**2016 International Learning in Networked Community Carnival
for K-12 Schools**

What's the Best Approach to Utilize ICT for Learning?

January 1 – May 31, 2016

Ministry of Education, Taiwan
Chinese Society for Inquiry Learning
National University of Tainan, Taiwan
School of Education, Beijing Normal University, China

1. Introduction

There is a widespread belief that information and communication technology (ICT) can and will empower teachers and learners, transforming teaching and learning processes from being highly teacher-dominated to student-centered, and that this transformation will result in increased learning gains for students, creating and allowing for opportunities for learners to develop their creativity, problem-solving abilities, collaboration skills, communication skills, and critical thinking skills. However, there are currently very limited data to support this belief.

Furthermore, a newly published Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) study entitled, ***Students, Computers and Learning: Making the Connection*** examines how students' access to and use of ICT has evolved over the past decade and explores how different national education systems are integrating ICT into students' learning experiences. The report concludes "we have not yet become good enough at the kind of pedagogies that make the most of technology. Adding 21st century technologies to 20th century teaching practices will just dilute the effectiveness of teaching." Do you agree to the conclusion of the report? What would be your comments on the findings of the report?

2. Project Goal

Please showcases the application of ICT in your school or draw out an ideal implementation of ICT to demonstrate the conceivable and feasible features of ICT on assisting learning based on your perspective. Ultimately, the goal of the project is to gathering evidence and proof to support the abovementioned belief on ICT for learning.

3. Learning Space: APEC Cyber Academy

APEC Cyber Academy (ACA, http://linc.hinet.net/apec/) is an international networked learning environment designed specifically for K-12 students. The primary goal of ACA is to incorporate the capabilities of ICT to provide learner-centered, collaborative, and international learning experiences to K-12 students and teachers around the world. Launched in 2002, ACA is currently hosted by the Pathfinder Networked Learning Lab in National University of Tainan, Taiwan. With its outstanding networked learning environment and high quality digital content, ACA has attracted a great deal of international users. As of October 2015, ACA has over 15,000 registered users from various corners of the world.

ACA hosts an annual international networked collaborative learning program, which is exclusively for K-12 schools. The program for 2016, entitled the 2016 International Learning in Networked Community Carnival for K-12 Schools (The iLINC Carnival).

4. Timeline and Tasks

✧ Before January 31, 2016.
Form a team with 3-20 students and one teacher and register to Connecting Classrooms program in APEC Cyber Academy.

✧ Before February 28, 2016.
Each team prepares and submits a team introduction materials following the instruction in Connecting Classroom.

✧ Before April 30, 2016.
Each team conducts its own research on the theme of the project based on its own plan and submits a final video product following the instruction in Connecting Classroom.

✧ Before May 20, 2016.

All participants complete reviews of all materials submitted by every team and provide meaningful feedbacks to them.

✧ At the end of May 2016.

All participants participate in arranged videoconferences (TBD) to share and discuss findings online.

5. Rewards

All the participating teams will be awarded a group certificate of merit issued by National University of Tainan, Taiwan.

6. Special Notice

Due to technical reason, the APEC Cyber Academy (ACA) will work properly only when you access with MS Windows PC and IE browser.

■ **PLEASE COME ON BOARD AND JOIN THE EXCITEMENT!**

For more details about the online collaborative program, please visit the APEC Cyber Academy at http://linc.hinet.net/apec/ or e-mail Dr. Chi-Syan Lin at: apec.best@msa.hinet.net