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THE 16TH ICDE WORLD CONFERENCE:
DISTANCE EDUCATION FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

8-13 November 1992

Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand

Editorial

In the May 1991 issue of the International Council for Distance Education (ICDE) Bulletin, it was stated that the secretariat would "shortly be connected online internationally via EARN/BITNET". This editor looks forward to receiving online messages from the secretariat and offers to distribute relevant ICDE information via DEOS. As an example of such information, this issue of DEOSNEWS is dedicated to the ICDE's 16th World Conference. It includes an interview with Bruce Scriven, the Conference Program Chair, as well as information extracted from the conference's Second Announcement.

Information Extracted from the Second Announcement

Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) is situated approximately 10 kilometres from Bangkok International Airport. It covers an area of 5.6 hectares, with excellent academic facilities and comfortable surroundings. The functions of the conference will take place in and around the Lecture Theatre, the Training Center, and the Seminar I and Seminar II buildings.

The following procedures apply to those wishing to present a paper, conduct a workshop or lead a discussion group during one of the parallel sessions:

1. Abstracts only are to be submitted.
2. Abstracts must not exceed 500 words and will not be accepted after 30 March 1992.
3. Each abstract must be accompanied by a biography of the author(s) not exceeding 80 words and a black and white passport size photo. In the case of joint authors, unfortunately we can only accept one photo which should be that of the person whose name appears first in the list of authors.
4. When giving consideration to the selection of papers for presentation at the Conference, priority will be given to those that are relevant to the Conference theme.
5. As soon as possible after 30 March 1992, the writers of all papers selected for presentation will be provided with further information including dates, times and rooms for their presentations.

Abstracts must be sent to Program Chair:

Assoc. Prof. Bruce Scriven
Queensland University of Technology
Locked Bag No. 2
Post Office, Red Hill
Qld Australia 4059
Tel: (617) 864-3484
Fax: (617) 864-3395
Email: B.Scriven@QUT.EDU.AU.

Important Deadlines:

Abstract Submissions: 30 March
Advance Registration: 30 June
Accommodation Booking: 31 July
Cancellation with Refund: 30 September

Conference Manager:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Makha Khittasangka
Conference Manager
16th ICDE World Conference
Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University
Nonthaburi 11120
Thailand
Tel: (662) 573-5849
Fax: (662) 573-5890
Tlx: 72353 UNISUKHO TH.

SPEAKING PERSONALLY--WITH BRUCE SCRIVEN, PROGRAM CHAIR

This interview with Bruce Scriven, program chair of the 16th ICDE World Conference, was conducted via e-mail. The first set of questions was posted in January. In February, a second round of questions was posted to clarify and elaborate on the questions and answers. Finally, after the additional information from the second announcement flier was included, the interview was dispatched to Bruce Scriven for approval. Except for some technical problems with lost messages, this was an interesting experience using an interview technique that can be recommended.

Bruce Scriven has been involved in distance education at University level for more than 18 years. During this period he has been a member of the Australian and South Pacific Studies Association and served on its executive board as Secretary and as President. He has also been a member of ICDE during this period and attended World Conferences in New Delhi, Vancouver, Melbourne, Oslo, and Caracas. He is currently Associate Professor of Education at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane Australia.

Morten Flate Paulsen: Can you give us a brief history of the ICDE World Conferences?

Bruce Scriven: The first ICDE conference was held in Victoria, BC, Canada in 1938. Later, World Conferences have been held approximately every four years since the second conference held in Nebraska, USA in 1948. However there were only two years between the 14th Conference in Oslo, Norway (1988) and the 15th Conference in Caracas, Venezuela (1990). Again there will be only two years between the Caracas and Bangkok Conferences. The 17th conference will be held in Birmingham, England in 1995. World confer-

ences provide opportunities for those interested in distance education to discuss issues of mutual concern and relevance, to present research findings and to learn from each other.

MFP: I have been in contact with Armando Villaroel, Conference Manager for the Caracas conference. He pointed out to me that the conference was important to increase the awareness of and activity in distance education in Latin America. Just one example was the establishment of CREAD (Consortium Distance Education Network). In what way do you believe that this conference may be important for distance education in Asia?

BS: The conference is important for Asia because it is the first one to be held there since the one in India in 1978, and it comes at a time of increasing expansion and acceptance of distance education through open universities. Also Bangkok is a central location for travel and hence will be cheaper for many Asian delegates to get to than other countries.

MFP: What did you learn from the two latest conferences, in Oslo and Caracas, and in what ways will the Bangkok conference be different?

