

Review and Report on Distance Learning and the Internet Conference

The Distance Learning and the Internet Conference (DLI) and Chief Information Officers (CIO) Conference (which started in 2007) are the two current IT flagship initiatives of the APRU Associate. They aim to bring together IT leaders, academics and education technologists for the objectives of fostering strategic partnerships, distance learning programs, advanced information technology networks and sharing of best IT practices among the APRU member universities.

Further to the DLI conference series lasting eight years, there have been concerns with regard to the DLI momentum and its relevance to stakeholders. It is, therefore, timely to review the objectives, deliverables, effectiveness and synergies of the DLI series vis-à-vis the CIO Conference.

At the request of the APRU Secretary General a review committee, established in March 2008, was tasked to review the DLI initiative, its objectives and deliverables in order to determine if the current format and outcomes met the needs and aspirations of APRU stakeholders. The committee was tasked to propose recommendations for DLI's reform.

The committee identified several issues and assessed the outcomes and future needs of the DLI series. Recommendations were made with regard to the future DLI vision, objectives and potential leadership renewal in order to ensure alignment with other APRU priorities and initiatives such as the CIO Conference.

Members of the DLI Review Committee will present the report, namely "Review and Report on Distance Learning and the Internet Conference" at DLI 2008 to give participants an overview of the changes to come and recommendations going forward for the DLI series. The proposed recommendations have been approved in principle by the APRU Steering Committee.