

**Pilot Course on Computer Courseware Development  
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**Opening Remarks  
by  
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Investment in education and development of appropriate skills for the workforce are prerequisites for continuing economic growth, particularly in an era of rapid development of information and communications technology (ICT). However, equity of access is a continuing problem in the education sector in the Asia and Pacific region. Even though universal primary education has nearly been achieved in several countries in the region, it covers only about three fourths of the world's school-age children.

Rapid innovation in ICT is transforming the way we work, the way we interact, the way we learn, and the way we live. In the education sector, e-learning increases access to education by making it possible for students to fit their education into family and work schedules and by providing a greater choice of quality courses. By employing distance learning techniques, we can expand educational opportunities and reduce illiteracy in many parts of the world.

Multimedia computer courseware makes it possible to illustrate complex processes schematically and grasp difficult concepts easily. The development of multimedia content is still a very costly and tedious task. However, courseware development can be effectively designed using an authoring system as well as integrating appropriate instructional systems design principles.

The "Pilot Course on Computer Courseware Development" deals with the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of technology-based, interactive computer courseware. The courseware may be constructed with an authoring system or a state-of-the-art, visual-programming language. It may be accessed from a CD-ROM or DVD and may be learnt through a website. The goal is for the participants to become proficient in

the analysis, design, development, implementation and evaluation of exemplary computer courseware in a state-of-the-art, multimedia environment.

At the conclusion of this course, each participant is expected to have:

- developed multimedia courseware, based on sound learning theories and instructional strategies,
- conducted alpha and beta tests for accuracy, usability, and educational value of the courseware, and
- converted the courseware into web-based, CD-ROM-based, and mobile-device-based courses.

The courseware should accommodate a range of learning styles. It is given with development charts, a narrative explaining the roles taken at different times by team members, a review of the literature, and fully-functional, intuitively used software. The inclusion of a management system is optional. Additional teaching aids may be included.

Your strong commitment to improve educational access and quality will have a long-term impact in sustaining economic growth, achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, and alleviating the suffering of millions of poor people in the Asia and Pacific region. We are your partner in this journey and we look forward to working with you to identify, design and implement practical solutions that bring tangible and lasting results to those who need it most.

On behalf of the Asian Development Bank Institute, I deeply commend your active participation in the course. I also express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Nepal and the Nepal Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank for extending their full cooperation for the preparation of this course.