The 4th IEEE International Workshop on Technology for Education in Developing Countries takes place, for the first time in its history, in the context of a developing country. By taking the conference into a real setting, we wanted to expose the researchers to the authentic needs for fresh innovations.

However, the history of TEDC reveals its inherently multicultural approach. The earlier workshops have been organized in three continents; Newark, New Jersey, in North America; Joensuu, Finland, in Europe; and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in Asia.

Educational technology is an increasingly relevant and arguably also academically challenging field, especially when designed and analyzed from the perspective of developing countries. It incorporates the scholarly diversity of sciences and engineering, as well as arts and social sciences, both from the content and methods perspectives.

The multidisciplinarity of the field brings about possibilities as well as difficulties. An academically oriented conference with the concrete needs visible or even shouting all around in the environment is an appropriate setting for clarifying the next steps. As conference chairs, we were happy to see that the academic community took seriously the opportunity of working together in Iringa, and we were not even able to accept more than about 50% of submissions as full papers.

Further, a number of 2-page poster presentations are included in the proceedings. These posters are included to show the multitude of investigations and issues that are emerging worldwide in the field of technology for education in the developing countries.

Two prominent international speakers will give the keynotes at the 4th TEDC Workshop. P. Anandan, Managing Director at Microsoft Research India, will speak about Microsoft’s approach to technology for developing countries and emerging markets. Patrizia Marti, Professor at the University of Siena, will speak about her Design for All approach to development of manipulative technologies for diverse users and developers. We are very proud to welcome these distinguished speakers, who will provide the participants with an excellent insight to some of the most important novel research and industry developments. Also, John Mugabe from NEPAD will give a special invited talk.

During the four years of our collaboration with Tumaini University, Iringa University College (IUCO), the venue of the 4th TEDC Workshop, it has been wonderful to witness the determination and commitment of the institution to develop its own teaching, also by technology. We hope that this example shows also other struggling colleges in developing countries the fruit of devotion as well as international networking, shown also in IUCO’s will to host the conference.

The conference at Iringa is co-organized with NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. We hope that this collaboration gives an important and much expected message of African governments’ and decision makers’ openness to support and fund long-term and sustainable research programs in educational technology.

We wish all the participants welcome back to their roots as human beings, to the cradle of mankind. We hope that the spirit of African nature, folklore, and human warmth takes each of us another step forward in our own contributions toward a better world by means of science and technology.

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