Meeting a Worldwide Need for Community and Faculty Support for Online Education

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WAOE Milestones

- 1996- Teaching in the Community Colleges Online Conferences
  - April 1998 Keynote Address proposing WAOE / discussions continue via conference mailing list (Univ. of Hawaii)

- BBS Constitutional Convention

- www.waoe.org domain registered from Estonia

- WAOE becomes an NPO (California State Univ. representative)

- Affiliated *Journal of Online Education* (New York Univ.)

- August 1998- Online elections, parliamentary procedures
  - Board of Directors, Coordinating Ring from all over the world

- 1999- World Culture Festival; Multilingual WAOE project started

- 2000- Membership dues abolished

- 2002- Hosting African, Russian and other non-WAOE initiatives

- 2003- WAOE hosted at Portland State Univ. as a continuing contribution to international society
Principles & Practices

- Web-Based Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs)
  - the WAOE as an open source learning organization & VLE
  - Web-based communication and community at a distance
  - a virtual organization; similarities to a virtual university
  - leveraging technology to amplify non-Western voices

- Free and enjoyable pedagogical & cultural exchange
  - voluntarism; working together at a distance sustainably
  - a global outlook; decentralized, balanced participation
  - mutuality of educational exchanges: east-west, south-north
  - multilingual, multicultural; distance education ethics

- Defining online education and making it a discipline
  - a continuous virtual seminar; accumulating expertise
  - a repository & network of practitioners’ research & experience
  - exchanges, contributions, collaboration beyond the WAOE
Networking/Collaboration

- Chapters by WAOE Officers in the forthcoming *International Handbook of Virtual Learning Environments* (Univ. of Toronto / Kluwer Academic Publishers):
  - McCarty (Japan), Ibrahim (Malaysia), Sedunov (Russia) & Sharma (India), “Global Online Education”
  - Bowskill (UK), Luke (Canada) & McCarty (Japan), “Global Virtual Organizations for Online Educator Empowerment”

- WAOE officers from 4 countries mentored via audioconferences, other synchronous and asynchronous ICT with WebCT LMS for a graduate course at the national University of Tsukuba, Japan.
  - Chapter proposal on it accepted for the forthcoming *Internet-Based Language Instruction: Pedagogies and Technologies* (Univ. of Southern Queensland, Australia / Asia-Pacific Association for Computer-Assisted Language Learning)
Multilingual sites start at www.waoe.org

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