Online Learning
Institutional Change

UNU as an e-Institution (linking research, books and videos to courses)

Practical Implementation

Global Virtual University, Asia Pacific Initiative (from 2003 onwards)

Content and Pedagogy

Online Learning/Media Studio (2002 onwards)

Technology

VU Media Lab (1996 onwards at UNU-IAS)

Our idea back in 2003
Influential Themes

Engaging Content
- Library of e-case studies
- Video documentaries
- Web applications (e.g. Fieldtrip)

Openness
- OpenCourseWare/Open educational resources
- Creative Commons
- Open Source Software (Wordpress, educommons, Moodle)
- Web 2.0 (Flickr, YouTube, Wikis, Blogs, Google Analytics)

Collaborative Learning Networks
- UN Water Virtual Learning Centre
- Asia Pacific Initiative [API]
- Global Virtual University (UNU GVU)
- World Conservation Learning Network (IUCN) - Under development
content development projects
Multi-Institutional Collaborative Educational Programmes

Global Virtual University

Asia Pacific Initiative
Launched around the time of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Jo’Burg in 2002
Use new technologies to enhance learning involving a **blended** approach (face-to-face and online)
GVU Institutional Framework

Central Command and Control

Charter, Board, secretariat control of funds, degree or certificates from one academic institution

Role of Each Local Institute

Help to recruit students, set up study centres, benefit from training on “how to carry out e-learning”

Academic Coordinators

Masters and short courses mainly developed by University of Agder with support from GRID Arendal
API Institutional Framework

Community Participation Model

Participation based on enthusiasm, no funds involved, no agreements, shared vision, annual meetings of partners

Role of Each Local Institute

Facilitate approvals, register students, support development of course syllabus, evaluate students and offer credit if appropriate

Session Coordinators (e.g. Keio U, UNU, UH)

Coordinate lecturers and course curriculum, define learning objectives for each session, collect and organize learning materials, develop and support student assignment
UH acts as Secretariat

Liaise with Session Coordinators

Coordinate with Technical Coordinators

Support eCourse Management System

Support Video Recording, Posting of DVDs
UNU collaborating on two API courses

Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy
API uses **Moodle** as the Learning Management System - open source and free!

Asia Pacific covers 60% of the world population and two of the world’s largest oceans. It is the region that is changing its economic profile very rapidly, but economic success comes with environmental repercussion, posing serious doubts about the sustainability of the development path. Despite its potentials, Asia Pacific region is still suffering from huge income differentials and digital divide. Such condition cannot be tolerated in a global community which is becoming increasingly transparent and interdependent. Human aspiration and environmental carrying capacity are real issues to be tackled with not only in Asia Pacific but also in a global context.

The year 2005 marks the start of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (EoSD), in the year 2002 when World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was organized in Johannesburg, world leaders announced initiatives to improve living conditions and environment around the globe. “Education and awareness raising, capacity building and information for decision making and scientific capabilities” are listed among required international efforts along with additional financial resources, improved trade opportunity, and access to environmentally sound technologies (United Nations, Political Declaration and Plan of Implementation). The outcome of the WSSD include not only a negotiated Implementation plan at the official levels but also partnerships that will achieve direct results. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan said, “...the most creative aspect of change may well be partnerships ... among governments, private business, non-profit organizations, scholars, and concerned citizens.”

Learning opportunities are enhanced by the application of information and communication technologies (ICT) which is the basis of having access to the knowledge stock and adding new information. World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), spanning from Geneva Phase that took place in 2003 to Tunis Phase that is to be concluded in 2005, is yet another international forum that is intended to promote ICT-based networks, services, and applications and to overcome digital divide. The objectives are to build an inclusive Information Society, to put the potential of knowledge and ICT at the service of development, to promote the use of Information and Knowledge for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals. [WSIS, Draft Plan of Action]
API materials openly available with many more participating students via Moodle Site.

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In 2009, a new course on ICT for Development

New partners include Waseda University, Okayama University and University of Gadja Mada

University of Sydney interested to become research partner....
Some statistics

Over 350 students

20+ lecturers for each course

11 VTC sites for each session, from Honolulu to New Delhi

9 time zones

Two hemispheres
Library of E-case Studies
Collaboration with the Red Mesoamericana de Recursos Bioticos - 25 public universities in Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama.

Two joint activities with the University of Guadalajara and the Autonomous State University of Morelos.

Workshop in November 2006 in Guadalajara and in November 2007 at the REDMESO Congress.