The IADIS International Conference e-Democracy, Equity and Social Justice 2010 was held in Freiburg, Germany, 26-28 July, 2010 and was co-organised by Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany.

The IADIS e-Democracy, Equity and Social Justice 2010 Conference aimed to encourage and foster efforts of researchers and practitioners by sharing cutting-edge research, innovations, models, theories and strategies that address issues and challenges related to cultivating online communities for grassroots democracy, equity and social justice.

The IADIS International Conference e-Democracy, Equity and Social Justice 2010 received 28 submissions from more than 9 countries. Each submission had been anonymously reviewed by an average of five independent reviewers, to ensure that accepted submissions were of a high standard. The acceptance rate was about 17%.

The submissions were accepted under the following main areas:

**Citizenship**
- Unleashing the power of citizens in developing countries to use the Internet to drive their own social & political development agenda

**Digital divide**
- Achievement of equity by bridging the digital divide and promoting critical and digital literacies

**Participation**
- Provision of effective online platforms for meaningful participation of citizens

**Access**
- Optimization of wider access to democratic dialogues through successful community cultivation

**Community cultivation**
- Enhance the benefits of social development interventions through the use of digital, wireless and mobile technologies for cultivating communities to conduct inquiry and socio-political action

**Sustainability**
- Facilitating sustainable grassroots, bottom up co-created solutions and approaches to leadership, human rights, and civil society development

**E-mentoring**
- Reports and reflections on the successes and failures of deploying e-mentoring strategies for raising political awareness, civic consciousness and community cultivation

**Transference**
- North-South, South-South, and public-private partnerships and collaboration for co-creation of online communities

**Community Ownership & Strengthening**
- Studies of efforts of involving citizens as stakeholders in initiatives to promote democracy, social justice and equity by strengthening their capabilities and promoting their involvement in online communities.
Besides the presentation of full papers, short papers, reflection papers and posters, the conference also included one keynote presentation from an internationally distinguished researcher, Nada Chaiyajit, Research Development Officer, Thailand.

**Keynote Presentation:**

**CULTIVATING ONLINE COMMUNITIES TO OVERCOME POVERTY, INJUSTICE AND STIGMA IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA** by Nada Chaiyajit, Research Development Officer, Thailand

**Abstract:**

There are five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Failure to meet these goals is unacceptable when so many people across the globe suffer injustice, and where true democracy is still unattainable. This presentation reports on innovative community-based work in South East Asia that involves citizens as stakeholders in initiatives to promote democracy, social justice and equity. Through facilitating people-to-people and educational exchanges, cross-cultural dialogue and volunteer programs, I will describe our efforts to use new technologies in community development and capacity-building, child protection and education, transitional justice and community legal education initiatives. First the presentation will outline how the provision of online platforms supports local struggles for social justice, stigma reduction and the protection of human rights. Drawing on case studies from Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, it will outline ways of bridging the digital divide in attempts to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases, eliminate gender disparity in education, and provide rights-based community education across a variety of contexts including juvenile detention centres, women's prisons, and through online social networking websites.


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