HARNESSING THE USE OF OPEN LEARNING EXCHANGE TO SUPPORT BASIC EDUCATION IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS IN THE PHILIPPINES

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This presentation

- Some of the open learning initiatives of the Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology
- Problems and Barriers
- Reforms and Solutions
 - The web-based system The Courseware Project
 - Current status of the project
 - Upcoming and Future Plans



Background

- 2003 Results of the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA)
 - Science ranked 23rd out of the 25 countries in Grade 4 and 42nd among 45 countries in Grade 8 (second year high school)
 - Mathematics ranked 23rd in Grade 4 and 41st in Grade 8 (second year high school), putting the country in the bottom group along with countries like Chile, Morocco,

Tunisia and South Africa





International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement



Background

- Reasons for the unsatisfactory achievement of Filipino students
 - lack of qualified science and mathematics teachers and their beliefs about teaching the subjects
 - the science and mathematics curriculum
 - large classes resulting to overcrowded classroom
 - limited or lack of school resources like basic equipment, science laboratory, textbooks, enhancement or supplementary materials and student opportunities for learning among others

- The Mobile Information Technology Classroom (MITC)
- E-Training for Science and Mathematics Teachers
- Development of Computer Aided Instructions for Science and Mathematics





The Mobile Information Technology Classroom (MITC)

- Started rolling in 2000
- A specially designed 32-seater air-conditioned bus loaded with ICT facilities that include: 17 laptop computers, LCD projector, television, VHS player, public address system and science and mathematics lessons in VHS and CD-ROMs





The Mobile Information Technology Classroom (MITC)

- Targeted to minimize the digital divide
- It is managed by science and mathematics teachers who have been trained to use its facilities and integrate the learning materials of MITC into the school curriculum.





The Mobile Information Technology Classroom (MITC)

- Served 9 regions from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and to date had benefited more than 300,000 students in more than 5,000 schools.
- Currently 4 MITC buses are deployed in Camarines Sur, Cebu, Siargao, and Davao regions







E-Training for Science and Mathematics Teachers

 A 10-month online training designed to upgrade the competence and confidence of public science and mathematics teachers who are non-major but are actually teaching these subjects in the elementary and secondary levels through the effective use of ICT.

Number of teachers trained:

- 2006 415
- 2008 401





E-Training for Science and Mathematics Teachers

- Thirteen (13) selected Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) served as the nationwide training venues where participants held and took their orientation and final examinations
- Faculties from the TEIs specializing in science and mathematics education served as the participants' online trainers







E-Training for Science and Mathematics Teachers

- The UP Open University (UPOU) conducted the training of trainers for VClass as well as the conduct of the monitoring and evaluation of the program in 2006
- University of Sto. Tomas (UST) Education Technology Center provided the training and hosting for the Blackboard LMS in 2008.









Development of Computer-Aided Instructions (CAI) for Science and Mathematics

 In 2004, the Science Education Institute (SEI) collaborated with the Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) also an agency of the DOST and a frontrunner in ICT, and produced one hundred one (101) interactive multimedia modules for elementary schools : 51 science and

60 mathematics







Development of Computer-Aided Instructions for Science and Mathematics

Interactive Courseware in Elementary Science and Mathematics



Interactive Courseware in Elementary Science and Mathematics

- This courseware project on science and mathematics for elementary schools gained an overwhelming response from its stakeholders since its launching in November 2006
- Prompted the SEI to replicate ten thousand (10,000) copies of the package in December 2007 to accommodate requests



Interactive Courseware in Elementary Science and Mathematics

- Aims to optimize, streamline and standardize educational lesson presentation in Science and Mathematics through the use of cost-effective and high quality solutions
- Assist in developing competitive elementary students who can maximize and enhance learning through the use of ICT
- Equip teachers with supplemental tools to assist them not only in teaching but also in motivating their students to learn and participate in class discussions.







Interactive Courseware in Elementary Science and Mathematics

- Developed using Macromedia Flash (then), Adobe Photoshop and other open source applications like the GNU Image Manipulation Program (GIMP)
- Features original copyrighted local Filipino characters or representations and situations to establish branding for DOST's initiative
- Packaged in CD-ROM and uploaded in the courseware website







Problems/Barriers

Cost of replication

- To date about 8,000 copies of the courseware were distributed for free to various recipients including elementary schools, public offices, some foreign guests, science centrums, nongovernment organizations and lawmakers.
- The cost of replication to provide each 38,351 public elementary school a copy is very high that which costs the government roughly around eight hundred thousand (P800,000.00) for 10,000 copies replicated in 2007.





Distribution and promotion mechanism

- Acquisition of courseware is per-request and on a limited basis
- Promotional activities and materials such as participation to various exhibitions and distribution of bookmarks and flyers were seem not enough to promote the courseware, not to mention the costs for the implementation and production of

such









Lack of comprehensive monitoring system on courseware website users for timely feedback and evaluation of content for the continuous improvement of modules

 In 2009, the courseware development group of SEI and ASTI developed and launched a website to serve as a repository of the modules and to enable target clients to download and practically acquire a copy of those for free anytime, anywhere. The current website however, has only limited features



Reforms/Solutions



- An enhancement of the existing courseware website with the following added new major features:
 - Registration and Download access
 - Reports Generation
 - Feedback Gathering
 - User Administration
 - Module Administration
 - Search Mechanism
 - User Tracking and Website Traffic Monitoring Mechanism



User Registration and Download Access





User Registration and Download Access



User Registration and Download Access





Reports Generation

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Reports Generation

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Feedback Gathering

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User (Registered) Administration



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Search Mechanism



User Tracking and Website Traffic Monitoring Mechanism

 Aside from the registration mechanism, the site will also use the Google Analytics (GA) to efficiently track information not captured in the registration





Courseware Re-Assembled

 Courseware bundle downloading is the grouping or bundling of several files into a single self-extractable file that can be downloaded and saved. Some several self-extracting file programs for Windows are WinRar, WinZip, the builtin IExpress, and the open source software 7Zip are available.





Upcoming/Future Plans

Courseware Mobile Application (CMApp)

- The courseware app shall lead the user to the courseware website and will have the option to either view (run) or download the modules for storage or sharing (Bluetooth).
- Learning science and math is not only fun, it is also made easy, portable and most of all it is ubiquitous





Courseware Reloaded (on Social Networking Site)

 A Courseware Facebook page will serve as an alternate site to view the modules and as means to promote the courseware website as well





Current Status/Recommendations

- The Courseware Project final version once approved and adapted will host the 101 modules in elementary science (Grades 3 to 6) and mathematics (Grades 1 to 6).
- Eventually, modules from first to fourth year of secondary level (high school) will also be uploaded to the site along with other modules currently being digitized by the Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI).



Current Status/Recommendations

• An assessment or study on the impact, usefulness, effectiveness and efficiency of the overall functionality of the modules will be conducted this year







Mabuhay and Thank You Very Much!

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