

Opening Speech
By
Dr. Benjalug Namfa
Director of Bureau of Academic Affairs and Standard Development

=====

Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen:

It's an honor for me to preside over this *4th APEC-Tsukuba International Conference: Innovation of Mathematics Teaching and Learning through Lesson Study – Connection between Assessment and Subject Matter –*

On behalf of the Ministry of Education of Thailand, I am very proud of this long-term project which is initiated by the collaboration and bilateral understanding between Thailand and Japan four year ago since the year 2006.

The project is quite unique in terms of collaboration as usually seen in other projects. That is, this project is a long-term attempt between Japan as a developed country and Thailand as a developing country to seek collaboration among APEC member economies to develop a collaborative framework. Eventually, these APEC member economies can collaboratively develop innovations on teaching and learning mathematics in different cultures of the APEC Member Economies. Since 2006 Lesson Study, a well-known Japanese professional development has been decided by the specialists from each participating economy to be used as a collaborative framework and methodology. Each specialist with the collaboration of his/her network in each economy has been developing some “good practices” in teaching and learning mathematics and now create some innovations in that economy.

In 2006, lesson study has been introduced in 12 APEC member economies as an innovation for teaching and learning mathematics. With different school cultures, each economy has learned a lot of the problems when we acculturate lesson study as a cultural activity in school. In 2007, as lesson study became a part of school culture, the project focused on how to develop student’s mathematical thinking in classroom. In 2008, after the specialists met in Tokyo and Kanazawa and observed how Japanese teachers develop their student’s mathematical communication, they challenged in schools in their economies.

As we have done in the last two years, by using videos, we, specialists of the project, shared our ideas on “good practices” in Khon Kaen, Thailand in August 2008. We also collaboratively reflected upon what we have done in the collaborative framework. We decided to keep and continue using this collaborative framework and to more deeply focus on the specific themes we think necessary for school mathematics in each economy which coming this year’ s theme.

Besides, this project encourages each participating economy to expand this collaborative framework – Lesson Study – in each economy in order that Lesson Study can be gradually integrated in school cultures of that economy.

As the year 2009 passed, the project concretely produced “good practices” such as classroom videos, progress reports, proceedings. These appeared both in hard copy and on the website of related organizations (e.g., those of CRICED, CRME, Knowledge Bank and APEC Wiki website). More importantly, the project created network among mathematics educators, in particular among teachers inside and outside of APEC member economies.

Through this attempt, in this 4th year, I can speak on behalf of all of us that we are proud and very happy that 18 of 21 APEC member economies participates in this project. We start new phase of this project with the highest number of nearly 90 international participants. Especially, most of the international participants are school teachers, supervisors and principals.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all specialists from all participating economies to contribute to this collaborative project, especially, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand that sending lots of people from the Ministry of Education to participate in this conference. To be more specific, 16 people from Singapore, 9 from Malaysia, 6 from Brunei and 37 from Thailand.

Consequently, I am convinced that this 4th APEC –Tsukuba International Conference will be a key success to bringing *‘education for sustainable development’* for all APEC member economies.

I am grateful for the main supporting agency APEC Human Resources Development Working Group, in particular, Dr. Alan Ginsburg, Lead shepherd who highly evaluate the success of this project. I also would like to give my gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Culture Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the contribution of the University of Tsukuba, especially CRICED and their staffs in making this conference happened.