



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

Steve McCarty
Osaka Jogakuin College, Japan
World Association for Online Education
WAOE President



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

The screenshot displays the homepage of the World Association for Online Education (WAOE). The header features the WAOE logo on the left, the text "World Association for Online Education" in the center, and navigation buttons for "Join WAOE", "Membership", "Organization", "Communication", and "Members Only" on the right. A language selection dropdown menu is open, showing a list of languages: Arabic, English, Estonian, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Malay, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish. The main content area features a large graphic of the word "waoe" in a stylized font, with the letter 'o' replaced by a globe. The globe is surrounded by a network of dotted lines and a horizontal strip of various national flags.

Flash file design and execution thanks to [Lucy Mejia Calderon](#), from Colombia.