



November 2009

Dear APRU Colleagues,

It was great to see so many of you on our first videoconference last month. While not quite the same as being together, our videoconference series will allow us to continue our conversation on the ways we can work on IT initiatives in the Pacific Rim, while at the same time demonstrating to our institutions the cost effectiveness of using IT resources in this way. I am pleased to report that we have at least four more videoconference sessions scheduled in the coming months. Please continue to look to the APRU website [<http://www.apru.org/activities/cioconference.htm>] for details on these events.

While videoconference sessions have their benefit, there is nothing that takes the place of occasional meetings where we can come together in the same physical space to share, build our professional working relationships, and explore possible partnerships. As you may recall the APRU IT Review Committee recommended “rebranding” our two IT events as the Educational and Research Technology (ERT) Forum and the Chief Information Officer (CIO) Forum. In their report they stated that these two forums could be combined at the same location, or held at different locations at different times. For the next two years we will be holding combined forums: the first at the University of Southern California in May 2010, and the second at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in October of 2011. Many thanks to our colleagues at USC and UNAM for their offers to host the upcoming forums, we look forward to coming to Los Angeles and Mexico City in the next two years!

As always there are many ways that you can become involved in APRU IT initiatives. Currently I am looking for volunteers for two very important activities. The first role is to help us promote the upcoming CIO/ERT forum at USC by contacting CIO’s and IT leaders in your country or geographic region with news and information on the forums. While we can send out newsletters and post items to the APRU website, there is nothing quite the same as a personal note from a colleague encouraging them to attend the event. The second way to become involved is to consider hosting an APRU IT videoconference in the second half of 2010. If either of these two activities are of interest to you, please send me a quick email and we can continue the conversation that way.

All the best,

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Chair, APRU IT Initiatives Standing Committee