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e-Learning Capacity Building through Practical Consulting in Laos

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Aim

The aim of this presentation is to share the cases of developing e-Learning contents through practical consulting in Laos. Wonkwang Digital University(WDU) has been participating in ACU project as a cooperative university of National University of Laos(NUoL) to develop its e-Learning contents from the second period starting in 2016. We have improved 3 important things compared to the first period which was from 2013 to 2015: complete developing e-Learning contents in time, technical improvement of the contents(Web standard content) and upgrade the quality of the substances of the contents by applying various types of context.

Methods

During the first period of the ACU project, only one cyber university was in charge of every single task including e-Learning contents of all the universities from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam(CLMV). During the second period of the project, however, KERIS worked as the secretariat. KERIS was in charge of overall management and LMS(Learning Management System). By pairing six cyber universities in Korea with those of CLMV, they were able to focus more on what they were doing. I think the ministry of education made wise decision to improve the system of the project and KERIS was responsibly doing its job which resulted in better outcomes.

The very first step to practical consulting is enthusiastic fulfill of the project. For that reason, in 2016, WDU visited Laos seven times and invited NUoL time twice for the training. The continuity of participants of WDU and was importantly planned because continuous change of staff might trigger decrease of task effect.

We focused on practical training which was directly related to developing contents rather than theory education. The reasons are as in the following. ① Theoretical education went off repetitively in the past. ② In order for them to develop certain amount of contents, practical education was absolutely essential. ③ It was important to strengthen their capability to improve the quality of the contents.

One of the most significant part of WDU's practical consulting was to provide them the proper equipment for developing contents. Although we taught them the necessities and the ways of improving contents, it would be extremely hard for them to make realistic improvement if they do not have the equipment. If we provide them the equipment and help them practice actual tasks with practical training, it would be much easier for them to develop the quality of the contents effectively. Also, it is very important to provide them what they need rather than what they want.

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Results

In 2017, WDU and NUoL are working hard to develop the e-Learning contents of five subjects with more participants. Staff of NUoL are now able to film special lectures and videos like lab filming, outdoor filming and interview by themselves. And as a new attempt, we helped them use drones to film a particular subject called “Land Use Management.”

Conclusion

In 2016, our team visited an high school Xiengkhuang, one of the regions in Laos. We were warmly welcomed by the students, teachers and the villagers. I saw the poor environment of the school and heard that they needed more teachers. I thought that they really wanted us to help them. I think local poor schools really need e-Learning contents. WDU and NUoL are now planning to develop e-Learning contents for these people.

Keywords: ACU project, e-Learning contents. Web standard contents, e-Learning capacity building, e-Learning consulting