Lesson description
Online learning has become a widespread method for providing education in universities as well as in corporate settings. However, few instructors have been adequately trained for online environment. Online teaching often requires new ways of presentation, interaction, and facilitation. The purpose of this lesson is to help online instructors to develop their skills toward designing and delivering effective online courses in the future. In particular, we will address:

- Roles of faculty and students in online courses
- Components and steps of establishing an engaging learning environment

Hopefully you will develop facilitating skills in using many of the best practices that will help you to be a successful online facilitator.

So, what do we mean by “online facilitation”? Online facilitation, in broad terms can be described as the act of helping learners to learn through online medium. It is also referred to in the literature as “online moderation”. In this class, facilitation is a pedagogical term that uses student-centered approaches rather than an instructor-driven attitude. That is, the instructor will not appear as a figure of content expert only, but will take many different roles to facilitate learners with the learning process. What roles they should take and how they should carry out each role will be discussed in detail in this lesson.

Lesson goals
To help online instructors to design and deliver effective online courses in the future to maximize learner engagement and learning outcomes.

Lesson objectives
After taking this lesson, you should be able to

- describe the roles you play to help online learning be effective.
- select learning facilitation methods and techniques that are best suited to engaging learners and maximizing their learning.
- assess how successfully you have facilitated effective learning.
- make recommendations regarding online learning initiatives.

Lesson Topics
There are two sub-topics to address within this week’s class: roles of faculty and students in online courses and ways of establishing an engaging learning environment. Each topic has a lesson note that includes summaries of key concepts from research and experiences, insightful slide shows, required activities and assignments, and a reading list.

*Topic One: Roles of faculty and students in online courses*