Announcement

News on ICT in Education

Highlight
ICTs in Education Prize: Call for nominations
"Teaching, Learning and e-Pedagogy: Teacher Professional Development for Knowledge Societies" is the theme of the 2009 UNESCO-King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education. The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2009.

News & Events
13th UNESCO-APEID International Conference and World Bank-KERIS High Level Seminar on ICT in Education
With more than 200 abstracts submitted by authors from 31 countries globally, it was a difficult task for the review committee to decide on the proposals and the speakers for the event in Hangzhou.

Asia and Pacific Database on Education launched - Giving policy makers and practitioners evidence for action
UNICEF and UNESCO went online with a one-stop Education for All database for Asia and the Pacific that enables respective governments to better identify why some children are not in school.

UNESCO Audio-visual E-Platform renewed
The UNESCO Audio-visual E-Platform has been redesigned and improved to include new and more dynamic functionalities, and to increase the number of audio-visual productions from all regions of the world.

Learning4Content exceeds expectations
COL's Learning4Content programme has trained 3,000 people in wiki skills for content editing over an 18-month period. More than 85 online and face-to-face workshops have been held around the world since January 2008, drawing participants from 110 countries.

E-Learning Asia Conference 2009
With a focus on "Transform Learning with Technology (Innovation, Learning, Business & Technology)," the e-Learning Asia Conference will be held from September 3-to-4, 2009 in Seoul, South Korea.

Programmes and Projects
Digital StudyHall
Digital StudyHall (DSH) is an innovative project which uses ICT to improve quality and accessibility of education in rural and slum schools in India.

Resources
UNESCO Bangkok ICT in Education Portal for Teachers
A web portal that is very useful for educators - including teachers, teacher trainers and head teachers - the Portal for Teachers, has recently been updated with new tools, materials and resources for ICT in Education.

The Internet literacy handbook: A guide for 21st century netizens
The handbook comprises 21 fact sheets, each covering a particular topic on Internet use, offering teachers and parents sufficient technical know-how to allow them to share young people's and children's voyages through communication technology.

Educational technology debate: Exploring ICT and learning in developing countries
Launched in April 2009, Educational Technology Debate is a new ICT-related website seeking to promote a substantive discussion of how low-cost information and communication technology (ICT) device initiatives for educational systems in developing countries are relevant to the very groups they purport to serve – the students, teachers, and their surrounding communities.

The open education disc project: An open source software package for Windows
The Open Education Disc is a collection of open source educational software for windows, containing eight main categories of software, namely office and design, Internet, art and graphics, multimedia, science and mathematics, games, utilities and advanced Internet.

Creating interactive quizzes in MyStudiyo
MyStudiyo is an online resource that allows users to creatively use images to create professionally looking quizzes for websites or blogs, without the need to be proficient in HTML or web-programming languages.

Highlight

ICTs in Education Prize: Call for nominations
Teaching, Learning and e-Pedagogy: Teacher Professional Development for Knowledge Societies is the theme of the 2009 UNESCO-King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education. Funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the USD$50,000 prize is divided between two winners. The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2009.

Every year, this prize rewards activities that demonstrate the best practice, as well as the most creative use of ICTs to enhance learning, teaching and overall educational performance.

Submissions must reach UNESCO, via the governments of Member States, in consultation with their UNESCO National Commissions, or by international non-governmental organizations which maintain formal relations with the organization.

The winners will be announced at an award ceremony on 26 January 2010 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The 2008 Prize was awarded to China's Shanghai TV University (for its project

"Turning the Digital Divide into a Digital Opportunity") and to Dr Hoda Baraka, of the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (for her leadership in the implementation of several national ICT projects in education).

For more detailed information on how to enter see the PDF document on the webpage below.

