

IMCL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERACTIVE MOBILE AND COMPUTER AIDED LEARNING

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The “Second International Conference on Interactive Mobile and Computer Aided Learning (IMCL) 2007” represented an important step toward the development of e-learning and the adoption and application of digital and mobile technologies in the Middle Eastern higher education system. As a matter of fact it was one of the first events taking place in the Middle East, where in some countries e-learning and the use of innovative educational models and technologies are not completely recognized at an official level.

The IMCL Conference has been held at Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) of Amman which for several years has been promoting scientific research in the field of communication and information technologies, carrying out studies on the socio-economic impact of mobile technologies on society and supporting in particular applied research in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

A great number of Universities and Institutions, like the IEEE Education Society, the International Journal of Emerging Technologies in Learning, the European Association of Distance Teaching Universities, the Arab Society for On-line Education and Training, and the Mediterranean Virtual University have offered their support to the organization of the event, with the main aim to make the benefits of new technologies available and turn digital divide into digital opportunities.

The IMCL Conference 2007 intends to improve cooperative network and partnership between prestigious American and European Universities and the Middle Eastern world, in order to support the development of e-learning and distance education in the Middle Eastern countries. One step in this direction has been the exchange of experiences and best practices which have favoured a mutual understanding of the different realities participating in the conference.

The debate led to the definition of significant measures that represent one of the key points to favour the access to Mobile Technologies and to promote innovation in different fields of education and knowledge transfer.

In this framework, the main topics discussed during the Conference have concerned the Mobile Technology tools for educators and students and its impact on social change, the new interactive learning and teaching system and the integration of collaborative virtual environments into traditional higher education institutions.

The critical debate have provided an international view of the state of development of mobile learning objects and tools, facilitating the sharing of common procedures and standards between different cultures for the optimal use of emerging technologies.

In this direction particular importance has been given to a careful analysis of the worldwide available information on designing and implementation of palmtops, mobile phones, PDA, smart phones, WAPs, GPS and navigational system, WWW-access via Bluetooth, WLAN and GPRS.

The Third edition of the Conference scheduled for April 2008 is expected to attract a larger number of participants from the academic, institutional and private sector, interested in sharing experiences on the portable devices' newest state of the art.