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**Global School:
A Video Conferencing/Online Hybrid Classroom**

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My Background

- Deputy Head of School for Learning Technology, British School of Jakarta
- Chair-Elect of the Board of Directors, ISTE
- International EdTech Consultant, Speaker, Author
- 15± years of experience
 - Teacher – IT, Informational Literacy, Math, PP, EE
All grades PreS -> GradS
 - Senior Administrator
- Educational Doctorate in Educational Leadership
- Worked in private schools, international schools, universities

Global School

The Global School program is video-conference based distance learning classroom, where students in two SE Asia countries attend high school classes together in real time.



Overview

- Context and setting for the program
- Description of the two schools and history of the program
- Program overview
- Discussion of the value-add for the program
- Overview of the technology used
- Description of costs and considerations
- Discussion of the academic challenges
- Future plans and potential expansion
- Questions



Context and Setting for the Program

- German public school system is divided by 16 Federal states
 - Overseas schools are considered the 17 state
- Students attending overseas schools can re-enter state schools without having to repeat
- Final leaving exam, the Abitur, is VERY high stakes
 - Abitur = A Levels = IB Diploma Exam
 - Can only be taught by certified Abitur teachers
 - Passing Abitur = tuition-free admission to German universities



Description of the Two Schools



Host school – **German European School Singapore (GESS)**

- Located in Singapore (GMT +8)
- Enrollment = 1500 students
- School campus size = 2 sites on ~5.0 hectares
- Dual curriculum school – IB and German state curriculum
- Certified “Excellent German School Abroad”
- Gifted ADLK teachers (German state teachers) by the German government
- Authorized to deliver Abitur classes and exams
- Grade 12 enrollment = 15-25 students

Description of the Two Schools



Receiving school – **Christian German School Chang Mai (CDSCM)**

- Located in Thailand (GMT +7)
- Enrollment = 100 students
- School campus size = ~2.0 hectares
- Teaches grades K-12
- Single curriculum
- German government support with funds and personnel
- Encouraged and supported to develop Abitur program
- Grade 12 enrollment = 1-3 students

History of the Program

- Students at CDSCM needed to leave Thailand to complete their Abitur
 - Insufficient funds and student number to staff a full Abitur program
 - No other German school in Thailand offers the Abitur
- German educational authorities investigated means of providing distance learning for Abi classes
- GESS volunteered to host the system and deliver classes
- German education authorities paid for “Global School” rooms to be installed at GESS and CDSCM



History of the Program (cont'd)

- First classes were held in 2010-11
- In 2011-12, the program was deemed a success
 - German authorities touted the program back in Germany through political, educational, and media channels
- In 2011-12, a second set of rooms was authorized and funded by the German authorities
- 2013-14, the first set of Abitur students sat and passed their exams in Chang Mai
 - Completed their oral exams using the system

Overview of the Program



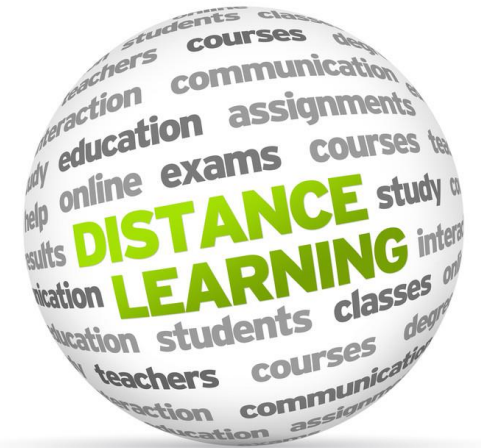
- During direct instruction time, two rooms are connected by video conferencing equipment
- 10-18 students sit in the host classroom in Singapore with the teacher
- 2-6 students sit in the receiving classroom in Chang Mai
- Both rooms have an assistant on hand
- All lessons are conducted in real time
- Lesson occur 5 times per week, 45 minutes per lesson

Overview of the Program (cont'd)

- Students receive didactic instruction during most lessons
- They engage in group activities and individualized work
 - For group work, students will connect with Moodle or Skype
- Asynchronous learning occurs between Ts and Ss
 - Use skype for conferencing
 - Moodle as an LMS and discussion tool
- Work is submitted and graded both electronically and by paper...
 - ...Huh?
- Operations and IT staff meet weekly to discussion challenge/issues
- Administrators meet monthly/quarterly for long term planning

Overview of the Technology Used

- Both rooms are equipped with:
 - Large size video monitors – 50+ inch TVs
 - 2 at CDSCM, 1 at GESS
 - HD Video camera
 - 1 at CDSCM, 2 at GESS
 - Audio recording equipment at each seat + headset audio for the Teacher
 - VPN
 - Printer/scanner/copier – connected via the VPN
 - Interactive Whiteboard – connected via the VPN
 - Video conferencing server
 - 2 PCs for system management, student monitoring, and content access
 - Dedicated internet connection (100MBPS – 1GBPS)



Costs and Considerations

- Installation cost of each host room > USD\$100K
- Installation cost of each receiving room >USD\$60K
- Equipment management costs
 - Servicing contracts, equipment repair, internet access
- Personnel costs – additional staff to manage operations
- Localized considerations
 - Reliability of internet/power
 - Availability of repair/installation specialists
 - Long term funding
 - Equipment replacement
 - Time zone



Value-Add of the Program

- Provides opportunity for instruction for students who would not otherwise have it
- Emulates real-world application of video conferencing for students
 - Communication and collaboration skills needed in distributed work environments
- Helps Ts become more intentional on classroom management, activity development, and connection with students
- Provide opportunity for connections and content around the globe
- Marketing tool for the school



Academic/Pedagogic Challenges

- Classroom management
 - How do you interact with remote students?
 - How do you spread time evenly between live and remote students?
 - How do you connect with students you haven't met?
- Managing teaching vs. managing technology?
- Designing activities that engage all students
- How do you deal with technology challenges?



Academic/Pedagogic Challenges (cont'd)

- Annual teacher pedagogic training
 - Course design – scheduling, assignments, projects, and assessments
 - Managing hybrid environment
 - Teaching and managing video conferencing classroom
 - Facilitating online discussion
- Get to know the students
 - Invite CDSCM to visit the school
 - Send teachers to CM tri-annually
 - Encourage monthly skype sessions with remote students

Future Plans and Potential Expansion

- Expansion from German curriculum to language instruction in the IB
 - Looking for partners in the region
- Establish a proof of concept for a “Global School Lite”
 - Receiving side would include limited technology
 - Individualized participation instead of remote group
- Model a Global School program for Europe and Africa
 - Allow IB instruction into rural and low resource parts of Africa
- Connect with schools and universities for remote instruction

Questions?