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Press Release

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CoPs make their mark in education

Communities of Practice (CoPs) have long been recognised in business as a setting where knowledge is created, developed and sustained. A new book is now available which draws together research from around the world to highlight the role that CoPs can play in the field of education. 'Communities of Practice: Creating Learning Environments for Educators', the second Communities of Practice book by Chris Kimble and Paul Hildreth, is now available as a practical resource for teachers, lecturers and other educators.

The authors explain: "learning is essentially a social activity. When we were working on our previous book 'Knowledge Networks: Innovation through Communities of Practice' it became clear to us that Communities of Practice were also having a significant impact in the field of education." In a time when education is becoming ever more regulated and anonymous CoPs offer a way of putting the individual back at the heart of the machine. Teaching is a very personal activity; teachers benefit greatly from links with other teachers - both colleagues in their own establishment and those in the wider teaching community. Membership of these communities allows teachers to collaborate, to develop new knowledge, and to develop and learn about new resources.

The aim of the book is to benefit from the expertise of people who have worked with CoPs in real world educational situations and who can provide real examples of supporting real CoPs; bringing guidance, ideas, support and a genuine and useful resource to practitioners and academics who work in the field of education and CoPs.

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More information including Table of Contents and Chapter Abstracts can be found at
http://www.chris-kimble.com/CLEE/index.html
or on FaceBook
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6444719953

About the editors:

Chris Kimble is a lecturer in Information Systems and Management in the Department of Computer Science at the University of York, United Kingdom. Before moving to York, he was lecturer in Information Technology at the University of Newcastle's Business School, and a researcher in both the Business School and the Department of Computer Science at the University of Northumbria. His broad area of research is Knowledge Management. His areas of particular interest are Communities of Practice and the problems associated with supporting distributed working in cross-cultural or trans-national contexts. He is the leader of the Management and Information Research Group at York and a co-founder of the Northern Interest Group on Information Systems and Organisations. He has supervised several PhD students and has published more than 50 articles in journals, conferences, reports and books. Chris also acts as a consultant for information systems textbooks and as a reviewer for numerous academic journals.

After 11 years teaching modern languages, Paul Hildreth went back to university, in York (United Kingdom), to "convert" to IT. Having completed his MSc, he stayed on to do a DPhil exploring the field of Knowledge Management. This work convinced him that Knowledge Management is not about technology but about people and led him to explore the emerging and fascinating field of Communities of Practice (CoPs). Recognising the pressures imposed on organisations by globalisation, he concentrated on researching how CoPs can function in a distributed international environment. The work produced a number of well-received journal and conference papers. Having completed his DPhil, Paul now runs his own independent Knowledge Management consultancy and is a leading figure in the fast-growing sport of Rock-It-Ball. He lives in rural North Yorkshire with Maggie and Tom, and cats Chloe and Izzy. When he manages to find a little spare time, he likes to indulge his hobbies of kit and classic cars, guitar and Rock-it-Ball.

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