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EDITORIAL



Opening of the international conference on the IITE pilot project for the Republic of Kazakhstan. IITE, 15 May 2003

Dear readers,

The major part of this issue is devoted to IITE's cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States. Director-General of UNESCO Mr Koïchiro Matsuura was quoted as saying during his visit to the Institute in 2001 that its cooperation within the framework of the CIS countries appears the

Institute's matter of prime concern. The position was emphasized at the Paris meeting of the President of the Russian Federation Mr Vladimir Putin and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura this February. The President of the Russian Federation informed UNESCO Director-General that the CIS countries expressed the desire to collaborate with UNESCO on joint

regional projects in the field of education, science and culture. Mr Matsuura welcomed the proposal stressing a leading role, which UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education in Moscow could play.

One of the cooperation areas the Institute works on jointly with the CIS member state –

the Republic of Kazakhstan – is described in the article of Vladimir Moroz *International Scientific and Practical Conference "Distance Training on the Basis of Information and Communication Technologies"*.

The aim of the conference was to share the positive experience and results of the IITE pilot project for the Republic of Kazakhstan *Distance Education for Rural Schools* with the decision-makers and specialists of CIS systems of education. The results of this and seven more regional pilot projects aimed at the efficient use of ICTs in education were presented at the conference. I hope that the information conveyed in the article will be interesting and useful for our readers.

The article *The Joint Project of UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty and UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education* is a follow-up of the theme related to the IITE-CIS collaboration and pres-

ents an example of practically implemented IITE efforts to enforce national potentials of the Central Asian countries based on ICT application in education. It shows how cooperation and integration of the scientific institutions in the countries of Central Asia under the aegis of UNESCO provide for optimal allocation of material and intellectual resources, thus diminishing the digital divide between the developed and developing states. The article introduces the results and recommendations for the distance education network to be developed within the joint project of IITE and UNESCO Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz-

stan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which were discussed at the Round Table on 29 May 2003 in Almaty (Kazakhstan).

Azat Khannanov informs about the meeting of the representatives of national focal points for cooperation with IITE in the Commonwealth of Independent States on 16 May 2003 in Moscow, where the cooperation perspectives and forms for 2004–2005 were discussed. The participants from nine CIS countries approved the priorities and discussed the setting-up of a specialized information system for regular circulation of documents, automated control over

joint projects and dissemination of information about the activities of IITE and focal points in the Internet.

The article of Lev Gordon *International Expert Meeting "Education, Art and ICTs: Integration for the Development of One's Personality"* informs the readers that the Institute has started working in a very important and complicated sphere of ICT usage in education and culture, which is the development of a creative personality. The goals the Institute strives to reach and the methods it intends to employ launching the project, in my view, are best characterized by the words of Oscar

Wilde: *"For the good we get from art is not what we learn from it; it is what we become through it."*

I hope that the materials of the issue will help our readers gain a comprehensive vision of the processes, which are on in the CIS countries in the field of the application of information and communication technologies in education, of the cooperation efforts IITE undertakes with the systems of education in these countries as well as of the new promising research activities of the Institute.

Vladimir Kinelev
Director of IITE

IITE COOPERATION WITH THE CIS COUNTRIES

International Scientific and Practical Conference

Distance Training on the Basis of Information and Communication Technologies,
dedicated to the Year of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Russian Federation
IITE, Moscow, 15 May 2003

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) considers the cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent

States (CIS) one of the most important priorities.

Starting 2000, IITE runs national pilot projects aimed

at increased efficiency of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education in most CIS countries.

In compliance with the address of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstan National Commission for UNESCO in 2001

IITE ONLINE NEWS

- **March 2003 (IITE):** UNESCO Headquarters and Japanese Government have approved IITE project proposals for the programme *Japanese-Funds-in-Trust for the Capacity Building of Human Resources*, and IITE has launched the sub-regional project *Information and Communication Technologies for the Development of Education and the Construction of a Knowledge Society* for South-Eastern European States. The project consists of a series of training seminars and specialized training courses for high level decision-makers, teacher trainers and instruction support specialists to be held, as well as several analytical surveys on various issues of ICT usage in history education, technical and vocational education and training, distance education – to be compiled during two years.
- **October-December 2003 (IITE, Moscow – UNISA, South Africa):** Implementing the extra-budgetary EFA Programme

Capacity Building for EFA, IITE runs the project *Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Higher Distance Education Usage in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)*.

