



Learning International Networks Consortium

**BLOSSOMS = *Blended Learning Open Source Science or Math Studies***  
**Quick Overview. September 2008 MIT LINC. <http://linc.mit.edu>**

**Major goals of BLOSSOMS:**

- To develop a large, free repository of blended-learning video modules, each presentable in one class session, created by gifted volunteer teachers from around the world, with objective of developing deeper and richer skills in students, enhancing critical-thinking skills, and encouraging science, math and engineering careers.
- To create BLOSSOMS partnerships with colleagues in developing countries that will seek to overcome traditional barriers to Open-Educational-Resource (OER) use and production in those countries.
- To develop from the start a Consortium Model of sustainable funding for BLOSSOMS so the initiative can build on this model as it grows and spreads to additional countries.

**What is unique about BLOSSOMS?**

- **CO-INVENTION.** It is an OER initiative designed and created by a consortium of educators from developing countries and MIT.
- **BROAD SUPPORT.** Implementation will be achieved through partnerships with universities, high schools and ministries of education in selected developing countries.
- **LOCALLY COMPATIBLE TECHNOLOGIES.** Pursues strategy of technological minimalism by distributing modules via videotapes as well as streaming digital and DVD options, with twin goals of reaching as many high schools worldwide as possible and making module production easier for educators that want to participate.
- **MAGNIFIES ROLE OF IN-CLASS TEACHER.** Follows a blended learning approach to technology-enabled education, allowing teacher to alternate structured video segments with active in-class learning. This pedagogical approach enhances and leverages the role of the classroom teacher while at the same time introducing a less threatening but powerful technological teaching aid.
- **EMPHASIZES CRITICAL THINKING.** Moving away from rote memorization towards problem framing and formulation in a variety of settings.
- **EXCITES STUDENTS TOWARDS MATH AND SCIENCE.** A major goal is to attract more students to careers in engineering, science and math, as well as to create scientific literacy in a larger fraction of the population.
- **ENHANCES BUT DOES NOT REPLACE MANDATED CURRICULA.** The blended learning modules will build from state-mandated curricula, in mind-expanding and exciting exercises, but are not meant to substitute for the required curriculum.
- **TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND MODULE PRODUCERS.** Program will incorporate training workshops supplemented by on-line training.
- **MODULES GRADED BY USERS.** The initiative will be a screened OER repository of video modules managed at MIT, with module quality assessed not only through peer review but also through on-line user evaluation feedback.