



It is a well-established tradition in ICDE to hold International Conferences on distance education in different parts of the world based around regional structures and activities.

ICDE member institutions may apply to host an ICDE International Conference aimed at a regional audience, and can draw upon ICDE's resources to attract leading figures from the world of open and distance education to speak at the event.

Promotion and influence

International conferences give local institutions and host countries the opportunity to showcase their institutions, experts, and educational values and systems to a broad international audience. At the same time, such events have proven their ability positively to affect local attitudes and policy towards distance education.

International Conferences represent an important opportunity for fostering greater regional cooperation in order to further the goals and objectives of individual institutions. They are an excellent opportunity to consolidate or to initiate inter-institutional relationships, discover new opportunities for cooperative work, and discuss practice and research in the field of education and technology.

ICDE International Conferences have been held over the past decade in the Dominican Republic, Mexico, China, Puerto Rico, Peru, India, Australia, Brazil and Canada.

Case study

Universidad del Caribe hosted an ICDE International Conference in the Dominican Republic in November 2008 which attracted approximately 380 participants from the region. The conference afforded professionals from Latin America the opportunity to interact with their peers in other regions using their own language, with simultaneous translation to English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The theme of the conference was "The Current Challenges of Virtual Learning", and dealt with distance education as an element of social inclusion and civic participation, research and development in distance education, construction and knowledge management through distance education, and contributions of distance education in its various fields of application.

The main speakers were Lalita Rajasingham of Victoria University Wellington, New Zealand, Michael G. Moore of Pennsylvania State



The opening session of the ICDE International Conference in the Dominican Republic.
Photo: Universidad del Caribe

University, USA, Imma Tubella, Rector of Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain, and ICDE President Frits Pannekoek, President of Athabasca University, Canada.

Extensive coverage of the conference in the main national newspapers highlighted the importance of this event for the country.

Two conferences will be held in 2011: in Italy, hosted by Università di Roma Tor Vergata in cooperation with Società Italiana di e-Learning; and in Argentina, hosted by Universidad Nacional de Quilmes.



Delegates at the ICDE International Conference in the Dominican Republic. Photo: Universidad del Caribe