Message from the Joint Chairs, CRIDALA 2002 Conference Organizing Committee

Welcome to CRIDALA 2002! We offer this greeting on behalf of the conference Organizing and Advisory Committees, as well as the entire OUHK community, who have made this event possible. We are thrilled to see how the time spent in preparation has come to fruition with the stimulating programme with which you as delegates are now faced for the three days of the face-to-face part of the conference.

For this second Conference on Research in Distance and Adult Learning in Asia, we have chosen the theme www.Research.ODL. This reflects our recognition of not only the regional growth in online education, but also the consequent need for research on the issue. Such research is of vital importance to both institutions and individuals as we strive to create effective online learning environments. Here at the OUHK we have over the past year embarked on a number of projects with specific focus on aspects of online learning, both from a Hong Kong and a regional perspective. Some of those projects are being reported on at this conference, and others will lead to outcomes of assistance to policy-makers and developers of web-based courses in the years to come.

In particular, our keynote speakers have provided stimulating papers with respect to key issues for researchers in online learning. If you haven’t already had the opportunity to join in the online discussion of the papers, then you will have an added chance to interact with these leaders in the field as part of their presentations. Further, you’ll have the choice of attending a number of parallel sessions where you can meet the authors of the papers that are provided on the conference CD-ROM. Knowing how difficult it can be at conferences to choose from an enticing array of sessions, we have kept the number of parallel sessions as low as possible, while still ensuring that all authors have a chance to present and discuss their work. You should also take the opportunity to examine the poster presentations and interact with their authors at the times stipulated in the programme.

We are looking forward immensely to meeting you and presenting you with the opportunity to mix with a variety of peers from the Asian region and further afield. Please make the most of this opportunity to engage with new and seasoned researchers as we all struggle to improve our knowledge and practice.

And of course don’t forget to enjoy the special delights that Hong Kong has to offer visitors, especially its spectacular architecture, night lights, shopping and culinary treats.

We welcome you to our University and CRIDALA 2002.

Thank you.