

From the IMCL2007 Conference Chairs

The second International conference on Interactive Mobile and Computer Aided Learning, IMCL2007, which took place in the period 18-20 April 2007 in Amman, Jordan, has attracted over 120 scientists from all-over-the-world to present state of the art research in the fields of mobile learning, e-learning and virtual engineering.

IMCL2007 was organized by Princess Sumaya University for Technology, Amman, Jordan in collaboration with Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, Villach, Austria and the Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, Stockholm, Sweden to promote technology-enhanced learning in Jordan and the Middle East in general.

The conference has attracted a number of international and national sponsors and collaborators and received 250 submissions from scientists from over 50 countries. One reason for this large number of participation was the generous and moral support received from both the IEEE Education Society and the IEEE Foundation, in addition to Jordanian establishments, and international corporations including Motorola, National Instruments, Microsoft and IBM.

The conference comes at a time when many share the vision that learning would soon become possible “anywhere anytime”, particularly with the advancement of wireless technology which provides natural access to services for all. Consequently, mobile learning (mLearning) is starting to contribute to the realization of this vision.

The conference was a very convenient forum to investigate how this type of technology-enhanced learning can facilitate learning process in different learning situations for diverse groups of learners. In fact, researchers have exchanged results, findings, tools and ideas that may contribute to knowledge and growth in this new and fast evolving field.

The conference was indeed a truly lively international forum for eLearning developers, researchers and enthusiasts in the Middle East to meet and exchange experiences with leading international experts and to encourage the study and implementation of mobile applications in teaching and learning. The conference presented an opportunity for educators from Jordan and the region to develop new skills and to stimulate critical debate on theories, approaches, principles and applications of eLearning, hence facilitate dialogue, sharing and networking between diverse cultures with regard to the optimal use of emerging technologies.

The participants were provided with the newest state of the art on portable devices and their role in university education and potential benefits for learning purposes. Examples of the implementation by laptops, tablet PCs, palmtops, mobile phones, PDA, smartphones, WAPs, GPS and a navigational system, WWW-access via Bluetooth, WLAN or GPRS were presented, accompanied by experimentations to demonstrate their coherence and feasibility.

The conference has also hosted a number of international workshops and demonstrations of the latest technologies, systems and exciting new learning materials.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Five keynote speeches have also contributed a great deal to the success of the conference:

1. **Khaled Toukan**, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Jordan,
2. **Tarek Sobh**, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Research, University of Bridgeport, USA,
3. **Christopher Merlan**, MIT Open CourseWare Executive Publication Director, USA,
4. **Adi Anani**, Umeå University, Sweden,
5. **Michel Haddad**, National Instruments, Lebanon.

Much is counted on the success of the IMCL conference as the Middle East struggles through its path towards stability and prosperity, which cannot be achieved without an active part from universities, especially those with a clear vision into the future.

Prof. A.Y. Al-Zoubi (Conference Chair)
Prof. M. E. Auer (Program Committee Chair)