

Acceptance speech

Name: Pruet Putjorn

Research topic: Designing an educational device to facilitate learning for young children in an underdeveloped region in Thailand.

It is a great honour for me to receive this year's Anglo-Thai Society Educational Awards in Arts category which is sponsored by ThaiBev. Also, I am sincerely grateful for the recognition of my work and to be selected by the excellent academic panel of the Anglo-Thai Society. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Thai government and The Ministry of Science and Technology who sponsored my 4 years scholarship in the school of Engineering and Digital Arts, University of Kent. I also would like to acknowledge my supervisor, Dr. Chee Siang Ang for his patience, motivation, enthusiasm, guidance and considerable knowledge, in supporting my long-term PhD study and research. He has been supportive since I began studying in a pre-session course and helped me devise the thesis topic regarding the creation of an innovation which will be useful to people in my home country. Also, I would like to thank my co-supervisor, Dr. Farzin Deravi for all the helpful feedbacks/comments throughout the study.

My research study presents a three-year iterative study where a mobile sensor-based learning platform was designed, developed and tested to support science learning among primary school students in underprivileged Northern Thailand. Through a series of iterative design, observations, interviews and group discussions, key design concepts were identified such as the value of injecting human-like, cartoon character qualities into the sensor-based device and providing personally and culturally relevant learning experiences through technology. This helps to encourage children's curiosity towards learning and helps to move learning beyond the conceptual/ theoretical area and enable students to learn through hands-on experience. I believe that the contributions within my study can help educators, developers and researchers in identifying how such a technology can be best designed and widely applied to young students in Thailand.

Finally, I am grateful to my parents and my family for their love, endless support and encouragement throughout my studies. They all kept me going and the achievement of this study would not have been possible without them.

As I was born in the reign of his Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) of Thailand, who spent most of his life working to improve the standard of living of the Thai people and reduce poverty particularly through thousands of royal development projects that have greatly benefited the country and remote rural areas. So I would like to express my sincere gratitude for his inspiration and guidance. With the aim of presenting devotion towards the late King, I would like to dedicate my work to move forward and follow in His Majesty's footsteps. Thank you very much