


e-Learning: The Future Is Here

e-learning is a future phenomenon whose time has come; we are witnessing its beginnings today. The expectation is that it will revolutionize the way training and education are designed, delivered, and accessed. “The biggest growth in the Internet, and the area that will prove to be one of the biggest agents of change, will be online training, or e-learning,” said John Chambers, CEO of Cisco, the foremost information technology provider today. As the American Society for Quality describes it, e-learning is Web-based courses taken over the Internet. Some courses are designed to be completed with the guidance of an instructor, while others can be completed on your own time, at your own pace, from anywhere you have Internet access, and right when you want it. The potential of e-learning is so vast that it is generating lots of excitement.

To help its member countries, particularly the national productivity organizations (NPOs), to understand and harness this new training methodology that holds great promise for enhancing productivity, the APO organized on 25-29 March 2002 a seminar on Multimedia for Productivity Promotion and Enhancement, in the Republic of China, with special emphasis on e-learning. The NPOs were given special consideration for this program as they are users of technology for providing management and vocational training, as well as promoters of new technology

to enterprises to enhance their training programs. A few NPOs have set up e-learning units. Moreover, a fundamental mission of the APO is the development of the professional capabilities of NPOs. Of the 16 participants from 11 member countries in the program, two-thirds were NPO staff members. Apart from learning from the experience and know-how of the host country, the participants were also briefed on the Australian initiative by an expert from the Australian Open Training and Education Network, Mr. Graeme Dobbs. 



Some participants examining a model e-learning site on the Internet. Standing in the background is Mr. Graeme Dobbs