

14. Study on Internet-Based Seminars

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(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

To facilitate the migration from satellite communications to the Internet for delivery of el-Net distance learning programs, this study conducted live broadcast trials of lectures and other content in the Social Education Directors' Course [B]. By identifying issues related to operational methods and examining ways of resolving them, the study helped to ensure a smooth transition to Internet-based delivery of the course from fiscal 2008.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- To prepare for the shift to the Internet-based el-Net system we conducted a live broadcast trial of social education distance training to ensure a smooth transition to live Internet delivery of the Social Education Directors' Course by identifying issues related to operational methods and examining ways of resolving them.
- Based on the results of the live broadcast trial, we summarized key points for ensuring that live broadcasts via the el-Net system would proceed smoothly when it began full-scale operation in fiscal 2008, from the three perspectives of transmission, reception, and instructors.
- We set up a working group under this research committee to examine ways of enhancing the educational effectiveness of training materials used for social education distance learning programs and to prepare learning content for librarians' training to be delivered on-demand via the new el-Net system.
- We also examined progressive e-learning initiatives related to lifelong learning. Since tutors offer essential learning support to enhance the educational effectiveness of distance learning, we conducted interviews to clarify their activities, significance and role, as well as issues they face.

- The study summarized results of previous research conducted by the Practical Social Education Research Center on el-Net and Internet-based social education distance training.
- The study also summarized issues relating to future delivery of social education distance training programs via the new el-Net system from the following three perspectives: operation of live broadcasts, use and development of training materials for social education distance learning, and the role of tutors as learning support facilitators.