



## Projects for Sharing and Re-use of Digital Learning Materials at NIME

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### NIME

NIME is an Independent Administrative Institution, and the mission is to support Japanese and overseas higher educational institutions in the context of the educational reform using IT. As a national center, NIME have collaborative studies with professors or researchers and provides various educational services to universities and technical colleges, such as a nation-wide teleconference system using satellite communication, learning content and tools, and faculty development programs. In addition, under the new grand design of “NIME Digital Learning Content Site”, both Department of Research and Development and the Program Promotion Department are engaged in the new activities for Japanese LOM and learning content repositories.

### Our backgrounds

In Japan also, the accumulation and utilization of high-quality digital learning materials is one of the essential requirements for further progress of educational reform using Information Technology (IT). Some infrastructure and social agreements for exchanging and sharing digital learning materials are indispensable for their sustainable development and utilization. The concept of “Learning Object (LO)” is one of the possible solutions for the goal. NIME Department of Research and Development constructed an experimental site for sharing and re-use of LOs and analyzed various factors, such as granularity, copyright and intellectual property issues, meta-data system, compatibility in the medium/platform transfer, quality assurance, and standardization and localization, from both technology and business viewpoints. In addition, NIME Program Promotion Department launched “NIME Portal site for Educational Information”, and provides not only LOM (Learning Object Metadata) but also learning materials to users in higher education. In the near future, both results will be integrated into next-generation site, “NIME-GLAD”.

In FY2004, NIME joins two overseas consortia for sharing LOs (that is, ARIADNE and MERLOT), and participates in a global alliance (i.e., the Global Learning Objects Brokered Exchange, GLOBE) as a founder in order to facilitate the international collaboration.

### Our current issues

In the GLOBE framework, our first concern is on the construction of search system across multiple metadata repositories. Its technological working group started discussion to reach the possible solutions. At the next step, copyright processing system and quality assurance will be focused on. Especially, most of our content is in Japanese and we need “localization” processes in several aspects.

In Japanese higher educational institutions, they have just launched or planned their own learning content repositories. However, nobody has the common framework or standard to share the content and NIME is expected to show one of the prototypes of the content repository.

### Expectations to CORDRA

We agree with the concept and aims of CORDRA. In the workshop, we are pleased to learn the details of CORDRA project and to exchange ideas on it with participants.

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