Further information:

- ICTs in Education Prize: Call for nominations

Related links:

- Chinese and Egyptian laureates to receive UNESCO prize for the use of ICT in Education

- Belgium and U.S.A.-based projects to receive 2007 UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize

- UNESCO announces laureates of ICTs in education prize

Previous issues of the e-newsletter:

- UNESCO "ICT in Education" Announcement e-newsletter

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News & Events

13th UNESCO-APEID International Conference
World Bank-KERIS High Level Seminar on ICT in Education

ICT Transforming Education

15-17 November 2009
Hangzhou, People's Republic of China

With more than 200 abstracts submitted by authors from 31 countries globally, it was a difficult task for the review committee to decide on the proposals and the speakers for the event in Hangzhou.

Proposed topics covered a broad thematic spectrum, ranging from ICT for Lifelong Learning to ICT in Education Policies and National Masterplans, and from 21st Century Teacher Professional Development to Cyber Universities.

The organizers – the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) of UNESCO in Bangkok, the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, the World Bank and the Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS) would like to sincerely thank all authors who have submitted abstracts.

The 13th UNESCO-APEID International Conference, in conjunction with the World Bank-KERIS High Level Seminar on ICT in Education, provides a forum for participants to share experiences on how they can use ICT to transform educational systems and increase the reach and quality of education.
If you are interested to join and register as participant, take advantage of the **Early bird rate** which is offered only until **31 August 2009***.

Conference Fees

Early bird*	USD$ 250
International participants	USD$ 350
International student**	USD$150
Group registration***	USD$ 250 each

* Payment for Early bird must reach the Conference Secretariat by 31 August 2009
** Students must study full time and must provide valid student ID
*** For five or more individuals from the same organization/institution

Send bank draft payable to "UNESCO"
UNESCO-APEID International Conference Secretariat
UNESCO Bangkok
920 Sukhumvit Road
Bangkok 10110, Thailand

For more information and to register for the conference, visit
http://www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid/conference/china

Further information:

- 13th UNESCO-APEID International Conference on Education and World Bank-KERIS High Level Seminar on ICT in Education

Related links:

- ICT in Education - UNESCO Bangkok

Previous issues of the e-newsletter:

- [UNESCO "ICT in Education" Announcement e-newsletter](#)

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Asia and Pacific Database on Education launched - Giving policy makers and practitioners evidence for action

UNICEF and UNESCO went online with a one-stop Education for All database for Asia and the Pacific that enables governments to better identify why some children are not in school, or are not learning and why.

"The database brings greater precision in analyzing where countries in the region have made significant achievements in meeting the Education for All (EFA) goals. More importantly, the database will help identify the unreached groups in education in terms of location, ethnicity, and socio-economic status, among others," said Gwang-Jo Kim, Director of UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Education.

As a region, Asia and the Pacific has made major gains towards all six EFA goals.* However across the region and within countries, significant disparities persist and threaten achievement.

"We see great opportunity for this database on education to help identify and reach children who remain disadvantaged in accessing quality education, particularly those from the most marginalized communities who face the largest barriers," said Anupama Rao Singh, UNICEF's Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific.

"Our hope is that it will be used to create stronger links between monitoring, policy and programme response for the realization of child rights," she added.

Asia and Pacific EFAInfo provides user-friendly data on those population groups most in need of access to quality education, with regional and national indicators disaggregated by age and sex, ethnicity and socio-economic status. Where data is available, it also probes provincial and district-level settings, providing evidence for effective response to achieving Education for All.

The regional resource goes beyond standard education data to look at issues such as health and poverty, with data drilling below the surface to sub-national data. In this way, it allows for an expanded analysis of education, using not only administrative data collected regularly by ministries of education but also more insightful information generated from household surveys. This provides users with the ability to "triangulate" analysis and look at education from multiple perspectives.

EFAInfo is being launched in advance of a series of training workshops to better prepare education planners and practitioners with the skills and resources to undertake analysis of education data and to apply it to planning and advocacy.

The online resource comprises all of the internationally-accepted standardized indicators as used for the monitoring of EFA and the Millennium Development Goals, together with country specific indicators used for the monitoring of national development plans and the implementation of country-specific interventions.

Through EFAInfo, users can access:
• Internationally comparable education indicators published for regional, cross-country comparisons;
• National and sub-national data indicating achievements and gaps in achievement of EFA;
• Regional, country and sub-national maps for powerful and compelling presentations.

