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DepEd ICT Team wins APEC e-learning project

The delegation from the Department of Education (DepEd), who presented a web-based information system which effectively monitors projects, emerged with the Best Team Project in the APEC e-Learning Training Program held recently in South Korea.

The DepEd team presented an information system that uses real-time data for projects managed by the DepEd central office. Usually reports from schools are sent to the divisions then to regions and finally to the central office. By means of web-based system, data retrieval and reporting will become more effective and efficient. Schools even in the regions can report directly to the central office.

The DepEd-Philippines team shared the top honors with the team from Malaysia.

The training program was participated in by 32 trainees nominated by the Ministry of Education from the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Russia (Republic of Sakha) and Thailand. They comprise the next generation leaders in electronic human resource development or e-HRD.

Assistant Secretary Jesus Mateo has advised the team to prepare a full-blown proposal based on the winning team project and submit to Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for possible funding.

DepEd's four-member team was comprised of team leader Roger Masapol and Mary Jane Bautista of DepEd's Office of Planning Service, Arturo Tuazon of Education Development Programs Implementing Task Force (EDPITAF) and Jesus Dela Merced of Financial and Management Service.

"Our group was comprised of people who are into project development, programming, budget, and implementation, so we were able to capitalize on each other's strengths," Masapol explained.

Their system will address the information needs of the Department for measuring internal efficiency and effectiveness, planning and programming, performance-based budgeting and sector performance reporting.

The APEC e-Learning Training Program aims to narrow the digital divide and enhance the quality of education in the APEC region. The program provides a customized e-Learning training program based on needs-analysis while reflecting current trends and recent technological developments in the e-learning field.

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It disseminates academic achievements on e-learning practices, policies and research findings through online and offline publications. It also strives to promote international cooperation by sharing cultural experience with the APEC member economies to build up a human network

Participants explored the recent theories on e-learning from lectures and carried out collaborative studies based on Problem Based Learning under the guidance of ICT experts. They also had cultural and field experiences in the exemplary educational government-level institutions in Busan and Seoul, South Korea.

One important output during the training is the collaborative study where the teams worked together to define problems in their economy on e-Learning policy and practices and came up with possible solutions to address the issues.

Other projects presented were Center for Regional E-Adaptive and Tripartite Relationship Between Government, Corporate and Academe Towards e-Learning (CREATIVE) by Brunei Darussalam and Thailand; E-Learning for Language Acquisition thru Extensive Training by China and Russia (Republic of Sakha), Collaborative Learning Between Schools by Indonesia; Action Research Training with e-Learning Support by Malaysia; and Training on Module Writing for Courses Delivered thru Distance Education by CHED Philippines.

Next rounds of training are scheduled on the 4th quarter of 2008.

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