



UNESCO Institute
for Information Technologies
in Education



Московский
Институт
Открытого
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International Seminar and Expert Meeting **OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES and TECHNOLOGIES**

16–17 March 2009
UNESCO IITE, Moscow

Resolution

Nowadays social development is characterized by increasing role of education, information and knowledge which have become essential for human development and crucial for civilization prosperity. Access to quality education for all community members determines their opportunity to participate in scientific, economic, political and cultural activities of the society. That is why one of the most important factors of human rights and fundamental freedoms observance for all society members is enhancing educational system which should be based on the equality and accessibility principles and meet society needs.

Following the intention to achieve the goals of “Education for All” programme, approved at the World Education Forum in Dakar in 2000, UNESCO directs its efforts at developing open education, overcoming “digital divide” and building knowledge society.

Taking into account the relevance of creating open educational environment to be based on common information space usage IITE in cooperation with the Moscow Institute of Open Education carried out an international seminar and expert meeting “Open Educational Resources and Technologies” on 16–17 March 2009.

Representatives of ministries and leading educational institutions of the CIS, Baltic and Central Asia states, involved in ICT application in education, were invited to participate in the international seminar.

A short overview of UNESCO activity regarding the usage capability of open educational resources was presented to the participants. Two international experts – prof. Tapio Varis (Finland) and Mr. Niall Sclater (Great Britain) – made their thematic reports. In the report of professor Tapio Varis (dean of Education Department and head of Chair of World Electronic Education of UNESCO University in Tampere) issues concerning content, tools and resources of new educational culture were mentioned. The report of Mr. Niall Sclater (director of Division of innovations in education of Open University of Great Britain) was devoted to problems of

developing and disseminating of open educational technologies, in particular, perspectives of their usage in CIS, Baltic and Central Asian states.

During the seminar principal attention was paid to discussion of the state-of-the-art and perspectives of open educational space development in CIS, Baltic and Central Asia states. Participants of the seminar presented reports on legal, technological, psychological, pedagogical and organizational issues of development, application and dissemination of open educational resources and technologies.

Reports made by participants comprises/had the information about creating significant quantity of quality educational resources in the CIS, Baltic and Central Asia states, even though level of their involvement into educational process and integration into international open Internet-education system is still not enough.

In order to develop effective educational policy aimed at creation and dissemination of open educational resources and technologies participants of the seminar marked the importance of research international experience in a sphere of creating information and technology infrastructure, specialists training system elaboration and stable integration of open educational resources into the educational settings performance.

While discussing issues concerning creation and dissemination of open educational resources in CIS, Baltic and Central Asia States participants appealed to UNESCO IITE with the following recommendations:

- to involve into IITE programme activities a set of measures on assistance to target countries in developing political interaction and elaborating educational policy aimed at dissemination of open educational resources The measures will be based on carrying out international seminars, conferences, expert meetings and related programmes of specialists' exchange.
- to promote establishment of open educational resources network in the CIS, Baltic and Central Asia states as well as base coordination point on the premises of IITE for raising local awareness, developing and disseminating open educational resources.
- to set an Expert Board under IITE guidance which could provide assistance to CIS, Baltic and Central Asia States in working out national programmes and intensifying cooperation on issues of open educational resources capability usage.
- In case the expert board will be established on the premises of IITE, to recommend them the following tasks to be taken into account:
 - to analyze national specifics of building legal base, certificating, creating technological infrastructure, implementing specialists training system and integrating open educational resources into curricula;
 - to elaborate national programmes development strategy in CIS, Baltic and Central Asia States on the basis of analysis made aimed at dissemination of open educational resources;
 - to study possibility of pedagogical heritage store, including accumulation and conservation of digital educational recourses already developed.