



## **Status Report on Information Technology Initiatives By Don Harris, CIO, University of Oregon**

### **Review of Distance Learning and the Internet (DLI) Conference**

- Committee established in March of 2008 and chaired by Mr. Tommy Hor from NUS
- Included IT leaders who had participated in both DLI and CIO conferences
- Discussed the role of these events in building IT community within APRU
- Also considered other ways that the “human IT network” could be strengthened
- Created a series of recommendations that were forwarded to the Secretary General
  1. That the DLI Conference be renamed to the Education & Research Technology (ERT) Forum to better reflect its objectives and expanded scope
  2. That the Chief Information Officer Conference be renamed the CIO Forum
  3. That these and other APRU IT initiatives be managed by a Standing Committee to provide leadership, continuity, opportunity for partnerships, and collaboration with other association activities such as the research symposiums
- The report was endorsed by the APRU Secretary General and President’s Council. Nominations were then sought for the Standing Committee
- Dr. Don Harris from the University of Oregon was selected to chair the committee and Mr. Tommy Hor from National University of Singapore to be on the committee
- At this time other seats on the committee remain open pending awarding of proposals to host the next CIO and ERT Forums
- We desire to have regional representation on the committee as well as involvement by those who have committed to hosting events and leading group projects

### **Goals of the Education & Research Technology Forum**

The ERT Forum has been redefined to encompass a broad range of topics that relate to the use of information technology in addressing the academic work of the university. Participants will include faculty, researchers, and educational technologists as well as IT leaders. While this forum will not be restricted to APRU institutions, there will be a clear focus on the needs of member universities. As in the past a local program committee will be formed by the host institution. The Standing Committee will work with this committee in establishing the program and selecting presentations to insure this is an APRU focused event. The Standing Committee will seek opportunities for collaboration among participants that will extend past the forum event and hopefully lead to partnerships between APRU member institutions.

### **Goals of the Chief Information Officer Forum**

The CIO Forum is a focused event for senior IT leaders from APRU member institutions. The intent of this event is to provide an opportunity for IT leaders to meet, share challenges and develop working relationships that will continue throughout the year. The physical meeting is intended to supplement the development of a virtual community that will build on the collaborative site at USC or via videoconferences and email exchanges with those interested in



particular topics. Topics of interest might include grid or cloud computing, wireless and mobile technology, IT security and authentication, enterprise administrative applications, funding and IT governance, advanced networking, and collaboration and learning space design. It is also hoped that this group will actively reach out to other APRU groups such as the research symposiums, Deans' forums, APRU fellows program, and undergraduate and graduate student events to better understand how we might support the work of our institutional academic leaders.

### **Goals of the CIO Virtual Collaboration Space**

After the first CIO Conference at USC in 2007 a secure collaboration space was established on USC computer servers. This site allows CIOs and other APRU IT leaders a virtual place to share information, participate in group discussions on selected topics, and find out the latest information on new IT initiatives at member institutions. Because the site is username and password secure only those cleared by the APRU Secretary General's office and the Standing Committee may participate in the exchange. This resource helps to establish and strengthen relationships between APRU IT leaders that bridge the personal contact they have through participation at the CIO and ERT Forums.

### **Goals of CIO and IT Leadership Involvement in Other APRU Events**

We respect the need of our faculty to meet with their colleagues to discuss discipline specific material at the APRU Research Symposiums. However a casual review of programs at past events (e.g., Earthquake Hazards, Infectious Diseases, Mind and Brain) shows dependence research work has on information technology resources and infrastructure. Given this it would seem that a connection between faculty in these symposiums and IT leadership would be of value. Therefore we hope to have a representative from the IT group attend symposiums and report back to the CIO group as well as look for partnership opportunities with our faculty colleagues. Our desire is that as our faculty work together their IT leadership will proactively develop partnerships that will help support communication and research work.

### **Next Steps**

As we move forward the Standing Committee is working with the APRU Secretary General's office and our CIO colleagues on the following items:

- Assist in the review of bids from member institutions to host the next CIO and ERT Forums. If possible we would like to hold a CIO Forum in late 2009
- Review the CIO contact list for accuracy and completeness
- Add information for CIOs and IT leaders to the APRU website
- Work with USC to review the virtual collaboration space and create new accounts as needed for APRU CIOs and IT leaders
- Review "roundtable" topics from the last CIO Conference and seek CIOs who are willing to lead virtual discussions in preparation for our next CIO Forum

For more information on APRU IT initiatives: Don Harris [[cio@uoregon.edu](mailto:cio@uoregon.edu)]