

# Teaching Economics and Information Technology

Committee on the Application of Information Technologies in Economics Education

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## Introduction:

This paper aims to introduce outcomes and fruits out of our comprehensive discussion dealing with development and utilization of multimedia teaching-materials in the field of teaching Economics.

## Background: Changes in Economics education

Today, the economy where we live becomes more complicated and more expanded as well as more interrelated with many other economies on the globe, so that it becomes more difficult for students to understand how the economies work.

In order to solve the problem, the followings are taken into consideration;

- Diversification in academic ability and social interest among students  
Nearly everyone can enter universities
- Necessity of motivation-oriented teaching in Economics education  
Divergence of student's understanding between theory and reality is widening
- Effectiveness of utilizing multimedia teaching materials  
Rapid increase in usage of PC and the internet opens new teaching opportunity.

## Features of teaching Economics

Economics has the following features, which might be considered in order to improve Economics education.

- Economics as social science
- Well-structured and systematic Economics
- Usage of quantitative and measurable economic variables
- Necessity of step-wise teaching and quantitative analysis

## Teaching courses for Economics majors and information technology

Economics has a long history of utilization of computers in research activities as well as in education.

- Conventional situation: Econometrics and Computers
- Needs for utilization of information technology in introductory and basic level to increase motivation to learn and interest in Economics
- Emphasizing and building a feedback system between theory and reality
- Usefulness of usage of the internet (IP)

## Factors of multimedia teaching materials

In order to take advantages of multimedia through the internet, the teaching materials can have the following features:

- providing actual, vivid, and, possibly, on-line materials
- providing the learning-by-doing process in virtual reality
- providing exercises and practices with application and simulation

## Building the links of teaching materials on HPs

It is increasingly common for many university professors to construct their HP, on which many teaching materials of their courses. In order to improve Economics teaching, it is quite beneficial and stimulus for university professors to open their materials on their HPs and exchange ideas and suggestions to improve the materials. One of the ideas to facilitate the use of multimedia teaching materials is to construct the links to such HPs.

The links of teaching materials on HPs have the following features:

- Classification of contents according to specialized fields
- Quick construction of the links of existing HPs over the internet

## Remaining issues

Our collaboration committee on Economics has many issues to discuss and overcome, two out of which are the followings:

- Discussion on conditions and terms of construction of such links as well as their procedures
- Building the prototype models of introductory courses such as Introductory Macroeconomics and Introductory Microeconomics on the internet