It is being accomplished through IITE training sessions for future trainers in ICTs for distance education from 11 Sub-Saharan African countries in cooperation with the University of South Africa (UNISA). The most of teaching materials, instruction guide for trainers of trainers, software and maintenance of WWW distance education platform for IITE specialized training course has been developed. In training sessions, alongside with the participants from SSA countries, the representatives of UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA), UNESCO Harare Office and the Commonwealth of Learning, the intergovernmental organization, will take part.

the decision was made to implement the national pilot project *Distance Education for Rural Schools*.

The project results were presented at the international scientific and practical conference *Distance Training on the Basis of ICTs*, dedicated to the Year of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Russian Federation, which was held on 15 May 2003 at IITE.

Over 60 representatives from nine CIS countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine – participated in the conference, including: Vasily Strazhev, Chairman of the Council for Cooperation in the Field of Education of the CIS Countries; Georgy Sima, Minister for Education of the Republic of Moldova; Yuri Shlenov, Deputy Minister for Education of the Russian Federation; Lilia Pogolsha, Deputy Minister for Education of the Republic of Moldova, as well as the heads and representatives of nine national focal points for cooperation with IITE in the CIS, officials and educators of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, top managers of Apple Computer Inc. in Moscow and officers of over ten private companies operating in the field of the usage of information technologies in education.

Vladimir Kinelev, IITE Director, opened the conference. Yuri Shlenov, Deputy Minister for Education of the Russian Federation, and Vasily Strazhev, Chairman of the Council for Cooperation in the Field of Education of the CIS Countries, addressed the conference.

Galym Mutanov, Vice-Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, made the official presentation *State Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Field of the Informatization in Education and Creation of United Information and Education Environment*.

The moderator of the presentation of the Presidential programme of informatization in education in the Republic of Kazakhstan was Gul Nurgalieva, Director of the Republican Scientific and Methodological Centre of Informatization in Education (RCIE), which is one of 35 IITE focal points.

The policy of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev is based on a special historic choice aimed at the creation of modern information and education industry. The process of informatization of the society is continuously coupled with the global process of information accumulation and dramatic tempos of computer technology development to store, process and transmit the information; it becomes a more important factor of development than materials, energy and other resources. Informatization of education is a national strategic resource for the society development.

Kazakhstan realizes a complete set of science-consuming pedagogical projects to accomplish the Presidential programme of informatization in education, which were demonstrated at the conference:

- Distance Education for Rural Schools;
- Satellite Channel of Distance Education for Schoolchildren;

- Electronic Textbooks and Multimedia Educational Programmes;
- Electronic Methodological Systems for Different Subjects;
- Electronic Vocational System;
- Informatization System of Education Management;
- Internet for Schools.

The national pilot project *Distance Education for Rural Schools* was launched in 2001 in six rural schools of West Kazakhstan and East Kazakhstan regions. It acquired a new momentum in August 2002 when the *Satellite Channel of Distance Education for Schoolchildren* was first introduced. It provided for 40-hour broadcast of educational TV programmes a month – two hours a day – in Kazakhstan.

Currently, 68 schools of West Kazakhstan, 55 school of East Kazakhstan regions and 208 of Pavlodar region are switched to the project. This May a tender was held to connect all schools of Mangistau region to the satellite channel of distance education.

Other projects, which were presented, resulted in 93 electronic textbooks elaborated for all levels of education. Currently, the schoolchildren in eight regions of the Republic (West Kazakhstan, Atyrau, Mangistau, Kyzylorda, Shymkent, Akmola, Zhambyl and Pavlodar) study with the electronic textbooks. These textbooks are socially and pedagogically important as they dramatically enhance the quality of education, raising the role of schoolchildren self-education and expand the range of teachers' didactic materials.

The electronic textbooks are actively employed in the edu-



Gul Nurgalieva. Presentation of the Presidential programme of informatization in education in the Republic of Kazakhstan

cation and upbringing at the Kostanay, Urals, Kyzylorda, Eastern humanitarian and Zhanaozen colleges. The electronic reading halls function at the above-mentioned institutions.

The students at higher schools use 59 electronic textbooks. At the Kazakhstan National Technological University after K. Satpaev the electronic textbooks are developed for all subjects according to the state standard for the specialization *Development and Exploitation of Oil and Gas Deposits*. At the Kazakhstan University of International Relations and World Languages after Abylaykhan electronic textbooks are available for all subjects taught in English.