In addition, online users will have access to a range of development-related database, searchable by key words, on issues such as education, poverty, the MDGs and other topics.

Further information:

- [EFAInfo](#)

Related links:

- [Asia and Pacific Database on Education launched - Giving policy makers and practitioners evidence for action](#)

- [Education For All (EFA)](#)

Previous issues of the e-newsletter:

- [UNESCO "ICT in Education" Announcement e-newsletter](#)

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UNESCO Audio-visual E-Platform renewed

The UNESCO Audio-visual E-Platform has been redesigned and improved to include new and more dynamic functionalities, and to increase the number of audio-visual productions from all regions of the world.

The new functionalities offer the possibility to categorize productions in different themes, such as women, children, sustainable development, minorities, indigenous communities and environmental issues. Individuals and organizations are now also able to create and manage their online catalogues of audio-visual productions. Trailers or complete productions can be screened online, and the navigation experience and available resources have been improved. The next step is to strengthen linkages between the Platform and independent producers' networks globally, and to include rights-free content from other United Nations' agencies.

The Audio-visual E-Platform is a project started by UNESCO in 2004, with the overall aim to support the international exchange of audio-visual content relating to development issues and to promote audio-visual production as a tool for cultural expression. The Platform also facilitates business-to-business exchanges among professionals in the audio-visual field. If you are an independent producer of content, broadcaster, director, producer or film festival organizer you will find this Audio-visual E-Platform very useful.

The Platform now compiles over 600 productions from more than 80 countries and has close to 5,000 registered users.

The project is has been implemented through a partnership between the government of Spain and the UNESCO Association of Igualada.

Further information:

- [UNESCO Audio-visual E-Platform](#)

Related links:

- [UNESCO Audio-visual E-Platform renewed](#)

- [UNESCO, U.S. Library of Congress and partners launch World Digital Library](#)

- [neoK12 – educational videos and lessons for K-12 school kids](#)

- [Digital video technology in education](#)

- [Digital StudyHall](#)

- [UNESCO digital-learning kit for teachers](#)

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Learning4Content exceeds expectations

COL's Learning4Content programme has trained 3,000 people in wiki skills for content editing over an 18-month period. More than 85 online and face-to-face workshops have been held around the world since January 2008, drawing participants from 110 countries.

"We are delighted to have been the catalyst to build this global collaborative education community," said Dr. Wayne Mackintosh, who launched and oversaw the growth of Learning4Content as COL's Education Specialist, eLearning and ICT Policy. "This is a fantastic example of what can happen when people have the opportunity to share knowledge freely."

The Learning4Content workshops are offered at no cost. Participants learn how to use WikiEducator and other wiki technologies to create and publish open educational resources (OERs). In return, they are asked to contribute one open content learning resource for use in secondary schools, vocational education and post-secondary institutions.

"We've had tremendous support from governments and educational institutions who have contributed meeting space and computers, and from numerous people who have volunteered their time as facilitators," Dr. Mackintosh said.

"Most importantly, we have a large and growing group of about 9,000 educators who are now able to create, use, share and adapt learning content. This will make a huge, long-term contribution to education worldwide."

Dr. Savithri Singh is Principal of Acharya Narendra Dev College, at the University of Delhi in India and a keen supporter of Learning4Content. She has acted as facilitator for three face-to-face Learning4Content workshops and was elected a member of WikiEducator's first Community Council.

"The WikiEducator workshop that I attended in July 2006 opened up a whole new world for me – a world that allows us to actually practice collaboration and share what we know across the very wide world," she said.

"Through the Learning4Content workshops I hope to persuade more academicians to contribute OERs and maybe as a group, we can make a significant contribution in India. There is a need to make India-centric contextual materials, especially in local languages."

