Greetings Dear readers of TOJDE,

TOJDE is appeared on your screen now as Volume 11, Number: 3. In this issue it is published 3 notes for Editor, 12 articles, 2 book reviews. And this time, 34 authors from 10 different countries are placed. These published articles are from Barbados, Ghana, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, UAE and USA.

"Developing and Validation A Usability Evaluation Tools For Distance Education Websites: Persian Version" has sent as Notes for editor section of TOJDE from Iran and written by Soheila HAFEZI, Ahmad FARAHI from Payame Noor University and Soheil Najafi MEHRI, Hosein MAHMOODI from Baqiyatallah Medical Sciences University, Tehran.. Their paper involves that he content validity index was measured by set of ten experts, who evaluated each item individually. According to CVI, the final version of instrument was composed of 40 questions divided into 8 domains: Navigation, Functionality, Feedback, Control, Language, Consistency, Error prevention and correction, and Visual clarity. CVI score for each phrase was more than 0.75. According to our findings, this instrument has enough validity to apply in evaluation usability of educational websites of Persian distance education websites. However, instrument reliability can be measured in further study.

The second notes for editor is titled as "A Critical Analysis Of Managerial Skills Competencies Of Secondary School Heads Trained Through Distance Mode of Allama Iqbal Open University" which is written by Muhammad AKHLAQ from Preston University, Islamabad, PAKISTAN and SHAZIA MUNAWAR SULEHRI from Ministry of Education, PAKISTAN. They mentioned in their paper to analyze the managerial skills competencies of secondary schools heads trained through distance mode of education in Pakistan. For this purpose a sample 300 secondary school teachers and 100 secondary schools head-teachers trained through distance mode and working in the Federal Government Educational Institutions (FGEI) functioning under the administration of Pakistan army.

"Are New Technologıes Influencıng The Academıc Results Achıeved By Students? An exploratory study" is the third paper for "Notes for Editor" section of TOJDE's in this issue. It has written by Ana GARGALLO-CASTEL, Luisa ESTEBAN-SALVADOR and M. MARZO-NAVARRO from University of Zaragoza, SPAIN. The purpose of this study is to analyze the application of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) within tertiary education in a Spanish University. The results of analyzes indicated that a new initiative developed by the University of Zaragoza through an innovative project for a virtual campus called 'Anillo Digital Docente'. Data relating to the degree of WebCT's use is analyzed, as well as the academic results achieved by the students using it. These results are compared with the results achieved by other students studying in a traditional teaching setting. Several conclusions are drawn from this comparison: firstly, on how effective these technologies are within regulated university education; and secondly, on how beneficial the extension of its application would be to other educational areas.

The first article is a joint study which its authors are from turkey on "Live Authority In The Classroom In Video Conference-Based Synchronous Distance Education: The Teaching Assistant" written by Hasan KARAL, Ayça ÇEBI and Yigit Emrah TURGUT from Karadeniz Technical University, Fatih Faculty of Education, Trabzon. The aim of this4 study was to define the role of the assistant in a classroom environment where students are taught using video conference-based synchronous distance education. Qualitative research approach was adopted and, among purposeful sampling methods,

criterion sampling method was preferred in the scope of the study. The study was carried out during the spring semester of the 2008-2009 academic years.

The Second article is on "A Conceptual Model for Effective Distance Learning In Higher Education", written by Mehran FARAJOLLAHI, Hosein ZARE, Mahmood HORMOZI, Mohammad Reza SARMADI and Nahid ZARIFSANAEE from IRAN. The aim is that presenting a conceptual model for effective distance learning in higher education. Findings of this research shows that an understanding of the technological capabilities and learning theories especially constructive theory and independent learning theory and communicative and interaction theory in Distance learning is an efficient factor in the planning of effective Distance learning in higher education. Considering the theoretical foundations of the present research, in the effective distance learning model, the learner is situated at the center of learning environment.