At the conference in IITE the projects were presented by the officials of all levels of education: Alimdjani Akhmetov and Askhat Imangaliev, rectors of Aktau and Atyrau State Universities; Svetlana Bisembayeva and Kiyngali Kaynenov, directors of Departments for Education from West Kazakhstan and Atyrau regions; Konysbai Toleubekov, the akim (head of administration) of Kurchum region; Almira Tazhigulova, deputy director of the RCIE; Svetlana Ferkho, director of the Education Department of the East

Kazakhstan region; Shalkima Kurmanalina, director of the Urals Pedagogical College after Zh. Dosmukhamedov; Zhanar Tusubaeva, head of RCIE laboratory; Arman Zhiengaliev, director of the West Kazakhstan regional center; as well as directors of colleges and regional centers, and school principals.

The participants of the conference highly appreciated the programme of informatization in education in Kazakhstan. The decision was unanimously made to present the informatization programmes of other states at IITE as well.

The second half of the conference was opened with the report of Vladimir Kinelev, IITE Director, which was devoted to the basic trends of IITE cooperation with the CIS countries.

At the conference certain IITE projects for the CIS countries were delivered.

The conference participants displayed interest to the presentation by Vladimir Verzhbitsky and Yuliya Vlasova *Distance Learning in the CIS Countries: Monitoring of Educational Needs and Perspectives*, which showed the preliminary results of the similarly named IITE project, which were gained during 2002–2003 research.

The project aims basically at informational and analytical provision of cooperation within the CIS in the field of distance education. At the first stage of the project the monitoring was done in the largest CIS countries: Russian Federation, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Belarus, and Ukraine. Mr Verzhbitsky, counselor

Andrei Teslinov, the representative of the LINK International Institute of Management, spoke on the theme *Training of Tutors for Distance Education: Specialized Training Course*. In 2002 the group of authors, methodologists of the LINK International Institute of Management, accomplished the project

and a CD-ROM with videos. It takes 4–6 months to master the technology of open distance education. The learning process bases on the self-study of special interactive textbooks and implies two field schools (2–3 days), three tutorials (lessons with professional tutors using intensive technologies for 4–5 hours), asynchronous Internet-conference, test and qualification papers.

The successful pilot presentation of the course at the Ministry of Taxation of the Russian Federation and testing at the LINK International Institute of Management taught its designers several useful lessons and showed its advantages, which single it out as a unique course ready for teaching tutors from different countries.

Boris Kotsik, IITE project manager, gave the presentation on *Basic ICT Usage Indicators in Secondary Education*.



The participants of the conference

at the Russian Ministry for Education, director of Scientific and Research Institute of Innovative Educational Technologies at the Moscow State Social University, being the head of the project, reported on the methodology and organization of monitoring and its essential results for the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

at the request of IITE to develop a training course for the tutors of the system of open distance vocational education. The pilot group of future tutors from the Ministry of Taxation of the Russian Federation was trained under this programme.

The course includes seven textbooks developed according to the special technology

The conference was finished with the speech of the Director for business development of Apple Computer Inc. in the CIS, Andrei Turov on *Application of Advanced ICTs by Apple Computer in the Field of Education: Experience and Tendencies*.

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THE MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR COOPERATION WITH IITE IN THE CIS COUNTRIES

Based on the mission of the United Nations Organization in matters of science, culture and education, the status of the UNESCO Institute for Infor-

mation Technologies in Education and meeting the requests of UNESCO Member States stated in the UNESCO Strategy for 2002–2007 and in the

2004–2005 Programme and Budget, the representatives of national focal points for cooperation with IITE in the Commonwealth of Independent

States discussed the perspectives and collaboration for 2004–2005 at the meeting on 16 May 2003 in Moscow. The meeting stressed that the collab-

oration of IITE focal points in the CIS attracting the international expertise and the potential of UNESCO as well as the United Nations Organization on the whole, can become an important factor for cooperation development in the field of information exchange of ICT usage in education.

To elaborate a coherent position on the organization and forms of cooperation the decision was made to disseminate the recommendations of the Task Force on Development of IITE Information System on Information Technologies in Education (ISITE) within the network of focal points.

