Rhetorics and Realities in Capturing Local Knowledge through the eyes of children: A Pangaea Experience in UNIMAS

Fitri Suraya Mohamad¹, Norazila Abd. Aziz¹, Soubakeavathi Rethinasamy¹, Alvin W. Yeo¹, Hideyuki Iwata²

¹Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kota Samarahan, Sarawak, Malaysia
²Promotion Committee, The Telecommunication Technology Committee (TTC), Tokyo, Japan
¹mfitri@fcs.unimas.my, ²iwata@ttc.or.jp

ABSTRACT
This paper documents part of an on-going research that looks into how local and personal knowledge is created and shared between children and adults of different cultures, languages, religion and countries through the innovative web-based platform called PangaeaNet. The Pangaea programme provides a rich opportunity to explore the power of communicating through artwork and pictons, and technology becomes invisible in the background. The strength of the web is tried and tested with a group of Malaysian children, ages 7 to 14, in an international playground concept introduced by NPO Pangaea Japan. This paper also critically analyses the cross-cultural communication that take place between these children and the programme's facilitators, who are multi-ethnic, multi-faith, and also multi-lingual. The paper concludes with plans to roll-out a locally-designed ICT-based learning programme for children in remote rural communities in Borneo.

KEYWORDS: ICT, Web-based collaboration, Cross-cultural communication, Remote communities, Borneo, Pangaea, ICT, Children.