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Dear Participants:

I am pleased to welcome you to the MIT campus for this second annual international meeting of LINC, the Learning International Networks Consortium. LINC has grown, and this year there will be a two-day symposium followed by a hands-on two-day workshop. The theme of your meetings is "Creating and Sustaining Learning Communities" — an area to which we are very committed.

The topics of your presentations, panel discussions, and workshops are consistent with MIT's core educational activities and are of great interest to us. During these four days, you will focus on how higher education in developing regions might benefit from the leveraging of technologies, including Internet, television, and radio. By effectively positioning technology, significant numbers of additional young learners in emerging nations can be offered college and university educations.

You will have an opportunity to hear from leading experts at MIT and peer organizations. Our OpenCourseWare program now posts the content of over 500 MIT courses on the Web. Additionally, "MIT World" is an on-demand video archive of some of MIT's key public lectures and presentations from the past two years. Pedagogical innovations on the Web are providing new and innovative learning environments for students, both on campus and at a distance. These include Web-based laboratories ("ILabs"), PIVoT (Physics Interactive Video Tutor), and animated simulations such as Technology Enabled Active Learning (TEAL). You will also be exposed to on-line course management systems.

You bring extraordinary expertise to this conference, and all of us will learn from your experience, your plans, and your operating constraints. Your experiences with ever-expanding dimensions of technology-leveraged learning are invaluable to us and will help shape our outreach policies going forward.

You have a full agenda ahead of you! In the classic MIT tradition, you will leave here with a homework assignment to design LINC as a growing and sustainable organization. I wish you all the best and hope that your stay in Cambridge is a rewarding one.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles M. Vest".

Charles M. Vest