

Forward

This special issue of the Tsukuba Journal of Educational Study in Mathematics is the Proceedings of APEC - Tsukuba International Conference on ‘Innovative Teaching Mathematics through Lesson Study’, in January 15-20th in Tokyo.

At the third APEC Education Ministerial Meeting held on 29-30 April 2004 in Santiago, the ministers defined four priority areas for future network activities. “Stimulating Learning in Mathematics and Science” is one of the four priority areas. Based on this priority, the project “A Collaborative study on innovations for teaching and learning mathematics in different cultures among the APEC Member Economies” was approved by APEC Member Economies in August 2005. The project is managed by the Center for Research in Mathematics Education (CRME) in Khon Kaen University and the Center for Research on International Cooperation in Educational Development (CRICED) in University of Tsukuba. At the first stage, we had planed to set the meeting for ‘Innovative Teaching Mathematics through Lesson Study’, in January, 2006 in Tokyo. The aim was to share research questions and develop collaborative framework for the implementation of innovative scheme in teaching and learning of mathematics. For stimulating learning in mathematics and science, we focused on Lesson Study to develop good practices as a way of innovation.

Every January, the mathematics education committee for the Cooperation Bases System in educational cooperation by the ministry of education, culture, sports and science, has the meeting for educational cooperation with developing countries.

APEC meeting and the educational cooperation meeting are different meetings but the theme of APEC project is meaningful not only for APEC economies but also for other countries and the educational cooperation meeting is also meaningful for APEC economies. Then, the organizing committee connected different meetings in a week and named APEC-Tsukuba International Conference.

APEC-Tsukuba Conference integrated the following three different meetings:

- The Open symposium: “Improving the Quality of Education for Developing Numeracy on Education for All”
 - APEC Open symposium: “International Symposium on Innovative Teaching Mathematics through Lesson Study”
 - APEC Specialist session: “International workshop on Innovative Teaching Mathematics through Lesson Study”.
- Specialist session included Lesson Study meetings by the Attached Elementary and Middle School of the University of Tsukuba.

The conference has 226 participants from 20 countries. There are a number of Keynote lectures, panels, lectures and research presentations by key researchers of each country. Speakers of open symposium were nominated by the organizing

committees from the view point of the planning of the educational cooperation for developing numeracy. Speakers of APEC Open symposium were nominated by APEC project overseers. Speakers of APEC specialist session were nominated by APEC economies and APEC project overseers as representatives of economies.

Considering those significant contributions, organizing committee decided to publish all contributions as special issues of the Tsukuba Journal of Mathematical Education for sharing these research papers with members of mathematics education society in the world.

At last part of the forward, we would like to acknowledge supported and contributed governmental organizations and institutions. APEC project “A Collaborative study on innovations for teaching and learning mathematics in different cultures among the APEC Member Economies” is proposed from Thailand. The conference is organized by the University of Tsukuba with the organizing committee with support of APEC Project Overseers, co-organized by: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), Japan Society of Mathematical Education (JSME), Japan Society for Science Education (JSSE).

We would like to deeply appreciate these organizations and institutions, and contributors who worked for the conference.

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