The participants discussed the following trends in cooperation within the IITE focal points network for 2003–2004:

- a) coordination of general principles, standards and methods to collect, process and disseminate the information on ICTs in education;
- b) collection, processing and systematization of appeals, inquiries and initiatives in the field of ICT application in education in the CIS countries;
- c) monitoring of the state-of-the-art and tendencies in the field of ICT application in education under the current programme on indicators;
- d) formation and support of the database of methodological materials to train/retrain national educational staff in the field of ICT application in education;
- e) shaping and upgrading of the common database of experts in the field of ICT application in education;
- f) search for partners to run national and international projects in the CIS and the rest of the world;
- g) monitoring of information resources of the CIS countries available on ICTs in education to be introduced into the consolidated network databases;
- h) joint publication of a monthly bulletin of the focal points network;

- i) informing UNESCO Member States on the activities of the focal points via joint circulation of information according to the united mailing lists and permanent online forums and conferences.

For effective technological support of cooperation within the network of focal points the participants decided to have the Terms of Reference approved by July 2003 and by November 2003 to have a specialized information system developed stage-wise for regular document turnover and automated control over joint projects and information dissemination about the activities of IITE and focal points in the Internet. The system will include a Web Portal

hosted and maintained by IITE, a database complex installed at IITE and special software developed at IITE to be later installed at the focal points.

To coordinate the efforts of the IITE focal points the participants determined to establish a working group out of the representatives from each focal point. By July 2003 the working group accounting the recommendations of the Task Force must elaborate and present to focal points the Procedure of interaction within the network, the plan of joint activities for 2003 and an agreed Terms of Reference on specialized information system.

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THE JOINT PROJECT OF UNESCO CLUSTER OFFICE IN ALMATY AND UNESCO INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION

IITE considers one of its essential objectives to promote strengthening of national potentials of UNESCO Member States in ICT usage in education and to reduce digital divide between the developed and developing countries.

To achieve these goals the meeting of the representatives from the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education and the UNESCO Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in Almaty was held

during the 2nd International Forum *Informatization of Education of Kazakhstan and CIS* on 17 and 18 October 2002 in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The meeting aimed at the integration of the networks of

focal points for cooperation with IITE and distance education institutions in the Central Asia. In its course the agreement was achieved on the joint activity of UNESCO Office in Almaty and IITE to implement the project for the



The meeting of the representatives of IITE focal points. IITE, 16 May 2003

Central Asia *Enhanced Development of the Distance Education Networks in Central Asia*, which would provide for the optimized usage of the material and intellectual resources in the region.

The focal points for cooperation with IITE in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as other scientific research and educational organizations from the countries of the Central Asia participated in the project.

On the results of the project implementation the Round Table was held on 29 March 2003 in Almaty (Kazakhstan), where the project outcomes and recommendations were discussed.

The objectives of the Round Table:

- To finalize the accomplishments of the joint project of UNESCO Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in Almaty and the UNESCO Institute of Information Technologies in Education to implement the project for the Central Asia *Enhanced Development of the Distance Education Networks in Central Asia*;
- To elaborate the recommendations of the Round Table;
- To discuss collaboration proposals for 2004–2005;
- To exchange the opinions on the perspectives of

extrabudgetary financing for the network, accounting new projects being proposed;

- To discuss the possibilities and directions for further development of the project, ways to establish contacts on the project with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan as well as with the countries of Europe, Asia and the United States of America;
- To discuss possible financing sources, in particular, a joint request application for the research on the distance education technologies with the University of Georgia (USA) as well as for Starr Collaborative Research Program aimed at financing of joint projects of the USA institutes and CIS countries on information technologies and the Internet.

Recommendations of the Round Table:

1. To express gratitude for the UNESCO Institute of Information Technologies in Education for its active support of the project *Enhanced Development of the Distance Education Networks in Central Asia*.
2. To approve the results of the sub-regional project *Enhanced Development of the Distance Education Networks in Central Asia* accounting for the remarks made.
3. To address IITE, UNESCO Office in Almaty in close

cooperation with UNESCO Member States to elaborate a joint project proposal to the sub-regional project on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in distance education for the countries of the Central Asia. The project should cover the proposals and remarks of the participants of the Round Table.

4. To address IITE, UNESCO Office in Almaty in close cooperation with UNESCO Member States to elaborate joint proposals to the sub-regional UNESCO programme on upgrading the education systems of the Central Asia states based on ICT Usage. The programme should account for the proposals and remarks of the participants of the Round Table.
5. To develop web site of the consortium of project participants to demonstrate the results of its activity in the Central Asia.
6. To recommend the consortium of participants elaborate a project on research and adaptation of DE (distance education) international standards to be applied in the countries of the Central Asia.
7. To recommend additional finance sources be attracted to develop the project and introduce the research results in practice.
8. To suggest the UN Development Programmes in

the countries of the Central Asia in the document *General Assessment of a Country* should account the level of DE development as one of the indicators of the education system development in the country.

