

**Dr Ka Ki Chan,  
Deputy Secretary for Education, Education Bureau,  
The Government of the HKSAR**

**Speech for the e-Learning Forum Asia 2009**

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed my pleasure to welcome our participants who are coming from 12 countries and are not deterred by the human swine flu. It is also my honour to be here to share with you what our education has done for schools in e-learning over the last decade.

Information literacy is getting increasingly important for our students to become effective learners. In this knowledge era, students are expected to both enjoy, and be competent in, engaging in a wide range of learning activities that involve electronic means and tools.

The existing 'IT in Education Strategy' launched by the Education Bureau since 1998, has progressed from infrastructure building to integrating IT into everyday teaching practices in Hong Kong classrooms. Implemented since 2002, the curriculum reform aims at promoting the life-long learning capabilities of students. It encourages the development of information literacy skills, which include the generic skills of information technology, critical thinking and problem solving, in the school curriculum at primary, secondary and new senior secondary levels.

We all understand that learning effectiveness is affected by many factors, such as the nature of curriculum objectives, styles and abilities of learners, classroom situation, teachers, pedagogies ranging from direct instruction to enquiry learning as well as co-construction of knowledge between students, and between students and teachers. Apart from providing a rich pool of information resources, electronic tools also have their unique value in fostering close interaction among students, teachers, and other users, generating knowledge beyond the classroom and enabling learning to take place beyond school time. A new learning paradigm of new modes, new locations and new knowledge has become part of our students' learning experiences. We therefore consider it crucial to use the right technology at the right time for the appropriate learning task to foster quality student learning. This is indeed the current emphasis of our 'IT in Education Strategy'.

In line with the new paradigm I just mentioned, many schools have already made good use of e-learning platforms to facilitate online learning and to cultivate learning communities that promote collaborative learning. School-based initiatives to promote students' reflection of their own learning and personal development through e-portfolios and student profiles were also pioneered. These are very powerful for developing self-directed and reflective learners who will be able to cope with the contemporary and future society.

The e-Learning Forum is organized by a devoted core of expert academics. It really provides a golden opportunity for us to build meaningful global learning networks to promote good practices, innovations and researches in this exciting area in education. May I wish the e-Learning forum 2009 every success and everyone of you a very enjoyable time here.

Dr Catherine KK Chan  
Deputy Secretary for Education  
Education Bureau