Stephen Heppell is the founder of ULTRALAB, Anglia Polytechnic University's learning technology research centre in Chelmsford that has an enviable global reputation for creativity, innovation and common sense.

The 2005 conference committee presents him with great pleasure as the keynote speaker. The role of the keynote address is to set the tone for the entire conference and Stephen Heppell will inspire information leaders gathering this week at the University of Hong Kong.

Professor Heppell has been referred to as the UK's leading on-line education guru. The Times Educational Supplement called him "the man who is single-handedly doing more than any other to enlighten government thinking on the use of computers in schools... and who sits on more government committees, task forces and think tanks concerned with technology than almost anyone else."

Ultralab is at the heart of the UK's largest and most innovative projects in ICT and learning. Some of the projects include Schools OnLine with the DTI, Tesco SchoolNet 2000, Learning in the New Millennium with Nortel (a collaboration set up to invent an intelligent learning toy for 4-8 year olds), the on-line pilot for the University for Industry, Notschool. net (a virtual school for phobics, truants, the excluded and the many others outside of formal educational institutions), CreativeNet with the Design Council, and much more. Most recently a long term collaboration with Oracle in the US has produced the innovative Oracle Millennium Project (think.com) – a set of learning community tools for up to 100 million children.

Professor Heppell sits on a number of impressive task forces, all influential in government policy making. He chairs the multimedia jury for the Royal Television
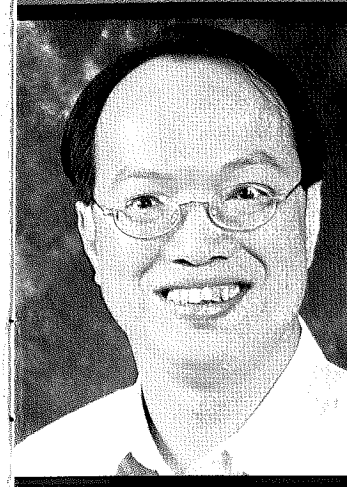
Society and sits on both the BAFTA Interactive Entertainments Committee and the Department of Culture Media and Sport's working committee in Internet policy futures for the Cinema, Music, Radio and TV industries.

In the recent past Stephen was a member of a parliamentary Information Superhighway Policy Forum and a committee producing the influential "Information and Communication Technology in UK Schools" report that defined the British government's ICT schools policy.

Professor Heppell has a long list of TV appearances and involvement with the media. He writes regularly for the popular press: broadsheets, weeklies and tabloids, and has written many chapters in books and journals. Most recently he has appeared in a series of five television programs about children, ICT and learning. He also sits on the BBC's Independent Advice Panel on BBC Online and is currently working on a variety of projects focusing on the future of television in the digital age.

Professor Heppell is passionate about sailboat racing. He races his own boat and was coach to the UK's International Mirror Class World Championship squad in 1997 and 1999. He sits on the Royal Yachting Association's Race Training Committee responsible for the pathway between Junior / Youth sailing and the Olympic squad.

Professor Heppell remains a teaching professor who still lectures and supervises students. He is currently external examiner for the ICT in Education masters degree in Trinity College, Dublin. Through Ultralab he acts as consultant to a broad spectrum of organisations: broadcast media, retail, finance, publishing, telecommunications and, of course, learning and eLearning.

Prof. P. C. Wong is a Professor in the Department of Information Engineering, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Since 1998, he committed to help schools in the use of ICT in education. He developed the Hong Kong Cyber Campus which connected over 800 schools to the Internet, unofficially leading schools into the information era. In 2000, he built the Hong Kong Education City which became the largest education portal in Hong Kong. Because of his contributions, he received the Medal of Honor from the government in 2001.

Prof. Wong serves in a number of government committees to advise on policies related to technologies and education. Currently, he is busy with two projects: (1) NetSchool – an e-Learning, e-Community, and e-Portfolio platform for schools in Hong Kong, and (2) VChina – a video conferencing network linking over 100 schools in Hong Kong and Shanghai and supporting remote teaching, cultural exchange and project learning.

Mr. YIP Chee-tim is Principal of Pui Ching Middle School, Hong Kong. He is a pioneer of IT-in-Education. Taking his secondary school as an experimental field, Yip develops a framework of e-learner-centered learning and establishes the first learner-centered e-school in Hong Kong. During the past few years, a technological foundation has been laid, pedagogical practice modified, the school organization restructured, and learning, attitudes and behavior reconceptualized. Yip has been supervising and teaching graduate classes in Information Technology in Education at The Chinese University of Hong Kong for years. He is also a member of the Steering Committee on Strategic Development of Information Technology in Education, Education and Manpower Bureau, Hong Kong.

Carol Kuhlthau, Professor II in the Department of Library and Information Science in the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, is internationally recognized for her research on the information search process (ISP). She has written many papers, articles, and books on the users' perspective of information seeking including her latest, the second edition of Seeking Meaning: a Process Approach to Library and Information Services, published in 2004. She is a frequent keynote speaker and workshop presenter on the inquiry process and information literacy and is recipient of numerous prestigious research and service awards including the American Library Association Jesse Shera Research Award; the Association of College and Research Libraries Dudley Bibliographic Instruction Award; the American Association of School Librarians Distinguished Service Award; the Library and Information Technology Association Kilgour Award for Research in Library and Information Technology and the Association of Library and Information Science Education Professional Contribution Award.