Foreword

E-learning has been developed across different fields as an effective educational tool, in corporate or academic environment or authorized teaching and training centers.

This book provides readers with the methods to apply new information and communication technology to enhance the learning process with flexibility in regard to time and space. Lifelong learning and continuous training are more easily accomplished if we have the means to access learning activities without the constraints of time and location.

Computers and Internet connections allow us to accomplish that. People of all ages, all ethnic groups and occupations at different locations can jointly participate in the process and try to learn and understand intercultural issues and languages from the comfort of their own homes or workplaces. We believe that this will be the important trend for e-learning, especially for learning languages and cultures.

Maiga Chang and Chen-Wo Kuo both have participated in the e-learning National Science and Technology Program in Taiwan. They are knowledgeable researchers and experienced practitioner in the e-learning field. They and IGI Global recognize the emergence of a number of innovative instruction methods used in studying cultures and learning languages. This interesting and enlightening book surveys and reviews those methods by the experts in the field. I am certain that it will be of value to both teachers and students in teaching and learning languages and cultures.

Chao-Han Liu
Vice President, Academia Sinica

Chao-Han Liu is Vice President of Academia Sinica in October, 2006 after serving as President of the National Central University in Taiwan for 12 years and as Chancellor of the University System of Taiwan for 4 years. He received his PhD degree in 1965 from Brown University. He started his academic career at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1965 where he taught Electrical Engineering for 25 years before returning to Taiwan in 1990. He played an important role in the development of the Space Program in Taiwan, as one of the original members of the planning committee in the early 90’s and later a member of the steering committee for the first 15 years of the program. He is a Distinguished Research Fellow at the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics.