

Andrianto Handojo, 11:49 8/8/00 +070, [asean-vust] Course materials

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From: "Andrianto Handojo" <pd1@fti.itb.ac.id>
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Date: Tue, 8 Aug 2000 11:49:53 +0700
Reply-To: asean-vust@egroups.com
Subject: [asean-vust] Course materials

Dear Colleagues,

The email/internet system of my faculty was unfortunately down for about 2 weeks. Although somewhat late (I am a new member anyway), allow me to deliver my contribution to the VUST discussion.

1. I believe that one of the hardest works is the design and preparation of course materials for online presentation. We are all aware that it is not merely a transfer from lecture notes to electronic form, since it could equivalently be done by distributing the notes or the textbooks. Visualization involving movement, three-dimensional perspectives, or even animation, are among the great possibilities offered through the monitor of a computer. To develop such a highly attractive and informative display, a very large amount of working hours would be needed, involving the substance expert, multimedia specialist, visual communication artist, programmer, etc.

I think the preparation should be shared by the member universities that each has a group ready to handle a certain lecture substance. One university might only develop two or three course materials within a given time.

2. It would be necessary to design first the curriculum (or curricula) and the corresponding course syllabi, taking into account the potentials of the member universities and all criteria for accreditation. The task of developing the course materials can be subsequently distributed among those universities.

3. Based upon the discussion so far within the VUST group, I feel that agreement and decision on some matters in the following sequence should be taken:

- type of program (continuing engineering education, or others)
- fields of study (e.g. environmental engineering, energy management)
- the curricula
- syllabi of the courses
- commitment of member universities to develop certain course materials.

Thank you and with best regards,

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Prof TM Wong, 14:11 8/8/00 +080, Re: [asean-vust] Course materi

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Subject: Re: [asean-vust] Course materials

Dear friends,

A quick response to the very useful contribution from Andrianto. Please see below:

At 11:49 AM 8/8/00 +0700, you wrote:

>Dear Colleagues,

>
>The email/internet system of my faculty was unfortunately down for about 2
>weeks. Although somewhat late (I am a new member anyway), allow me to
>deliver my contribution to the VUST discussion.

* Unfortunate but a reality of life. Your students will also be experiencing similar 'down' periods, more frequently in some countries than other. Bear this in mind when designing courses with lots of pictures. How often have we hit the stop button when the front page of a website does not show after 30 sec!

>1. I believe that one of the hardest works is the design and preparation of
>course materials for online presentation. We are all aware that it is not
>merely a transfer from lecture notes to electronic form, since it could
>equivalently be done by distributing the notes or the textbooks.

* Agreed, same applies to scanning pages of books too. All it does is to transfer the printing from the publisher high quality machine to the users often inferior quality machine. Not much value added.

>
>Visualization involving movement, three-dimensional perspectives, or even
>animation, are among the great possibilities offered through the monitor of
>a computer. To develop such a highly attractive and informative display, a
>very large amount of working hours would be needed, involving the substance
>expert, multimedia specialist, visual communication artist, programmer,
>etc.

* Agreed, but what has been described above can be developed and presented in the form of a C-D ROM. It offers students much easier access and more flexible use. Can still be used when the Internet connection is 'down' and no lengthy waits while the pretty pictures are downloaded. The real value part of the Internet (Web) enabled part lies in the possibility of hyperlinks to current sites which should ideally be integrated into the courseware as activities/resources base etc. As I mention earlier, students should only be required to Log-on when there is added value as far as content delivery is concerned.

>I think the preparation should be shared by the member universities that
>each has a group ready to handle a certain lecture substance. One
>university might only develop two or three course materials within a given
>time.

Sound suggestions: will be interesting to see how the implementation works out in this project. Lots of success and failure stories elsewhere.

>2. It would be necessary to design first the curriculum (or curricula) and
>the corresponding course syllabi, taking into account the potentials of the
>member universities and all criteria for accreditation. The task of
>developing the course materials can be subsequently distributed among those
>universities.

* Are we talking about a common Asean-wide curriculum acceptable by all participants? This sounds ambitious. I may be wrong (and I will be happy to be corrected) but my understanding is that in most cases, the various Universities within each country can't even agree to a common syllabus.

>3. Based upon the discussion so far within the VUST group, I feel that
>agreement and decision on some matters in the following sequence should be
>taken:

> - type of program (continuing engineering education, or others)
> - fields of study (e.g. environmental engineering, energy management)
> - the curricula
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> - commitment of member universities to develop certain course
> materials.

* Useful framework to aim at for within the next 3-5 year time frame. If we are talking about developing course materials afresh, one is looking at a realistic lead time of 15-18 months even for institutions with a lot of experience. For the next 1-2 years, it may be useful to run one to two courses (subjects) as a pilot based on courses already developed (U's from Spore!) for the on-line environment simply to test out the hard ware/ software infrastructure and to gain hands-on experience for all concerned. If the courses are in the continuing engineering education area, the issue of accreditation will not add to the complications.
Cheers. TM

>Thank you and with best regards,

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