Message from the Minister to the Prime Minister’s Office and Acting Minister of Information and Communication Technology

In the year 1976 a decision was taken to establish the South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation that continues to sponsor the South East Asia Regional Computer Conference to this day. Thirty one years ago mainframe computers remained dominant with personal computers just beginning to appear in the form of primitive kits. If the conference participants of that year could have been given a vision of all of the advances that would come in the future decades, they would not have believed their eyes.

eLearning is among the most exciting of all the many areas of information and Communications Technology. It promises to revolutionize the educational process and thus society by expanding access to educational opportunities and itself become an important area of economic activity. Even prior to the development of personal computers the interest in applying modern electronic technology to education was strong, but with the greater accessibility of computers new forms of interactive learning have been realized. For decades educational theorists have seen such active learning as the most effective means of learning and finally and today we have the capacity to fully make that a reality.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege that this year Thailand has the opportunity to host both the International Conference on eLearning for Knowledge-Based Society and the South East Asia Regional Computer Conference concurrently. This should provide the opportunity for many new ideas to be shared and developed and for that learning process to play an important role in the future.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of the Royal Thai Government extends a warm welcome to all participants and encourages you to enjoy and make productive use of the Conferences for the benefit of everyone.

(Khunying Dhipavadee Meksawan)
Minister to the Prime Minister’s Office and Acting Minister of Information and Communication Technology