

WORLD REACTION TO MIT OPENCOURSEWARE

Users from around the world have overwhelmingly endorsed the concept of open sharing of educational materials and information as it is exemplified in the MIT OpenCourseWare (MIT OCW) Web site. Since it opened to the public on September 30, 2002, users from more than 215 countries, territories, and city-states around the world have visited MIT OCW. Utilizing our Feedback Form educators, students, self-learners, and MIT alumni have sent us more than 30,000 email messages, recognizing MIT's leadership in providing free and accessible information on the Web. Read what the world is saying about this bold MIT initiative, and the promise of the open sharing...

EDUCATORS

"What MIT has done with the OpenCourseWare initiative has clearly manifested the saying that 'Knowledge triumphs in openness.' It really opens up a huge vault of knowledge to people all over the world who just want to know or learn something — to be knowledgeable. It is really a very 'unthinkable' noble effort by MIT. I refer to some of the materials for my teaching, for the purpose of improvement. 'Terima kasih!' (= 'Thank you' in Malay language!)" — **Dr. K.K. Choong, lecturer in the School of Civil Engineering at Universiti Sains in Malaysia**



"I think your OCW project is a great use of your resources. I run a math education Web site and I frequently receive emails from students in Third World countries asking for free textbooks. As just one person, I don't have the resources to give away textbooks, but now I will point such queries to your OCW site. And I will be reading much of the material myself — especially the grad-level math courses. This is a wonderful thing you are doing." — **United States**



"I want to manifest to you my gratefulness in the name of the university community, to put to the educators of the world the flow of knowledge stored by MIT through the initiative OCW. Today we know that knowledge and information are the keys of the modern society. Cuba works in the education of all its citizens, so that we have a population of 11 million inhabitants and 800,000 graduate university students and we develop a program to continue extending the knowledge to guarantee the access of more and more young people to distance education... This MIT initiative can collaborate to deepen in our developing country the access to knowledge of quality." — **Dr. Francisco Benitez Cardenas, president of Havana Agricultural University**

"I would like to congratulate MIT for your courage in facing the intellectual property paradigm. I am both an electronics engineering educator and MBA student in Brazil and OpenCourseWare has become a tremendous tool of research and development for both of my fields of interest. The whole world is saying 'Thank You Very Much' to MIT." — **Brazil**

"This is an outstanding and incomparable stance of MIT to give access of such invaluable learning quality to the world. I am from the developing country and I would like to express my gratitude." — **Triatno Yudo Harjoko, educator in Indonesia**

"I believe that your OCW project is fantastic! As a teacher, I find it a valuable resource and a reliable

reference. You are doing a great job." — **Horatiu Pop, physics teacher at the British School in Warsaw, Poland**

SELF-LEARNERS



"If you were to list all the adjectives available in all the languages on earth, it will still not explain completely the users feelings after viewing this Web site. Hats off to each and everyone involved in this novel project!" — **Sathappan Ramaswamy, self-learner from India**

"I have been using this site for self-study for quite a few months and I think it is an excellent site — actually it's the best I've ever come across. I graduated in physics and astronomy from a university in England in 2002, and this site has brilliant material on physics and many other interesting subjects that gives me the opportunity to learn and update my knowledge of science." — **United Kingdom**

"The MIT OCW program is a generous and far sighted initiative that will do more to change the world for the better than a thousand Iraq-style invasions. It does much to restore my faith in the enlightenment of the American people and their great experiment in democracy. This program should be emulated by every university worthy of the name." — **Leigh Pascoe, self-learner in Paris, France**



"MIT's OpenCourseWare is the most exciting venture I've stumbled across in years. I've been bemoaning the growing polarization (rich vs. poor) in our society (poor education system, flat tax structure, Bread & Circuses/NASCAR races) and MIT OCW 'might' point the way to amelioration, in that serious, but under-funded students, could get a good education through this and similar options... In sum, this whole notion has great possibilities!" — **John Lowry, self-learner in Austin, Texas**

"Using OpenCourseWare is the best way to expand my current education. I have a psychology degree, but in today's job market, it is best to have a base of knowledge that encompasses various fields. OCW allows me to do just that." — **Jennifer Pearson, Director of Business Development for Access Local Net in Franklin, TN**



"Thank you very much for OpenCourseWare! This is a wonderful initiative, something I've been dreaming about :) It gives great opportunities for studying new things and improving my current education. Commercial distant education is too expensive for people in the country where I live, but what you did make quality education really available. Thank you especially for the video lectures and courses that have study materials... And having those in both text and video would be beyond dreams. Thank you, thank you, thank you again!" — **Azerbaijan**