"The Learning4Content facilitators have been an inspiration – motivating and

supporting me to complete my training notwithstanding my work demands and a hectic travel schedule," said Mr. Victor Mensah, who works for the Commonwealth Youth Programme Regional Centre for Africa in Zambia. Since completing the Learning4Content workshop, Mr. Mensah has encouraged others to take Learning4Content training, led workshops in Zambia, provided online support to other learners and developed several content resources for the community. "Through mass collaboration and a dynamic community – it's hard to imagine what can't be achieved!"

At a Learning4Content workshop in St. Kitts in March 2009, the country's Minister of Education, Hon. Sam Condor, spoke to participants about the need for accessible learning materials that can be adapted to local needs.

"While we are yet to fully witness the potentially powerful impact and exciting prospect of making educational material, educational curriculum and content free and accessible to all, we anxiously await this moment," he said. "It is equally significant that we hone the skills which would allow us to adapt and modify such content to meet our specific needs."

Learning4Content is supported by COL and The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. There continue to be opportunities to host, attend, facilitate and sponsor workshops. Visit the Learning4Content page on WikiEducator for more information about how to get involved.

Source: Commonwealth of Learning

Further information:

- Learning4Content

Related links:

- Learning4Content exceeds expectations

- Free e-learning content: WikiEducator

- COL's "Media for Learning" programme
- Commonwealth of Learning

Previous issues of the e-newsletter:

- UNESCO "ICT in Education" Announcement e-newsletter

What do you think about this topic?

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E-Learning Asia Conference 2009

After two consecutive years of success, the e-Learning Asia Conference will be held once again from September 3-to-4, 2009 in Seoul, South Korea. With a focus on "Transform Learning with Technology (Innovation, Learning, Business & Technology",) the conference will assemble ICT academics and professionals from around the world, to discuss and share their research and perspectives on educational innovation and future direction of ICT in education.

The conference this year will feature a whole range of lectures, panel discussions, and presentations by representatives from both the public and private sectors. To name a few, some of the distinguished speakers include:

Mr. David Vincent, President of the European Association of Distant Learning; Mr. Fabrizio Cardinali, Chair of the European eLearning Industry Group and MIT Open Knowledge Initiative Global Advisor; and Professor Akira Baba from the University of Tokyo.

For those interested, registration can be done via the eLAC Secretariat at el_reg@insession.co.kr at USD$200 per person for regular participants and USD$100 for students. Otherwise, onsite registration is also possible at the same rates.

Further details about eLAC 2009 and its program may be found at http://www.elearningasia.net/eng/main.htm.

Further information:

- E-Learning Asia Conference 2009

Related links:

- 13th UNESCO-APEID International Conference

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- UNESCO "ICT in Education" Announcement e-newsletter

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Programmes and Projects

Digital StudyHall
Digital StudyHall (DSH) is an innovative project which uses ICT to improve quality and accessibility of education in rural and slum schools in India. One of the biggest challenges for schools in rural areas and slums is the shortage of qualified teachers. It is not quite common for a government village school to have 200-500 students with fewer than half a dozen teachers working, and these teachers are often not well-qualified to teach many of the subjects that they are required to instruct.

DSH seeks to solve this problem by digitally recording classes by the best grassroots teachers in order to create a large database which can distributed on DVDs to schools in poor rural areas and in slums. Each school in the project is given at least a TV and a DVD player (many schools also need a big lead-acid battery and a DC-to-AC inverter for dealing with intermittent electricity).

Because students cannot learn by just watching these DVDs on TV, a teacher (or a "mediator") is placed in between the students and the TV to facilitate learning. This is called "mediation-based pedagogy". The mediator periodically stops the DVD and engages the students in various activities (asking questions, board work, role playing etc.,) based on content on the DVD.

Through this method, the students learn from better skilled and more knowledgeable teachers and the mediator teachers are also trained. The mediator teachers learn the best and appropriate pedagogies and content of subjects with first-hand experiences ("learning by doing").

"Learning by doing" is currently considered to be one of the best ways to absorb skills and knowledge. This approach of mediator-based pedagogy also has an advantage over short traditional training sessions, because in a short training session topic has to be kept at an abstract level due to time constraints, and as results it is not always clear how such abstract principles should relate to daily topics. This is not the case for mediation-based pedagogy.

