

# *Asian Journal on Education and Learning*

ISSN

Available online at [www.ajel.info](http://www.ajel.info)

*Editorial*

## **Welcome!**

The Asian Journal on Education and Learning (AJEL) is a forum for discussion and opinion on matters related to learning, in all forms and at all levels. While our focus is Asia, we recognize that learning is universal.

The particular interests of the journal cover hands-on education and work integrated learning, in both their formal and non-formal applications. We hope to bring you new learning techniques and technologies, particularly the advent of the Internet and its use in areas such as distance learning. We also hope to cover education for special groups, such as remote or disadvantaged communities.

In August 2009, an international conference was held in Chiang Mai in Thailand on the Role of Universities in Hands-On Education. The first lesson from this conference was that hands-on education was a much misunderstood concept. Actual practitioners of vocation-related education did not realize that what they were doing was providing hands-on learning. So too was the concept misunderstood at the official level. Since hands-on has application at all levels of education, it does not fall neatly into any one department of primary, vocational or higher education. The record is clear – the hands-on or WIL approach has a very high success rate with graduate employment. However, the providers of this form of education are under pressure to practice more traditional forms, or to do more research, in order to conform to someone's idea of what education should be, or to tick all the right boxes for someone's key performance indicators.

Students and our youth are taking education into their own hands. They are at the forefront of web technology and the education system is, in many cases, slow to catch up. The internet café is fast becoming the classroom.

The other lesson from the Chiang Mai experience was that there is indeed an enthusiastic core of educators who recognize the demands of youth and are aware of, and indeed excited by, the possibilities that both new technologies and new approaches to education can offer.

Since our journal makes use of the internet and we want to be an open forum, not all contributions will be peer reviewed. However, all contributions are open to comment from readers which will, with discretion, be published.

Terry Commins  
Editor