The third articles are from Anadolu University, Turkey. The third one is on "A Blended Learning Model For Teaching Practice Course", conducted by Mustafa CANER. In his paper discussed to introduce a blended learning environment and a model for pre-service teaching practice course in English Language Teacher Training Program at Anadolu University. It is supposed that providing a blended learning environment for teaching practice course would improve the practice and contribute to the professional growth of pre-service teachers. Since it will increase the contact hours among students and university supervisors and facilitate peer feedback among pre-service teachers, which in turn, create a productive learning environment for them. Also paper is aimed that providing a blended learning model for teaching practice courses at teacher training institutions and give impetus for the researchers or instructors who would like to implement blended learning in their own teaching environments.

The 4th articles arrived from Barbados which is prepared on "Profile Of The Uwi Distance Learners: The Implications for Online Curriculum Development, Teaching and Learning at the University", written by Stephanie HUNTE from The University of the West Indies Open Campus The purpose of her study was to create a more recent profile of the UWI distance learners as a follow up to a study undertaken in 2000, and, based on the profile created, discuss the implications for online curriculum development, teaching and learning at the University. Data on four descriptive characteristics were collected from UWI distance students in two courses in the B. Sc Management Studies degree programme. Comparisons were made with trends in the field spanning the last decade as well as with a 2000 research and development project which examined the use of ICTs and highlighted the critical components necessary for the introduction of full online teaching and learning into the UWI's distance education programmes. The findings of the present study suggest that there has been no significant change in the demographic, motivational and experiential characteristics of the UWI distance learner over the past decade. They also suggest a new trend in the inhibitory characteristics during this period.

The fifth article came from UK and written on Demystifying Virtual Communities of Practice: A Case Study of IBM", by Ayse KOK from Educational Studies, Kellogg College, University of Oxford. The purpose of her proposed research study is to empirically explore the nature of virtual communities of practice (CoP) in a global organization within the context of its International Corporate Volunteer (ICV) Program. This study investigates whether and how the use of virtual CoP evolves and becomes embedded within this organization.

The sixth article which is entitled as "Providing Information Communication Technology Support to Distance Education Students: A Case of the University of Ghana, Legon", written by Beatrice K. AGYEMANG from Presbyterian College of Education and Perpetua DADZIE from Department of Information Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, GHANA. The purpose of their study is to investigate the current state of Information Communication Technology policy of the University of Ghana Distance Education (DE) programme and the extent of awareness and use of ICTs in general by

the DE learners was carried out. The survey methodology was adopted using questionnaire and interview instruments. Respondents were made up of 120 DE students, the coordinator of the DE programme, and 5 workers at the DE unit. The questionnaires were distributed to all the 120 students while the workers responded to a semi-structured interview. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.

"Determining The Navigational Aids Use On The Internet: The Information Technologies Teacher Candidates' Case", send by Abdullah KUZU and Research Assistant Mehmet FIRAT, from Anadolu University, Eskisehir. TURKEY. In this survey research, Information Technologies Teacher Candidates' use of navigational aids in Web sites and Web browsers, and the reasons for low use of navigational aids were investigated. The findings of the study revealed that the teacher candidates did not use bookmarks, Web maps, RSS and atom feeds sufficiently.

The eight article is came from Malaysia. Titled article is on Imdb Movies' Information Visualization, written by Ronak ETEMADPOUR, Mona MASOOD and Bahari BELATON from Universiti Sains Malaysia. Their paper focuses on development of a new prototype of visualization in support of movie retrieval. The goal of information visualization is unveiling of large amounts of data or abstract data set using visual presentation. With this knowledge the main goal is to develop a 2D presentation of information on movies from the IMDB (Internet Movie Database) as our movie search engine. The aim is to amplify the perception of users over the retrieval environment while preserving the output quality at an acceptable meaningful level.

The 9th article is arrived to us from USA and written by James O. BARBRE III on Borderless Educational Practices In The Development Of Commerce, from the Social Studies and Social Foundations Indiana University East, School of Education. This paper addresses online MBA (Master of Business Administration) degrees and the nature of its presence alongside the more traditional face-to-face MBA program.

While the MBA was not originally a global phenomenon, the development of so many online programs has made it one. Through this analysis, the MBA is first situated historically with subsequent challenges that have encouraged and/or forced it to go undergo changes in its structure over the last several decades. The approach to this analysis utilizes the lens of neo-realistic principles for organizational effectiveness at the international level.

