

## **Proposal – Best Practices Session**

Title: Parallel Lessons through Internet - an innovative teacher development model

Presenter:

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Abstract :

An innovative teacher development model entitled "Parallel Lessons" was developed by the presenter at Hong Kong University using a web-based video-conferencing software "Communication Suite" to connect Hong Kong and Guangzhou classrooms. A unit of "Parallel Lessons" involves two teachers from different systems, who design and teach independently two lessons on a common topic to two classes in their own schools. Through the internet, the two teachers, as well as other colleagues and subject experts, observe the lessons and attend a post-observation forum where they compare and critique the two lessons. Such an activity exposes teachers to alternatives to their prevailing practices. It also stimulates deeper reflection on their teaching thus helps them become more aware of the hidden assumptions, values and beliefs, which they may have taken for granted. Parallel Lessons have been conducted in Hong Kong and Guangzhou with a great success. In the session, the presenter will introduce the model to the audience including its design, techniques, difficulties encountered and their solutions. Moreover, the effectiveness of this model as a means of teacher development as well as its applicability to other systems will be discussed.