

LASI-Asia 2016 welcome remarks

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Good afternoon. I'm Seok-soo Han, President of KERIS.

I declare with great pleasure the opening of LASI-Asia 2016, an international learning analytics conference held in Asia for the first time.

First of all, I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to the President and staff of the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards who have prepared for the successful opening of this event, leaders and staff of international academic and standardization organizations, and all participants.

In particular, I sincerely thank international speakers from diverse countries and regions for being here for keynote speech, presentation, and panel discussion.

KERIS is deeply honored and excited to host this event together with renowned international organizations such as JTC1/SC36, a educational technology committee of ISO/IEC, SoLAR, and the IMS Global Learning Consortium.

I'd also like to thank researchers of the LACE Project for being with us today to share meaningful research outcomes of the past 3 years. I hope this year's LASI-Asia can be an opportunity to stimulate international cooperation and exchanges in learning analytics.

The society has already entered the stage of intelligent information and is accelerating technological innovation day after day to find meaningful information in the vast sea of data.

An unprecedented amount of data is being generated from various learning activities in and out of classroom, and experts and businesses are making continued efforts to understand such data and find meaning from it.

There is no doubt in the world about the influence and potential of learning analytics, a new technology and academic discipline. At the same time, however, privacy and data control issues are emerging as challenges for us.

I hope this week's conference can be a venue for sharing your knowledge about research outcomes and successful product development cases, and having an in-depth discussion on issues about protecting learners' rights.

KERIS researchers reported to me that learning analytics is "a concept that does not see learners as a group, and instead aims to understand each learner as an individual and provide learning resources suitable for the learner's level and circumstances by utilizing analytics technology." It sounds ideal, but very difficult to understand.

We at KERIS hope that this difficult and complex technology and academic discipline can serve as "a tool to help students and talents, who are the future of society, rediscover the joy of learning." In addition, we sincerely hope it can be "a compassionate technology to help teachers and parents have a deeper understanding of, and consideration for students."

Inaugurating as President of KERIS, I emphasized “Moon Shot Thinking.” It was a message that encourages ambitious challenges and imagination to lead fundamental changes, not small changes, to resolve social and educational issues. I believe that learning analytics can transform the unsatisfying realities of education in various countries. That’s why I believe this field requires “Moon Shot Thinking.”

In March this year, the match between Google’s AlphaGo and a professional Go player made a big issue in Korea. We saw a glimpse of the AI era, and it sparked out thoughts about necessary preparations in education.

What is the future of learning analytics? How close is it to AI technology? Can an AI analyze data, prescribe solutions, and make recommendations on behalf of human beings? We know that we cannot preclude those possibilities.

Like I said earlier, learning analytics will draw more attention in the intelligent information society. As many experts predict, learning analytics will become a mainstream technology in education.

Now we need to start building an educational environment for the intelligent information society, which can foster unique human competencies, including creativity, integrity, and emotion. In addition, we need to develop education systems and technologies to support such efforts.

Following these trends, KERIS will more actively collaborate with international organizations and experts who put together this year’s LASI-Asia.

Once again, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all participants of LASI-Asia, and I hope this conference can envision a desirable future of learning analytics.

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President of KERIS
Seok-Soo Han