EVOLUTION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATIONAL MANAGEMENT

IFIP – The International Federation for Information Processing

IFIP was founded in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO, following the First World Computer Congress held in Paris the previous year. An umbrella organization for societies working in information processing, IFIP's aim is two-fold: to support information processing within its member countries and to encourage technology transfer to developing nations. As its mission statement clearly states,

> *IFIP's mission is to be the leading, truly international, apolitical organization which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of information technology for the benefit of all people.*

IFIP is a non-profitmaking organization, run almost solely by 2500 volunteers. It operates through a number of technical committees, which organize events and publications. IFIP's events range from an international congress to local seminars, but the most important are:

- The IFIP World Computer Congress, held every second year;
- Open conferences;
- Working conferences.

The flagship event is the IFIP World Computer Congress, at which both invited and contributed papers are presented. Contributed papers are rigorously refereed and the rejection rate is high.

As with the Congress, participation in the open conferences is open to all and papers may be invited or submitted. Again, submitted papers are stringently refereed.

The working conferences are structured differently. They are usually run by a working group and attendance is small and by invitation only. Their purpose is to create an atmosphere conducive to innovation and development. Refereeing is less rigorous and papers are subjected to extensive group discussion.

Publications arising from IFIP events vary. The papers presented at the IFIP World Computer Congress and at open conferences are published as conference proceedings, while the results of the working conferences are often published as collections of selected and edited papers.

Any national society whose primary activity is in information may apply to become a full member of IFIP, although full membership is restricted to one society per country. Full members are entitled to vote at the annual General Assembly, National societies preferring a less committed involvement may apply for associate or corresponding membership. Associate members enjoy the same benefits as full members, but without voting rights. Corresponding members are not represented in IFIP bodies. Affiliated membership is open to non-national societies, and individual and honorary membership schemes are also offered.

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Preface

Evolution of Information Technology in Educational Management

As the editors of this volume we are very happy to publish a selection of the papers that were presented at the eighth Conference of Working Group 3.7 of the International Federation for Information Processing which was held in July 2008.

The focus of Working Group 3.7 is on ITEM: Information Technology in Educational Management (for more information, please visit our website http://item.wceruw.org/), and the theme of its 2008 conference was on the *Evolution of Information Technology in Educational Management*. Our Working Group started its activities (officially we were not an IFIP Working Group at that time) in 1994 in Israel, so it made sense to look at how ITEM has evolved over the years and to reflect on what its future may be.

The conference took place in Darwin (northern Australia) which even during the Australian winter is a very pleasant location for having a conference. The town of Darwin was given its name by the Captain of the Beagle (the ship on which Darwin travelled when he made the investigations on which he based his Theory of Evolution) who came to the area and named the town after the giant of science he admired.

The conference had the same structure as the previous conferences of our Working Group: the presentation and discussion of research findings in combination with discussion groups in which a specific topic was discussed in greater depth several times during the conference. The results of both activities are included in this conference book.

Contributions to the conference varied considerably, for example from forms of data visualisation in ITEM systems to integrated school performance feedback systems, systems for university administration, information systems for pupil transfer, human-computer interaction in ITEM, strategic planning for ITEM, and the use of web portals in university administration.

The discussion group reports included in this volume focus on three topics: the evolution of ITEM, University ITEM systems, and the future of school performance feedback systems.

Contributions to the conference came from all over the world: Spain, Australia, England, Finland, China, Germany, Uganda, Japan, Slovakia, Switzerland and The Netherlands. All papers in this book have been peer reviewed. Papers were selected from those presented at the conference and the authors were given an opportunity to improve them, based on conference feedback, before publication.

Last but not least, the reader is invited to one of our future conferences. The next one will be held in Botswana in 2010. For more information, please have a look at our website (http://item.wceruw.org/).

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