

Dear Information Schools Management and Staff,

As you may agree, the field of information studies is changing rapidly whereby traditional disciplinary boundaries are dissolving, giving rise to a multidisciplinary academic programme in 'Information'. Information Schools (iSchools) are essentially a concept and a movement that has emerged to shape and foster a multidisciplinary approach to the study of 'Information'. These iSchools have taken different routes from different disciplinary origins, primarily Library and Information Science, Information and Computer Technology, Media and Communication, Archives and Recordkeeping, and Business Management.

The Asia-Pacific region faces additional challenges in developing its brand of information education to equip information professionals with appropriate competencies to support its information societies because of the wide diversity in culture, language, socio-political environment and level of economic development. There is a need for dialogue, resource sharing and collaboration among iSchools in Asia-Pacific to help build iCommunities and educate the new breed of information professionals in accordance with regional demands, and to help the regional communities to build fruitful information environments.

CiSAP, the Consortium of iSchools in the Asia-Pacific region was established as a voluntary organization in 2008, and it now has 24 member iSchools from 11 different countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It is a voluntary organization in that there is no membership fee, and it is run by voluntary scholarly contributions from the staff of the member institutions. The guiding principles of CiSAP, as stated on its website (<http://www.cisap.asia>), are to contribute to the sustainability and the enrichment of the Information Society by:

- Providing a cross disciplinary perspective of Information
- Embracing the diversity of communities and cultures across Asia Pacific
- Advancing information education, research and practice through collaboration and cooperation among iSchools
- Recognizing the importance of information products and services to emerging knowledge economies
- Collaborating with relevant professional associations which support the ideas, values and skills of our graduates
- Promoting the ongoing professional development of our graduates.

We would very much like to welcome new members to join the growing CiSAP community. CiSAP organizes a number of workshops and meeting to promote the research and collaborative academic and scholarly activities among the member institutions. Further details of the CiSAP activities and membership, etc. can be found on the CiSAP website (<http://www.cisap.asia>).

For any inquiries about the CiSAP membership activities or membership criteria, please contact the CiSAP Chair, Professor Shigeo Sugimoto: sugimoto@slis.tsukuba.ac.jp

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

CiSAP Management team