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About the Presenter:

Pitikhate Sooraksa is currently Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at the School of Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Ladkrabang, Bangkok, Thailand. His research interests include application in information technology, development of web-based systems and computer-aided SMEs. He received B.Ed. (Hons) in Education, M.Sc. in Physics from Srinakharinwirot University, M.S. from George Washington University (1992) and Ph.D. from University of Houston (1996), both in Electrical Engineering. He also works with projects in the areas of human development using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) around ASEAN countries.

Title of Paper: **Training the Trainers using Computer-based- Services for SME Development**

Abstract:

This paper presents a career development program in Information Communication Technology (ICT) using the scenario of "training the trainer. The ultimate objective of the program was to generate career opportunity for people live in poverty areas in Thailand. To provide self-learning courses in various vocational topics, the web-based services were obviously necessary. With the high demand and the need among the institutions to provide courses online, we decided to design the training that was to help teachers learn to develop effective e-learning courses. Moreover, with the current movement toward integration of a constructivist approach to learning in all educational institutions in Thailand, the training was designed to support collaboration among trainees. The constructivist approach and the technology integration training programs that had been referred to during our designing processes were reviewed. The training must include a course for teaching skills for developing online course contents with a course management system, Moodle, since it was a free, open source software, which had been widely used in Thailand. According to the findings, policy recommendation for the Ministry of ICT would be to establish facilities to help the schools make the necessary investments in the IT infrastructure. In



addition, the findings reveal a need for a renewed emphasis on training in the core skills areas demanded in the local economy and finding new ways to use e-learning tools to access the best knowledge available to develop those skills among students. Third, a more systematic approach to linking the employers with the schools should be found to encourage better targeting of on-the-job training programs and courses that are more applicable to the job market. Finally, linkages by the schools to the open source job search websites, companies, etc. should be made to link the job seekers (students) to the employers, as well as to provide the schools with a better idea of the skills demands in the market.