

IMCL Welcome

Amman, 19 April 2006

Royal Highness,
Honorable Ministers,
Mr. President of the Princess Sumaya University of Technology,
Presidents of all the other universities,
Honorable Colleagues

I am very glad to be here in Amman to our “1st International Conference on Interactive Mobile and Computer aided Learning”, which we have the pleasure to open today.

It’s a great honour for us that the IMCL conference will be held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Princess El-Hassan Bin Talal.

It was one year ago when my good colleague and friend Prof. Al-Zoubi had the idea to organize this event in Amman. In September 2005 we were discussing the conception of the conference together with Prof. Göran Karlsson from the KTH Stockholm. And now we have more than 150 participants from 39 countries of the Middle East, from Europe and from all over the world. This is terrific for a first time conference.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the local conference organization.

Let me emphasize two points:

It was then, eight years ago, that we started this very successful concept of annual conferences with the ICL conference in Villach, recurring every year in September.

The main characteristics of this conference are:

- It’s a non profit event and therefore attractive for the participants;
- the invitation of top level keynote speakers has become traditional;
- there is always enough time for face-to-face contacts and discussions and
- the conference aims to bridging the gap between the pure academic research and the more practical contributions, solutions and experiences.

Now, we have gone a step further and will organize annual conferences following the same concept of the ICL in different locations of the world.

It’s a pleasure for me to inform you that in May 2007 the first ICBL conference will take place in Brazil! ICBL stands for “Interactive Computer aided Blended Learning”. This will promote the exchange of experiences of different regions of the world.

Further I think: such conferences will also contribute to a peaceful and constructive co-operation between the regions, nations and continents.

I am really glad to see here some well known colleagues and friends of mine.

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I am sure that this event will be the start of an intensive exchange of knowledge, solutions and experiences. And I hope it will also be the start of a good co-operation between the participants.

My thanks go again to everyone who contributed to the preparation of this conference.

From the bottom of my heart I wish the IMCL2006 all the best.

Salam

Manuscript received 29 May 2006.