

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UDEEEWANA LAUNCHING

Dear Distance Educators,

UDEEEWANA as a new distance education association is Launched.
A brief info is presented here **UDEEEWANA**.

UDEEEWANA -United Distance Education For Eastern Europe, Western Asia, Northern Africa- is suggested as a new association for the region covering Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Baltic, Turkic Republics, Caucasians, Middle East, Arab Peninsula and North Africa which are included the countries such as Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Georgia, Jordan, Hungary, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Morocco, Northern Cyprus Turkish Republic, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Syria, Tatarstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and so on.



A Map of the UDEEEWANA Regional Countries

WHY IS UDEEEEWANA NEEDED?

It is mentioned in the book titled as "eLearning Practice.... 2010", that eLearning offers many opportunities for individuals and institutions all over the world. Discussion technologies such as mLearning, tLearning and uLearning. Multimedia on the internet, telecommunications, wireless applications, mobile devices, social network software, Web 2.0, Web 4.0, etc. are radically redefining the way people obtain information and the way to learn. Policymakers, international organizations, higher education institutions and researchers in the field of education agree that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have the potential to stimulate international collaboration, to create flexible learning paths and to open the borders of the university.

Western and Eastern Asian nations are increasingly embracing eLearning in education and training, both within their classrooms and in distance education. E-transformation has been much slower in the education systems of the Eastern Europe, Nordic, Turkic Republics, Middle East, Arab and North African countries.

It is therefore considered timely to conduct an inquiry into the ways and extent of eLearning in these countries, the factors driving and constraining such developments, and how progress might be further encouraged. Searching the literature, it is possible to find reports, accounts, research findings and conference presentations on eLearning in these countries but many of these are in languages other than English. English language developed in collaboration with colleagues in these various countries and so will be a first and of international significance. Many of the institutions in the countries to be reviewed also make extensive use of traditional teaching, methods and media, so for these countries it will not consider only eLearning and mLearning in isolation but in blended or mixed-mode learning, both in classroom environments and in distance education.

This project focuses on the distance education practices in Turkey, and will examine and discuss the role of leadership to be undertaken by Turkey in the region of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. It is a well-known fact that the international distance education organizations are not well organized and functional in this region. And up to now no institutions have been organized in the countries in the region of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. To fill this gap, Turkey might adopt a leadership role in the distance education field in the region and can organize the practices of the regional countries in academy and practice. Based on this argument, the structure and regulation of the potential organization will be discussed. Furthermore, the draft of the constitution of the recommended association will be presented, which will be redesigned in accordance with feedback from the other shareholders. Thanks to this council, more than 50 countries will have the chance to introduce their distance education practices to the world.

These countries can use UDEEEEWANA to discuss practical and scientific issues via conferences or journals, and they can even establish sub-distance education associations in their region or in their countries. Some of these countries are

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Georgia, Jordan, Hungary, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan.

Your opinions, comments, suggestions, and recommendations are very welcome. UDEEEWANA can grow only with your invaluable support and critique.

Prof. Dr. Ugur DEMIRAY,
Founder President of UDEEEWANA



Ugur DEMIRAY is teaching at the School of Communication Sciences of Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey. His research deals with distance education practices of Anadolu University, Ministry of Education and by other universities in Turkey. His research also focuses on distance education students' communicational gaps with their institution, the profile of distance education students, and the relationship of graduates with the job market in Turkey. He is also interested in improving the ethical behaviors around the world especially by using distance education applications and eLearning. In addition, his studies also focus on scholarly online journalism, especially on DE. He has an extensive experience publishing internationally in peer-reviewed e-journals on distance education under the patronage of Anadolu University for 15 years, named *TOJDE-Turkish Online Journal for Distance Education*. He is also an editor, consultant editor, and reviewer for more than 15 international journals which deal with distance education and educational technology. In addition, he has responsibilities on advisory boards and is a referee for conferences, symposiums, and panels. He has co-authored and individually contributed chapters in some Turkish and international books. He has also authored many books on distance education and has published a lot of articles in national and international journals. He is now the Editor-in-Chief of GLOKALde, the official eJournal of UDEEEWANA association.

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