

Results of Project for Environmental Education Information

By

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Summary

We have developed materials for Environmental Education Information, through joint research with Mitsubishi Electric Company, using the Internet at the University, especially for use in Environmental Studies Course lectures at Konan University.

First, we held several meetings for the purpose of clarifying how best to develop environmental education using Internet materials, which should be real time based and incorporate visual information.

Second, we (ten specialists), gathered together to discuss interdisciplinary research such as "Human and Environment", and developed materials for the Internet.

Third, we made use of many pictures and photographs, animations and VTR in order to facilitate the communication of real time and visual information for environmental education.

Fourth, after our research studies we conducted a trial using the intranet materials in lectures at Konan University for half a year. We found them to be very useful and effective because of the convenience of real time and the inclusion of visual information.

Fifth, after using these materials we recognized both the merits and the demerits. As for the merits, it is obviously of value to be able to provide students with an integrated environmental studies consisting of the natural sciences, the social sciences and the human sciences. Using the intranet, students can conduct research by themselves to seek their own opinions and resolutions. And they can make use of a simulation model, which is demonstrated in class, by themselves. On the other hand, concerning the demerits, students are inclined to be satisfied merely obtaining the virtual information, and not the real, direct experience.

Sixth, we applied the materials at the International Congress on Environmental Ethics and Environmental Education at Rajabhat Institute Pranakhon in Bangkok, Thailand. This was an applied attempt towards international cooperation using the Internet network to develop intranet materials for the Internet.

Seventh, we can realize the possibility of applying the materials in international communication and add to the contents from sources all over the world through International Congress and so on.

In conclusion, we find that these newly developed materials have great potential in the near future depending on the how they are applied.