9. To account for the multi-language aspect while elaborating DE systems.
10. To support the proposal of the Kasakh National University named after al-Farabi to expand the consortium of participants incorporating leading institutions in the field of distance education.

At present some recommendations of the Round Table have been already accomplished.

Thus, joint proposals to the sub-regional UNESCO programme *Reinforcing National Potential in ICT Application for the Development of Education of the CIS Countries* have been elaborated and submitted to UNESCO Headquarters.

The project *Enhanced Development of Distance Education Networks in Central Asia* is ready for publication. The specialized training course *Training of Tutors for Distance Education* is planned to be published and translated from Russian into English.

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING “EDUCATION, ART AND ICTs: INTEGRATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONE’S PERSONALITY”

IITE, Moscow, 12–13 May 2003

IITE project *Education, Art and ICTs: Integration for the Development of One’s Personality* unites the participants who

consider the current state and development of ICT application in art and design education, the importance of integra-

tion of ICTs into actual training processes, art and cultural activities as well as the usage of new technology as cross-cul-

tural knowledge. The project may serve the basis for future cross-cutting project in the sphere of education, science

and culture in accordance with the UNESCO programme.

International expert meeting *Education, Art and ICTs: Integration for the Development of One's Personality* was held at the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) in Moscow on 12 and 13 May 2003.

The main goal of the expert meeting was to analyze the state-of-the-art and evolution of ICT application in art and design education, ICT usage in the development of visual perception and skills associated with investigation and creation in art and design education, as well as of visual literacy and knowledge; the elaboration of requirements for an analytical survey. To attain this goal, the experts and observers from Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russian Federation and United Kingdom met to share their experience.

In accordance with the Agenda and IITE Information Materials, the following issues were discussed during two thematic sessions:

- analyses of current state and development of ICT application in art and design education;
- place and role of IITE in the development of ICT application in art and design education: medium-term and long-term;
- importance of integration of ICTs into actual training processes, art and cultural activities.

Dr Nicolas Selivanov, Russian State University for the Humanities (Russian Federation), opened the expert meeting with the keynote presentation *Education, Art and ICTs: Integration for the Development of One's Personality*. The



**Prof. Claudia Saccone (Italy),
Chairperson of the expert meeting**

important issues were raised in relation to the importance of real integration of ICTs into actual training processes. One of the main assumptions is that



**Dr Nicolas Selivanov
(Russian Federation)**

teachers must design new methods of organizing classes and cooperating with museums and art galleries. The roles of ICTs as technical assistance for teaching and a working tool for students were discussed.



Dr Almira Tazhigulova (Kazakhstan)

Mr Pete Worrall, Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (United Kingdom), continued the first thematic session with the presentation *The Digital Derive and Art Education – ICT Developments 1997–2002 in Initial Teacher Training at the Institute of Art and Design, University of Central England in Birmingham, United Kingdom*, focused on the structured developmental use of ICTs in art education. The expert spoke about Post Graduate Certificate in Education, Art and Design Education, curriculum workshop action research at the Institute of Arts and Design, University of Central England, in Birmingham.

The presentation by Ms Leah Livshits, State Hermitage Museum (Russian Federation), *The Virtual Academy of the State Hermitage Museum* covered three museum training courses (MTC) made either by the School Center of the Hermitage or in cooperation with IBM and Russian Multimedia Centre. Ms Livshits introduced her own vision of IITE role in the project and suggested IITE should connect groups of experts in museums working on MTC for different users with teachers.

Dr Alessandro Piva, Researcher Florence University (Italy), proceeded the session with the presentation *ICT in Education for Cultural Heritage*. The expert noted the increasing impact of ICTs in the Cultural Heritage area, but added that ICT capabilities had not been fully developed. The main role of ICT integration to the education is to create new efficient education capabilities.

The presentation by Dr Almira Tazhigulova, Republican Scientific and Methodological Centre of Informatization in Education



Mr Pete Worrall (United Kingdom)

(Kazakhstan), was devoted to the theme *Digital Textbook "Music"*.

