

## Welcome Message

CIO, NTU, for the 9<sup>th</sup> LAMS International Conference, Nov 26, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Good morning everybody! I am delighted to welcome you all here today for this international LAMS conference.

Following on the success of the eight previous International LAMS (Learning Activity Management System) Conferences from 2006 to 2013, three of which, I believe, have been held here at NTU over the past 9 years, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, is proud to host this 9th International LAMS and Learning Design Conference. This is a platform that will allow faculty, researchers, educators and staff to view and discuss a variety of applications of LAMS in support of Technology Enabled Learning (TEL).

LAMS is maturing as a tool for designing, managing and delivering both blended learning and online collaborative learning activities. It provides faculty with a highly intuitive visual authoring environment. It also supports the creation of custom-tailored learning activities. These activities include: a range of individual tasks, small group work, and whole class activities. As an innovative technology, LAMS plays an important role in Team-based Learning (TBL) at LKC School of Medicine, and more recently in the rollout of TBL to the Renaissance Engineering Programme at NTU.

I also understand that LAMS is extensively used in over 30 countries and regions, including US, UK, China, Canada, Australia, Norway, Russia, Taiwan, etc. This

is truly a testament to its strong role in the evolving use of technology in support of teaching and learning experience.

Here in Singapore and more directly at NTU, we also see LAMS playing an important role in the new education experience, known as the “flipped classroom”. With its increasingly expanding Activity Tool Kit, LAMS uniquely supports the “flipped classroom” pedagogy now driving the educational narrative.

I am happy to be able to say that based on our past and planned implementations of LAMS, we have led and will continue to lead the region in the propagation of this tool. Specifically, we have established customisations to support TBL in Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and many Technology Enabled Learning courses at NTU. This use of LAMS has been proven to be a great success in supporting the adoption of TBL in the LKC School of Medicine, and remains a key technology within the NTU learning platforms.

In the future, LAMS will be an integral part of a new eco-system for NTU that will be user friendly, with seamless connections to other learning tools and platforms in the university. For example, from a content authoring and learning design aspect, LAMS will be the centrepiece of our 5-year roadmap in the development of TEL courses. We are also customising LAMS to support MOOCs. In short, LAMS is very much a vibrant and viable part of our learning initiatives.

To conclude, I wish to thank the organizers of the conference, and in particular Professor James Dalziel, Mr Paul Gagnon and his team, for putting together the wide range of papers that you will hear in the main conference today and in the workshops tomorrow.

And before I handover, I'd like to introduce Professor James Dalziel, the LAMS founder and organizer of this conference. Professor Dalziel is Professor of Learning Technology and Director of Macquarie E-Learning Centre of Excellence (MELCOE), Macquarie University, Australia. Professor Dalziel has led numerous projects in e-learning and e-research, including the development of the LAMS learning design system, and has an extensive record of refereed publication and presentations.

I want to say, once more on behalf of the organizing committee, welcome to this LAMS conference. It's a pleasure to see so many of you here. So, enjoy the conference, prepare yourself to be challenged, excited and inspired.

Thank you.