

**Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
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Abstract

Distance Education in Tsinghua University

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Tsinghua University is the first university in China to develop and offer the modern distance education by means of a hybrid system including internet, satellite, cable TV and ISDN as well as CD-ROM. There is around 30 thousand part time students who are learning at more than 100 learning centers established in China. It offers many programs at undergraduate and postgraduate levels as well as short course vocational training. A national key project, web-college modeling project was completed in August 2003, in which all of teaching and management tasks might be carried out by means of internet.

On campus e-learning is also very popular in Tsinghua University. It was started in 1997, there were only 10 courses were taught in this way, but now, we have more than one thousand courses taught on campus internet. There were 25,734 users including 2,034 teachers last year, 1,080,000 login accesses and 180,000 online hours. We also launched courseware on-demand system and web-based testing system in 1999. About 2,000 students took final exams for "English" and 1,000 students took finals for "C Language" last year. During SARS period, there were 40-50% courses taught in e-learning.

Distance learning has a big influence on Chinese economy. As you know, China does not have enough excellent high education resource. Now, more than 2 million students are learning many courses offered by 67 top Chinese universities. This enlarged high education market, and also promoted local communication service. Information highway was developed very quickly in China.

In future, several projects will be conducted by means of distance learning in Tsinghua University, one is enterprise training for industries, the other is poverty-help. For industrial training, we are planning to establish 200 learning centers in big companies, and to provide around 200 training courses for their group and individual independent learning, the content will cover several fields such as English, compute and internet technology, management, quality

control, finance, business and marketing, professional certificates, and so on.

For the poverty-help, we will establish about 100 centers in three years in the poor counties in the western of China. The education resource will cover teachers training for elementary and middle schools, especially in English and computer knowledge, agriculture technology, public health, nursing and hospital management, law and management. These programs are free of charge for such learners.

We are also offering legal training courses and English teaching program by our distance education.

We are willing to share our education resource with other universities in Pacific Rim area. We expect to jointly develop more excellent courseware in the following fields such as language learning (Chinese and English), Chinese culture and history, information technology, economics and finance, agricultural technology and crisis management, poverty-help. We hope to establish distance learning network in Pacific Rim area and to work out the policy for future cooperation. For example, each university may offer 3-5 international courses by e-learning way, students in different universities may share the course resource and transfer the credit.

“Distance Learning and the Internet 2004” will be held on 11th – 13th October 2004, at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China. This major conference will explore global concerns to distance learning, with special issues among Pacific Rim universities. The theme of the conference is “Distance Learning – Benefiting All”. The conference will be co-sponsored by Tsinghua University and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), the conference will bring together leading distance learning experts from academia, business and government from Pacific Rim area. The sub-themes of this conference are:

- Quality control
- Technology trends
- Possibility for the degrees
- An increasing industry
- Globalization