives.

Japan and the German Government jointly submitted a draft resolution on the further promotion of DESD, with the co-sponsorship of 41 Member States. I expect discussions at the General Conference.

It is important for both UNESCO and Japan to develop materials and curriculums that could serve as models for the revision of educational contents and methods on ESD. I expect discussions in this seminar to contribute to the development and improvement of ICT and ESD integration as well as Teacher Education.

Hopefully, the results of such debates will reach all children through their teachers. Through ESD-related activities, children will learn about the importance of the UNESCO spirit and the development of the Associate School Program Network within the framework of UNESCO. It is very important that many Japanese schools become part of the ASP Network.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the staff of Tokyo Gakugei University for preparing this seminar. I wish all participants a fruitful debate and a pleasant stay in Tokyo.

Thank you.
Good morning,
Distinguished guests,
Colleagues and participants,

I bring greetings and best wishes from Mr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Director of UNESCO Bangkok and Ms. Molly Lee, Coordinator of APEID, UNESCO Bangkok.

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be part of the 6th Asia and the Pacific Seminar on Educational Technology.

The Tokyo Gakugei University and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, with the support of partners such as the Japanese Audiovisual Education Association and the Japanese Broadcasting Education Association, NHK and the Kodaira Municipal Elementary School, have worked very hard to organize this Seminar and bring many distinguished experts to share their rich experiences with us.

To address the issues and concerns of the 21st Century highlighted by initiatives such as Education for All (EFA), Millennium Development Goals, the United Nations Literacy Decade and the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, APEID’s mission to contribute to sustainable human development (underpinned by tolerance, human rights and a culture of peace) through the design and implementation of education programmes and projects, faces many challenges. Among APEID’s programmes to deliver its mission are Education for Sustainable Development, ICT in Education and Teacher Training.

As the lead agency spearheading the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in the Asia and Pacific region, UNESCO defines ESD as the promotion of values and ethics through education at different levels to make an impact on people’s lifestyles and behaviours and help build a sustainable future. ESD is more than just environment education; it encompasses values and attitudinal changes. As you know, changing values and attitudes is not an easy task. That is a problem facing educators – how can we make the concept of ESD real and relevant to everyone?
ICT has become an accepted part of all our lives – at home, at work, in school and for leisure. ICT has demonstrated its potential to facilitate greater access to education by marginalized groups and underserved communities, and thus contribute to the achievement of EFA goals and bridge the digital divide. When used appropriately, ICT can help to increase the quality of education and change the way we teach and learn. Therefore it is practical and expedient to use ICT as a tool to relay the concept and essence of ESD to everyone – policy makers, educators, trainers, students and the general public.

Teachers play a critical role in relaying and translating ideas and concepts clearly to their students. But first, the teachers must themselves understand the concept, and must be provided the necessary training and tools to do so.

As an APEID Associated Centre, Tokyo Gakugei University has focused on educational technology and teacher education, and initiated ESD-related programmes – all important programmes within APEID. With the cooperation and support of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the University has contributed to, and benefited from, the exchanges of mutual insights, skills and expertise with other UNESCO Member States and APEID Networks through this series of Seminar. The theme this year, integrating ESD and ICT into teacher training, is particularly relevant and important.

UNESCO Bangkok would once again like to thank the organizers and the Japanese Government for their efforts in making this Seminar possible. We are eagerly waiting to share and disseminate the outcomes of the Seminar with UNESCO Member States and APEID partners.

On behalf of UNESCO Bangkok, I am looking forward to very successful Seminar.

Thank you.