UNESCO Bangkok
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific
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Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNESCO-MICROSOFT Innovative Teachers’ Conference
28 February - 2 March 2007 in Siem Reap, Cambodia

BANGKOK, 28 February 2007 – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Microsoft are co-organizing a Microsoft Innovative Teachers’ Conference in Siem Reap from 28 February to 2 March 2007.

The major goals of the Conference are to develop regional and international understanding and cooperation among teachers, educators and major education stakeholders, and to explore new avenues for a better future in the areas of education, culture and technology.

The Conference will showcase the creativity of primary and secondary teachers. The idea is to take the participants to Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to view and experience the richness of a UNESCO World Heritage site from various aspects: art, science, language and culture. The Conference also offers the participants an opportunity to look at how one site can be investigated in a cross-cultural manner. Teachers will be able to create resources at the site and bring resources back to the classroom after the trip.

The Conference will also highlight the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in achieving society’s goals. As Mr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Director of the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, notes, “ICT are not only means to reach existing education ends; they can also create new ends and serve to enhance communication across sectors and cultures”.

Over 200 teachers and government officials from 22 countries will discuss and develop innovative programmes and share good practices as well as produce resources, using ICT, in mixed country teams.
Mr. Peter Moore, Regional Managing Director of the Public Sector at Microsoft Asia-Pacific sees the partnership with UNESCO as a way to “tap into our core resources, solutions, and know-how, in support of a shared goal to help teachers and educators in Asia and the Pacific region to harness the power of information and communication technologies. This Conference reaffirms the commitment of UNESCO and Microsoft to help achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”.

The three-day conference will be declared open by His Excellency Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, and His Excellency Dr Kol Pheng, Senior Minister for Education, Youth and Sports of the Royal Government of Cambodia at the opening keynote ceremony on 1 March 2007.

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**Press Contact:**
Ms. Anuje Sirikit, Public Information Officer  
[asirikit@unescobkk.org](mailto:asirikit@unescobkk.org)
UNESCO Bangkok  
Tel. +66 (0)2 391 0577, ext. 347

**Project Contact:**
Mr. Miao Fengchun, Programme Specialist –ICT in Education  
[fc.miao@unescobkk.org](mailto:fc.miao@unescobkk.org)
UNESCO Bangkok  
Tel. +66 (0)2 391 0577, ext 223

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