The article is which numbered as 10, from UAE. Article is entitled as "Students' First Impression Of Second Life: A case from the United Arab Emirates, written by Salam ABDALLAH, MIS Department of Abu Dhabi University. His paper dealt with second Life. Virtual worlds are believed to impact the future of higher education and therefore, universities across the world are immersing themselves inside virtual worlds to establish a unique learning and research environments. This research examines the viability of Second Life as an educational platform from the perspective of a group of students in an Islamic society context. The students were attending one of the universities in the United Arab Emirates. The analysis indicates that students experienced both positive and negative aspects of Second Life. The results do encourage further experimentation in this positive novel way for learning.

The eleventh article arrived from Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad, PAKISTAN, which is written Dr Muhammad Ajmal CHAUDRY and Fazal-ur-RAHMAN from Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad PAKISTAN which is on A Critical Review Of Instructional Design Process Of Distance Learning System. The present study was designed to critically review the process of instructional design at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). It was survey study. Population of the study consisted of 120 academicians of different academic department of AIOU. Survey was conducted through questionnaire for academic staff. It was revealed that need assessment is not done before conceiving the outlines of a course. Also the course did not contain

sufficient activities, picture and illustrations. It was also found that did not confirm the course objectives. The study recommended that proper of the course writers for distance learning may be arranged.

The eleventh article arrived from Turkey, It was A PHYSICS LESSON DESIGNED II ...... CONTINUED Volume: 11 Number: 1 written by **Serhat KOCAKAYAYüzüncü Yıl University** Faculty of Education, Department of Physics Education, Van and Selahattin GONEN Dicle University Z. G. Faculty of Education, Department of Physics Education, **Diyarbakır.** The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of a Computer-Assisted Instruction designed according to 7E model of constructivist learning(CAI7E) related to ''electrostatic'' topic on physics student teachers' cognitive development, misconceptions, self-efficacy perceptions and attitudes. The study was conducted in 2006–2007 academic year and was carried out in three different classes taught by the same teacher, in which there were 79 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade university students, in **central city of Diyarbakır in Turkey.** An experimental research design including the electrostatic achievement test (EAT), the electrostatic concept test (ECT), physics attitude scale (PAS) and self-efficacy perception scale (SEPS) was applied at the beginning and at the end of the research as pre-test and post-test.

Two books are reviewed in this issue. The first one is about THE BLENDED LEARNING BOOK: Best Practices, Proven Methodologies and Lessons Learned written by Josh Bersin and reviewed by Reviewed by Reviewed by Alev ATES, Ege University, Izmir, TURKEY The book starts with the introduction section explaining Internet based learning adventure and e-learning evolution. He defines Blended Learning (BL) as the combination of different training "media" (technologies, activities, and types of events) to create an optimum training program for a specific audience. Afterwards, Bersin presents us history of BL by asking "How did we get here?".

The second one about "THE PERFECT ONLINE COURSE: Best Practices for Designing and Teaching" edited by Edited By Anymir Orellana, Terry L. Hudgins, & Michael Simonson and Reviewed by Cengiz Hakan AYDIN, Anadolu University, Eskisehir TURKEY. The book, entitled as *The Perfect Online Course: Best Practices for Designing and Teaching* is also trying to establish a list of standards about how to design and implement an effective online course. The main goal of the book is to create a framework of quality educational guidelines that can be used to offer "perfect" online course.

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Hope to stay in touch and meeting in our next Issue, 1st of October 2010

Cordially,

Prof. Dr. Ugur Demiray Editor-in-Chief
Anadolu University Yunusemre Campus 26470-Eskisehir TURKEY
Tel: +90 222 335 0581 ext. 2521 or 2522
GSM: +90 542 232 21 167 Fax: +90 222 320 4520 or
Emails: udemiray@anadolu.edu.tr or udemiray33@gmail.com
URL: http://home.anadolu.edu.tr/~udemiray
URL: http://tojde.anadolu.edu.tr

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