Another method used in this project is "peer-mediation" where the brightest students are recruited to serve as mediators in case of teacher absences, which can be frequent in poorer areas. These student mediators appear to display a high degree of responsibility and enthusiasm when they are put in charge.

From the launch of DSH in 2005 to 2008, about 30 schools were covered in the pilot "hubs" in Lucknow, Kolkata, Pune, and Dhaka and the database has grown to contain over 1,500 recordings of lessons in English, maths, and science, in Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Marathi, Tamil, and English, and 1,500 additional videos of other materials such as stories, special science and history topics, and training sessions.

In a recent evaluation, many positive effects have been observed, including a dramatic rise of student test scores in participating schools, significant improvements in subject matter knowledge and pedagogical skills of local teachers, and increased student participation.

DSH's successes have been recognized and the project has received many awards, including the 2007 ACM Eugene Lawler Award for Humanitarian Contributions within Computer Science and Informatics, and the top prize in the education category of the 2008 Tech Awards by the Tech Museum of Innovation.

In order to maximize the benefit, the same approach is also applied to agriculture extension work (Digital Green) and the awareness campaign for rural healthcare (Digital Polyclinic). This project is thus a good example of a vehicle towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Education for All.

Further information:

- [Digital StudyHall (DSH)](#)

Related links:

- [Satellite education – Providing quality education under extreme conditions](#)

- [ICT-based distance education in South Asia](#)

- [E-learning for kids](#)

- [International cooperation vital to bridging digital divide](#)

- [Providing training in computer skills to rural youth in Sri Lanka](#)

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Resources

UNESCO Bangkok ICT in Education Portal for Teachers
A web portal very useful for educators including teachers, teacher trainers and head teachers, the Portal for Teachers, has recently been updated with new tools, materials and resources for ICT in Education.

The portal is divided into nine sections:

- The Role of ICT in Education;
- Guidelines and Policies
- The Role of Teachers in ICT-enhanced Classrooms ;
- ICT Training and Online Courses;
- Teaching: Ideas, Lessons and Curriculum Materials;
- Choosing Internet Resources;
- Electronic Collaboration;
- Distance and Online Learning, and;
- ICT in Education: Evaluation Tools and Indicators.

These portals provide resources for ICT-pedagogy integration from the beginning of planning, to evaluating, including studies on benefits and issues around ICT in Education, tips and guidelines for ICT integration, teacher ICT capacity standards and professional development courses, lesson plans and teaching materials.

Further information:

- [UNESCO Bangkok ICT in Education Portal for Teachers](#)

Related links:

- [UNESCO Bangkok ICT in Education](#)

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The Internet literacy handbook: A guide for 21st century netizens
Over the past decade, Internet technology, which is now merging into that of mobile technology, has transformed the multiple facets of life across the world, changing our work and leisure patterns, and placing greater demands on us as active, democratic citizens.

The Internet literacy handbook, intended for parents, teachers and young people throughout Europe, is a guide to exploiting to the fullest this complex network of information and communication. The handbook comprises 21 fact sheets, each covering a particular topic on Internet use, from searching for information to setting up blogs through to e-shopping and e-citizenship, to name but a few. These fact sheets offer teachers and parents sufficient technical know-how to allow them to share young people's and children's voyages through communication technology.

Apart from the fact sheets, the handbook also contains a variety of issues and purposes worth pondering. They include ethical and safety considerations, insight into the added value in education, ideas for constructive activities in class or at home, best practice in Internet use, and a wealth of definitions and links to sites that give practical examples and further in-depth information.

The Internet literacy handbook is available in three major formats: downloadable flash format, HTML and a printed edition.

