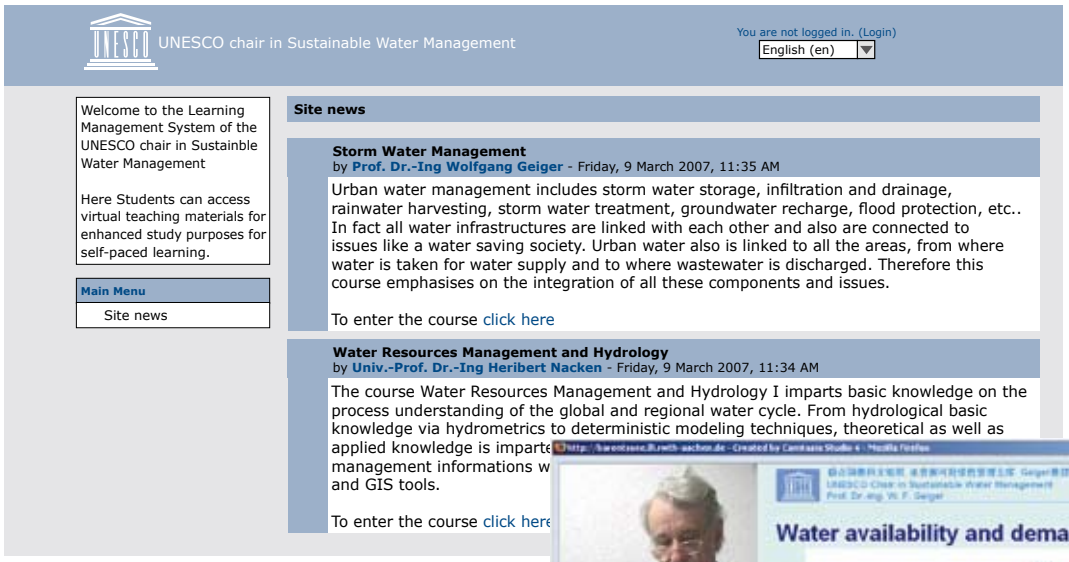
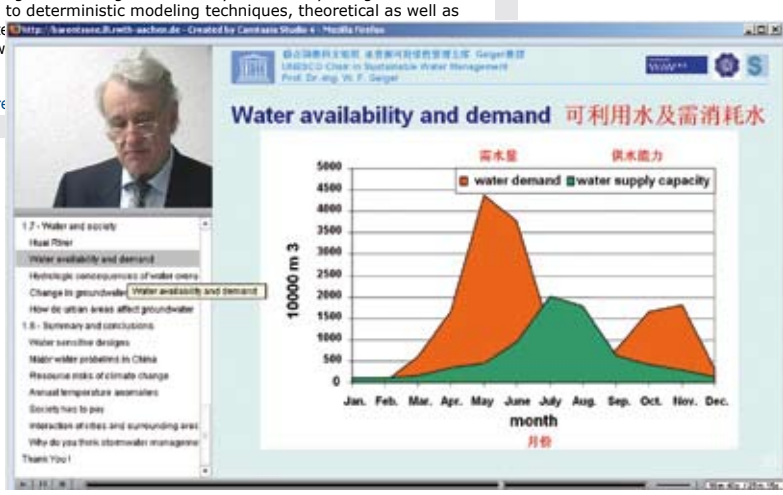
eLearning concept for the UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Water Management, China

The UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Water Management centres upon the capacity development of engineers at three Chinese universities, i.e. Tongji University Shanghai, Ocean University of China, Qingdao, and Jinan University. The Head of the Chair, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Geiger, aims especially at conveying a solid knowledge of the sustainable management of water resources. In the process, priority is given to individual solution strategies taking account of the local, cultural and financial parameters in China.





To this end, the German IHP/HWRP Secretariat has supported the development of an internet based eLearning concept, which has been designed and implemented at the Academic and Research Department Engineering Hydrology at RWTH Aachen University under guidance of Univ. Prof. Dr.-Ing. H. Nacken. In March 2007, the resulting system was first used in the courses "Storm Water Management" and "Water Resources Management and Hydrology".

The courses offered by the UNESCO Chair are designed both as Blended Learning as well as pure eLearning units. Blended Learning is a mixture of traditional university face-to-face teaching and the possibilities offered by media-supported teaching and learning.

The system includes a self-assessment function enabling the students to independently test the knowledge gained. This is where the full range of media-supported options and self-determined learning makes its appearance: multiple choice, single choice, yes-no questions, allocation questions and questions with short answers. Entirely interactive exercises or programme-supported calculations complete the knowledge test.

The system finally allows the students to receive additional information. This may include references to other scripts, internet portals or classical specialist literature.

Experience has revealed that students having received a positive feedback from the knowledge tests are much more inclined to give attention to further details on a subject area.

The system is being further developed. It is planned to address a wider range of topics as well as to open the system to other languages.

http://unesco-china.lfi.rwth-aachen.de

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