Chapter 17
Designing a New Performing Arts Education through Constructing a Global Theatre

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This chapter proposes a new learning infrastructure of performing arts education called Global Theatre. Global Theatre connects students and theatres over the Internet and creates a unique environment to share performing arts. It enables students to enjoy performing arts together, deepen intercultural understanding, and communicate with a global audience in synchronized time, regardless of location and distance. Global Theatre consists of three basic elements: a learning program focused on performing arts; a collaborative community formed by a university,

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theatre space, and performing group; and an ICT platform that realizes live appreciation of performing arts. In this chapter, two experimental implementations are carried out. The authors conducted a translated play shared by Thailand and Japan in 2009, and an international collaborative play shared by Thailand, Japan, and Malaysia in 2010. Through those experiments, the effectiveness of this new learning environment for performing arts is discussed from the perspective of the three basic elements of this structure.

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

Event design and coordination for this study was conducted by the Graduate School of Media Design, Keio University (KMD), Japan. KMD was launched in April 2008, "to train talented individuals to work on the global stage building and running new industries for the coming 'creative society,' a world in which the driving force of the economy will be creativity rather than productivity or efficiency" (Inakage, 2012). According to this policy, by utilizing forefront distant learning technologies, this research provides opportunities for students to learn and share multiple fields of knowledge in the global environment. In addition, two universities have supported this research in managing the program. One is the School of the Arts, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Malaysia and the other is the Department of Dramatic Arts, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University (CU), Thailand. Both USM and CU's school/faculty specializes in performing arts and have the knowledge and skills in performing arts education. Furthermore, to conduct on actual performing arts, the performance presented at Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space, Japan has been elected for the program with the cooperation of Art Space's professional production and technical staffs.

Technical operation was conducted by the School on Internet (SOI)-Asia Project. The SOI-Asia Project was launched in 2001 as a platform for inter-university education programs amongst universities throughout Asia, with the purpose of establishing a wide area Internet education platform utilizing satellite technologies. Since 2001, SOI-Asia Project has contributed to develop Internet infrastructure through developing countries, and through shared live/archived lectures from Japan as well as other countries. As of April 2011, SOI-Asia Project has 27 university and research institute partners in 14 countries in Asia. This project has been supported by private sector funds, and several government funds including some ministries of Japanese government, and ran mainly by Widely Integrated Distributed Environment (WIDE) Project, Asian Internet Interconnection Initiatives (AI3) Project and Keio University. The SOI Asia project provides the necessary technical training to operators in each partnership to maintain the stable educational network to share lectures on a daily