Curriculum resource for Thailand: ICT capacity building in education

Learning from Australia’s innovation - applying in the Thai way!

While Thailand has made significant efforts to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in schools to improve student learning, it recognises that it needs to develop curriculum resources in the Thai language that are appropriate for its school curriculum and its cultural values.

In 2005, the Joint Working Group of the Royal Thai Government and the Australian Government, through their new Memorandum of Understanding, decided to access Australian knowledge and resources in order to transfer Australian innovation in ICT to Thai curriculum and curriculum resource developers.

The Joint Working Group representing the Thai Ministry of Education (MOE) and Australian Education International (AEI) of the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) selected two organisations, CCI Australia and the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technologies (IPST) in Thailand, to lead this project. The project was funded by AEI over a two-year period (2005-2006).

Initiative

CCI Australia has been able to access the content development components of The Le@rning Federation (TLF) in delivering this project. TLF is a program jointly managed by Curriculum Corporation and education.au limited, with funding from the governments of Australia, New Zealand and the Australian States and Territories since 2001.

Essential to the development of any digital curriculum resource is an understanding of learning design in relation to educational multimedia. The project documented a series of activities that scoped, planned, developed, stored and delivered digital curriculum resources in the form of learning objects – interactive educational multimedia which can be used as a stand-alone learning experience by students, as components of a learning sequence, or as elements in a unit of study.

During the first phase of the project, CCI Australia provided the MOE and IPST with access to existing TLF Science, Technology, Mathematics and Literacy digital curriculum resources through a content management system to test their suitability for the Thai education sector.

Testing identified opportunities to license or adapt existing digital content as a basis for a prototype repository for storage of digital curriculum resources in Thailand. Following this initial activity, the project built capacity within IPST to project manage the development of additional digital curriculum resources for Mathematics and Science teaching.

At a bilateral level, the project facilitates skills transfer and the exchange of digital curriculum resources and infrastructure. It also serves as a model for how high-quality Australian expertise in developing e-learning content and systems can be transferred to, adopted and adapted by neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region.

The project is managed by senior staff within CCI Australia and IPST. The project also includes an exchange of staff to gain first-hand experience. The project has significant potential for appropriate replication in other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

If you would like to know more about this project, please contact international@curriculum.edu.au