BS: The major findings from both the Oslo and Caracas conferences were that (a) delegates wanted more time to meet informally or in small groups--hence there will be fewer plenary sessions in Bangkok and one or two cracker-barrel sessions; (b) delegates generally wanted better quality presentations--hence efforts are being made to try to ensure this by close monitoring of the abstracts submitted; (c) ICDE should try to improve the quality of its publications and hence, while delegates at Bangkok will be able to read abstracts of papers selected for presentation only the best papers will become available after the conference; and (d) delegates consider efficient administration of conferences and "value for money" to be important and efforts will be made by the Thai management to ensure this.

MFP: Speaking about "value for money", will it be expensive to participate? What about prices in Thailand? Must presenters pay the conference fee? Is there a reduced fee for students? Are there any funds to cover travelling costs or conference fees for any of the participants?

BS: Registration fee will be about \$470 US with a 10% reduction [\$425 US] for ICDE members. Costs of travel, food and clothing in Thailand are cheap by western standards although accommodation at the better class hotels is on a par with Australia and Canada.

Presenters will be required to pay the conference fee as will all the ICDE Executive! More than 250 people have indicated they want to present papers.

All known donor agencies have been asked for financial support, particularly to fund delegates from developing countries. All persons seeking support should contact the ICDE Secretariat at Gjerdrums vei 12, N-0486 Oslo 4, Norway.

MFP: What is the program status now, in January 1992? How many papers have been submitted, what about keynote speakers, main attractions? When can we expect that the program will be available?

BS: As of 20 January the Program outline has been finalised but some details still have to be worked out. Obviously many actual details of a conference cannot be readily finalised until the number of delegates is known--eg. papers per session--and hence time that can be delegated to each presentation. Also the nature and scope of evening activities. Main attractions will depend on the eye of the beholder. The official reception on the Monday night should certainly be a key event not to be missed. The

Broady Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Anastasio Christodoulou, Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and the four keynote speakers will be Mrs. Simone Testa, Minister of Education, Republic of Seychelles, Ms. Lucille Pacey, Vice President of Knowledge Network, Canada, Dr. Chaoyong Brahmawong, Professor of Education at STOU, and Dr. David Sewart, President of ICDE.

[the 16th ICDE World Conference Second Announcement lists these proposed subthemes:

1. Distance Education and Development
2. Distance Education in the Developing World
3. Distance Education, Literacy and Basic Education
4. Research and Development
5. Development of Distance Education Materials
6. Student Needs and Support Systems
7. Applications of Technology
8. Distance Education and Open Learning
9. Planning and the future]

MFP: What activities will be conducted adjunct to the conference? I am thinking of preconferences, postconferences, etc.

BS: There are currently three preconference workshops planned and a variety of postconference tours will be available. ICDE itself is not responsible for running preconference workshops but assists and advises potential presenters eg. by providing mailing lists.

[The 16th ICDE World Conference Second Announcement lists these pre-conference workshops:

3-5 November, 1992 in Hong Kong.
Sponsored by the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong and the Commonwealth of Learning.
Contact: The AD (Academic)'s Office, OLIHK
12/F Trade Department Tower
700 Nathan Road, Mongkok, Hong Kong

5-8 November, 1992 in Colombo, Sri Lanka
Organized by the Department of Education, Lund University
Contact: Department of Education
Lund University
Box 199
S-221 00 Lund
Sweden
Tel: 46 46 10 70 00
Fax: 46 46 10 45 38

6-8 November, 1992 at STOU, Thailand
Organized by the Monash University Distance Education Center
Contact: Centre for Distance Learning
Monash Distance Education Centre
Churchill, Victoria Australia 3842
Tel: (051) 226-277
Fax: (051) 226-578]

MFP: Terry Anderson has been working to establish some computer conferencing activities adjunct to the conference. The following is a note he mailed me:

In order to expand the dialogue and information sharing associated with the ICDE XVI Congress, an innovative use of computer mediated communications is being planned. The project will port discussions and interactions relevant to the Congress themes on a variety of Internet, UseNet, K12net and Bitnet computer networks. The project will commence one month prior to the Congress and include interactions with the delegates in Bangkok. Softwords has donated a CoSy conferencing system to be used by delegates in Bangkok. Distance educators from around the globe can participate by accessing established or new distance education discussion lists carried on the various international networks. For more information or if you wished to be involved in this project contact:

Terry Anderson, ANDERSON@ACS.UCALGARY.CA or
Robin Mason, RD_MASON@VAX.ACS.OPEN.AC.UK

MFP: In what way do you support this project?

BS: I gave initial approval to Terry Anderson to proceed with his idea of setting up computer conferencing activities and have provided some initial contact and advice. Unfortunately ICDE funds are not available to support this initiative but, should it be successful, then funds could be sought for subsequent conferences.

MFP: How many participants do you expect? From how many countries? How many participants do you need to break even?

BS: We will be limiting delegate numbers to 1500 with approximately 1200 being non Thai. It is anticipated that at least 60 countries will be represented. The budget is the responsibility of the Conference Manager not the Program Chair, but I guess the break even number will be about 700.

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