

Introduction and Results of the National Science & Technology Program for e-Learning

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Taiwan has executed a 5-year National Science & Technology Program since January, 2002 to the end of 2007. The presentation includes strategies, experience, and results in promoting e-learning in Taiwan for researching and discussing how to take advantage of e-learning in facilitating National Development. From the perspective of human resources, Taiwan, because of its limited space, natural resources, and market potential, needs to train a great number of internationally competitive talents in order to maintain a place in the knowledge-based global economy. As the application of e-Learning can significantly lower the cost of learning and improve learning quality through more tailor-made and interactive methods, it will play a key role in the efforts to improve our HR quality. Next, from the perspective of national development, striking a balance between urban and rural development, and bridging the digital divide have become important issues recently. It is therefore imperative for the government to take the lead and build a more affordable, effective, and easy-to-share e-Learning environment in remote, under developed regions of the country. Lastly, from the perspective of learning, e-Learning brought us many novel concepts (e.g., community learning, simulations, etc.) that later inspired many innovative ideas for teaching and learning models. It is hoped that the National Science and Technology Program for e-Learning will improve our nation's overall competitiveness in a knowledge-based economy. It can serve as a driving force for e-Learning related industries, and certainly will promote a new wave of academic research. With the private sector and the academic sector working together, Taiwan, with its existing advantages, will spearhead e-Learning in the Chinese market.