Read the handbook :

- [Internet literacy handbook](#)

Related links:

- [Cyberbullying and responsible digital citizens](#)

- [Internet safety technical task force releases final report on enhancing child safety and online technologies](#)

- [ITU launches initiative to protect children online](#)
- [Everyone must help eliminate cyber hatred, says UN Secretary-General](#)

Previous issues of the e-newsletter:

- [UNESCO "ICT in Education" Announcement e-newsletter](#)

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Educational technology debate: Exploring ICT and learning in developing countries

Are ICTs the best educational investment? Are mobile phones better learning tools than computers? Is it better to support individual or communal computer usage? These are a bunch of questions which are hard to answer. With the arrival of "Educational Technology Debate," however, such common concerns are being brought to open discussions.

Launched in April 2009, Educational Technology Debate is a new ICT-related website seeking to promote a substantive discussion of how low-cost information and communication technology (ICT) device initiatives for educational systems in developing countries are relevant to the very groups they purport to serve – the students, teachers, and their surrounding communities.

Spread out over a period of four weeks, each discussion follows a process loosely based on the classic debate framework, with Week one beginning with an overview of the topic and issues at hand by the moderator and Week two a presentation of opening positions and opinions by two discussants. Via comments from readers, discussants are allowed an opportunity to amend their positions in Week three. Finally, in Week four, the moderator will summarize the debate and related commentary.

Further information:

- [Educational Technology Debate](#)

Related links:

- [Malaysia: ICT education for a "creative society"](#)

- [ICT Professional Development of Teachers in Thailand: The Lead-Teacher Model](#)

- [Developing ICT curriculum for the next generation of teachers](#)

- [Nepalese delegation visit the ICT team at UNESCO Bangkok](#)

Previous issues of the e-newsletter:

- [UNESCO "ICT in Education" Announcement e-newsletter](#)

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The open education disc project: An open source software package for Windows

Due to its free nature, open source software is increasingly becoming the choice of computer users today – be it students, teachers, office workers, managers and the like. A great alternative to costly licensed software, open source programmes have been particularly useful to developing countries where access to licensed educational software are often limited by the lack of funds.

A brainchild of a London-based computer teacher Peter Kemp in 2007, the OpenEducationDisc Project was set up for the same cause. Made up of seven members, the project has always been a volunteer operation, with no office, staff or payroll behind it. Everybody who contributes, does so in their spare time. Through words of mouth, it is now thriving in schools across the globe and was the 2006/2007 winner of the Teach First School Projects Competition.

So what exactly is the 'Open Education Disc' Project all about?

As the name suggests, the Open Education Disc is a collection of open source educational software for windows. It is available for download in ISO or DVD format, and focuses solely on meeting educational needs of students of all ages. Containing a total of 53 highly selective programs, the CD contains eight main categories of software, namely office and design, Internet, art and graphics, multimedia, science and mathematics, games, utilities, and advanced Internet.

Further information:

- [Open Education Disc](#)

Related links:

- [SchoolForge.net - Advocating free and open resources for education](#)

- [Free and open source software: applications for education, culture and access to information](#)

- [UNESCO and Sun Microsystems announce joint education and community development effort powered by open technologies](#)

- [Why give knowledge away for free? The case for open educational resources](#)

- [Free and Open Source Software for Development](#)

- [China takes lead in Linux education](#)

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Creating interactive quizzes in MyStudiyo

As an educator, have you ever found yourself frustrated about how to test your students? Here is a solution! Another excellent e-learning tool for teachers, MyStudiyo is an online resource that allows you to creatively use images to create professionally looking quizzes for your website or blog, without the need to be proficient in HTML or web-programming languages. Simply start by signing up for an account, and you're ready to go!

Attractively laid out, MyStudiyo is very easy to navigate and user-friendly. It currently comes with two main quiz formats, namely "multiple choice" and "how 'x' are you?" As the name suggests, the former is based on the usual MCQ style questions, which involves a question and four choices, among which only one is correct. The latter, on the other hand, consists of quizzes where the player finds out how well he fits a certain description. With continuing development, more testing formats will be added to the site in the coming future.

Further information:

- [MyStudiyo](#)

Related links:

- [Create your own E-Learning](#)

- [E-tools for teaching and learning geography](#)

- [FREE Educational Technology Resources](#)

- [Online tools to help teachers integrate ICT into teaching](#)

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