A Letter from the Local Host

It is my pleasure to host the 5th IEEE International Conference on Advanced Learning Technologies (ICALT 2005) in the beautiful city of Kaohsiung this year. As president of National Kaohsiung Normal University (NKNU) in Taiwan and host of ICALT 2005, I consider it a great honor to welcome you all to our university. The IEEE, NKNU, and Kaohsiung city with its charming seaside port invite our honorable guests from all over 50 countries to attend this world-class e-learning conference and enjoy the hospitality of our hosts.

The decision to hold ICALT 2005 was approved in 2003 in Athens, Greece. Since then, our university has contributed much to organize this IEEE conference in Kaohsiung city. We are also grateful to outside sponsors, supporters, and many faculty members and staff at NKNU for their collaborative efforts. Kaohsiung city, also referred to as the southern capital, is the second largest city in Taiwan. This conference, albeit in Kaohsiung, is supported by the rest of Taiwan, which has offered to make resources available to ensure state-of-the-art venues and facilities for our international scholars and visitors. Due in large part to Professor Kinshuk’s endeavors, this conference is made possible. Furthermore, we offer an opportunity for all of you to deliver your sophisticated work and we welcome an exciting exchange of information in the field.

During the past several years, e-learning technologies have witnessed tremendous and significant growth. The applications have multiplied by the thousands, reaching a new level and offering an alternative opportunity for learning. E-learning is now considered necessary in higher education and business organization regardless of the type, size, or location. It, however, requires expansive and extensive research in the future in terms of applications in the real market. The research may focus on how to develop e-learning material quickly, manage the cyber community efficiently, make digital content interchangeable, and do adaptive learning alive.

As a local host, I would like to introduce our university. NKNU was established 37 years ago. Its founding mission was to train teachers at the secondary school levels. It was promoted as a comprehensive university in 1989 at which time education was regarded as an effective way to support international competition. Currently, there are 5 colleges and over 6,000 students on two campuses. The university, to date, consists of 9 doctoral programs, 27 master programs, and 15 undergraduate departments distributed across all colleges. The primary campus of NKNU is located in the downtown area and a new campus is located in Yenchao, a scenic place, about 30 minutes from the center of Kaohsiung city.

Finally, e-learning technologies have assisted university and all types and sizes of life-long learning organizations to develop new ways of teaching and learning. The papers in the proceedings cover a comprehensive range of topics related to e-learning fields. With its worldwide distribution among academic and professional institutions, this work will be instrumental in providing an access to the latest e-learning applications and experiences. I hope that you enjoy the conference and that your participation will contribute toward your professional development.

Dr. Chia-nan Tai
President of NKNU

25 March 2005