Date: Oct. 20, 2007
Name: 王建民
School number: 49682002
Book title: *The World Is Flat*
Author: Thomas L. Freidman
Published year: 2006
Time I spent reading the book this week: 3 hours 20 minutes

Comments:
I was so surprised to know that the world today is so different from the world 10 years ago. I was also astonished to find that there is a great potential for us all to change the world if we want to. Before I read this book, I thought that computer is something that helps us do things more efficiently. It helps us do the calculation faster, save a lot of information in the hard drive, retrieve the well-organized data in no time, etc. As for the Internet, it shortens the distance between people: messengers help us communicate with each other without thinking of distance; the strong searching machine in Google and Yahoo help us find whatever information we need; what is more, we can spend a lot of time playing the on-line computer games. But I didn't have a single idea that the power of the Internet can be so large that, if joined, the power can be collected and can reform the infrastructure of the world. Since there is no distance among individuals, the world is therefore flat.

Comments related to the weekly agenda or other hot topics:
Today I hear a piece of news that the universities in Taiwan are to be divided into five different levels: The research universities, research-instruction universities, instruction-research universities, instruction universities, and community colleges. I think the decision makers in the Ministry of Education (MOE) might have very different brains from those of ours. I think most of us cannot distinguish universities of research-instruction and universities of instruction-research. When they have this type of notion, I conjecture that they have presumed that all universities stay the same all the time. If a university is regarded as a research university, instruction does not matter in that school, and vice versa. I cannot agree with these people on what they have wanted to do. They can have some policies in providing different fundings for different projects. But they cannot determine which school is of which type.