Abstract

Distance learning and economic development from a Singapore perspective

Mr Lo Yoong Khong
Deputy Director, Manpower Development
Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA)

Need to train your frontline staff in the latest customer relations techniques but can’t afford to have them attend a 3-day training session? Or perhaps you need to quickly upgrade the skills of your sales managers located in 10 different cities? Or train the technicians in your petrochemical plant to handle potentially hazardous scenarios?

In a knowledge-based economy, knowledge and training are rapidly becoming obsolete. Continuing Education and Training are quickly becoming the key strategic thrust of businesses around the world. And yet, time and location have become two major constraints and challenges that seem to pull businesses to the opposite direction.

Distance learning augmented by infocomm technology and applications (e-learning) may be the solution. It is a new way to train your staff, which overcomes the constraints of geography and time. Offering 24-hour access, e-learning is a flexible and cost-effective complement to classroom learning.

E-Learning is gathering pace in Asia-Pacific as companies realise its strategic importance. Its link to business and economic success is clear. E-learning enhances a company’s competitiveness through continual and effective employee training. It enables businesses to quickly develop capabilities to enter new markets and respond to market changes. At a national level, it fosters collaboration, job creation and business spending. Furthermore, e-learning enhances the employee’s employability as it enables the individual to stay relevant in today’s job market.

In Singapore, IT has been a cornerstone of economic success. IT has been widely used, and exploited, in all aspects of economy,
society, and public development. In this presentation, you will hear about Singapore’s experience in the adoption of e-learning as a strategy to Bridge the Digital Divide, Develop and Upgrade Manpower Skills, Instil Lifelong Learning and Aid and Accelerate Digital Transformation to support key business sectors.