Considering digital textbooks important factor of informati-



**Ms Leah Livshits
(Russian Federation)**

zation in education, the expert stressed their main advantages.

The first thematic session was concluded with the presentation *ICT in the Art Lessons in*



Dr Alessandro Piva (Italy)



Ms Jolita Morkunaite (Lithuania)

the *Secondary School* by Ms Jolita Morkunaite, Kasiadorys Algirdas Brazauskas Secondary School (Lithuania). The expert demonstrated the current state of ICT application in art education in Lithuania and introduced her own vision of ICT advantages and disadvantages in art lessons.

At the beginning of the second session *The Place and Role of IITE in the Development of ICT Application in the Art and Design Education: Medium-*

Term and Long-Term the review *UNESCO on ICTs in Art and Culture Medium-Term Strategy* was disseminated among the participants.

Prof. Claudia Saccone, Teacher University of Molise (Italy), started the second thematic session with the presentation *NEOTHEMI (The New Network of Thematic Museums and Institutes): A Collaborative Development of a Virtual Museum*. The presentation was focused on NEOTHEMI, a three-year Comenius-supported European collaborative project to create a strong network for cultural heritage in the framework of a virtual educational museum. The expert underlined the coincidence in assumption of the project and the logic of ICTs: from local to global.

The experts took part in the final discussion and, as the result, they approved the following recommendations:

- To support the UNESCO initiatives regarding consideration of aesthetical and sociocultural challenges of the information society as a high priority for the sustainable development of one's personality.
- To take into account the importance and specificity of art and design in social life, on the one hand, and lack of relevant applied research and scientific information helpful for teachers, learners and decision-makers in educational sphere, on the other.
- To support IITE's undertakings in the field, including those aimed at elaboration of an analytical survey on the basis of submitted Information Materials, in accordance with the preliminary structure attached.
- To consider, in planning of IITE's clearing-house activity, a design and development within the frame-

work of the IITE information system a special subsystem supporting the features of obtaining and disseminating data on the existing experience and best practices on the issues under discussion.

The expert meeting *Education, Arts and ICTs: Integration for the Development of One's Personality* was a useful, important and successful event. The participants stated content with its results, agreed that cooperation is needed for further development and decided to elaborate the requirements for an analytical survey.

They expressed gratitude to IITE administration and organizers of the expert meeting who provided the opportunity to share visions and personal experiences on the problem of ICT application in art and design education.

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IITE: DEVELOPMENT OF UNESCO CROSS-CUTTING THEME PROJECT

Within the framework of UNESCO cross-cutting theme project *Higher Education Open and Distance Learning Knowledge Base for Decision-Makers (ODLKB)*, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) conducted a meeting and a workshop, which were hosted by its focal point in the Ukraine at the Institute for Applied System Analysis from 10 to 12 October 2002 (see IITE Newsletter No. 3'2002).

In 2003 IITE published the selected materials of these events. The issue contains the

following articles and presentations:

- *Higher Education Open and Distance Learning Knowledge Base Project*, D. Storti (in English);
- *Development of Distance Education in the Ukraine*, M. Zgurovsky (in Russian);
- *Main Directions of the IITE Cooperation with the CIS Countries on ICTs*, V. Meskov (in Russian);
- *Higher Education Open and Distance Learning Knowledge Base for Decision-Makers: Design, Structure and Content*, V. Verzhbitsky (in Russian);

- *On the Development of Distance Education in Belarus*, N. Listopad (in Russian);
- *Kyrgyz Republic Example of Distance Education Development in Central Asia*, V. Grebnev (in Russian);
- *Distance Learning in Vilnius University and the Center of Information Technologies in Education*, A. Budrevicius (in English);
- *Information and Production System "OSVITA"*, V. Bobovkin (in Russian);
- *ICT in Moldova in Context with "Education for All"*, S. Caisin (in English);

- *Distance Education in the CIS Countries: Monitoring of Educational Needs and Perspectives*, Y. Vlasova (in Russian);
- *Distance Learning for Unemployed and Students with Special Needs*, Y. Baroyan, A. Danelian (in Russian);
- *Policy of Informatization of Education in the Republic of Tajikistan*, V. Chekalin (in Russian);
- *Digital Libraries and the Network "URAN"*, V. Volynets (in Russian);
- *Portal "Distance Osvita in Ukraine"*, O. Tsurin, N. Tsurina (in Ukrainian).

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