"I am speechless! As a student I did not do well in college, and now have ended up serving society as an airman in the U.S. Air Force. I've never heard of MIT OpenCourseWare before and am very glad to have discovered this site today. I don't know how to express my gratitude to all the generous people at MIT except to make use of all these good intentions... I will advertise this resource to all those around me." — **Micah Pham, self-learner and member of the United States Air Force**

STUDENTS

"When I first came across MIT's OCW, I pinched my Web browser to check to see if it was functioning properly. The FREE access platform of OCW is fostering a measure of educational parity in higher education through offering complimentary access to premium content and course materials otherwise reserved for MIT's full-time matriculated student population. As an MBA student, I am most intrigued by courses from the Sloan School of Management, but I have also extracted a wealth of information from Writing & Humanistic Studies, Economics, and Urban Studies & Planning. I hope I live to see the day when every University will launch and promote their own version of OCW. I believe that by creating new avenues of OPENNESS to educational resources, we better prepare tomorrow's leaders, and greatly improve and encourage forward-focused social and virtual collaborations" — **Coretta Jackson, MBA student in the United States**



"I am using Professor Lewin's wonderful videotaped lectures and course materials as a refresher to a course in Electricity and Magnetism that I took last semester. I'm working full-time and only going to school part-time, so I needed to find a way to keep from forgetting the topics I've learned while I slowly work towards an electrical engineering degree. I can't convey to you how much pleasure and knowledge I gain from Professor Lewin's lectures." — **United States**



"I watched the 18.06 Linear Algebra lectures by Gil Strang and they are great. I am a Ph.D. student in hydrology, and I had never had this material formally, but I have taken several courses that rely heavily on its application. In this course the material is presented so clearly that it all just clicked... So well that I went out and bought Strang's Applications in Linear Algebra book, also very good. Thanks!" — **Kris Kuhlman, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona**

"I am a college student in physics and material science in China. Just weeks ago, I heard about the MIT OCW from my teacher. Then I went to the site and downloaded some material in physics. Thanks for these materials. By reading them through, I have gained a lot of precious experience and skills in my study. In the last, because of money, many good students with great talent and diligent do not have the chance to learn the newest knowledge and understanding of the universe. But now, due to the OCW, the knowledge will spread to more and more people, and it will benefit the whole human-beings." — **Chen Zhiying, student in Beijing, People's Republic of China**

"Your OpenCourseWare is an amazing and remarkable step! I am now currently a student of computer science at BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and I find it very much useful to learn about my courses. I have always had a dream to study at MIT, since I came to know about the institution, its unique teaching methods, but for many reasons I am not able to do so. This initiative gives me the opportunity to self-teach myself. At least I can reach what MIT teaches to their students... I feel better to access your course materials, to enrich my knowledge. To be truthful, I cannot find words to explain how I feel! Kind of unexplainable feeling, like the feeling one feels when someone falls in love!" — **Maruf Muqtadir, student in Bangladesh**

"I had heard about this, but I am feeling it now. You have done a wonderful job to share the MIT educational materials. It is helping us a lot. Your project will serve the entire world. We are very much indebted to you. In our country every year, 3.8 engineering graduates pass out, but we are all starved for good course material. I, on behalf of my country, would like to thank you for your bold and praiseworthy effort. Thank you so much!" — **India**

MIT ALUMNI

"Professors' exposure to the teaching of other professors raises the bar and I am sure that individuals will leap that bar. I think that OCW is a win for MIT students, for professors, for the MIT community, and for education in general." — **Alumnus, Class of 1965**



"As an MIT alum from a developing country (Brazil), I am proud of the beauty (lacking a truly significant word) of this extremely generous and, notwithstanding, sensitively marketed wise MIT' initiative." — **Rogério Machado, Brazilian educator and alumnus of the MIT Sloan School of Management**

"Excellent idea! In this day and age, when it seems like universities are more concerned with making money than advancing and transferring knowledge, this sort of initiative is refreshing." — **MIT Alumna, Class of 1985**

"Having attended the 'Beaver Factory' from 1955 to 1960 with an S.B. in Course 18, I am overjoyed to see the leap that Tech has made in its innovative information sharing. As I peruse the courses (fun to see I have forgotten little) I shall send impressions... MIT's president deserves the highest kudos. Many thanks." — **Alumnus, Class of 1960**