

# AGENDA FOR THE XI AAOU EXECUTIVE BOARD

## AGENDA ITEM NO - 3

**Sub: Annual Report 1997.**

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- 1) As informed in the last conference, the AAOU secretariat has started functioning from New Delhi with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1996.
- 2) The following changes have taken place in the membership of the Executive Board before the end of 1996:
  - a) Professor M. Shamsher Ali, Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, Dhaka laid down his office, and by virtue of that he ceased to be a member of the Executive Board.
  - b) Professor M. Aminul Islam has taken over as the new Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University, Dhaka, and by virtue of that he has become a member of the Executive Board.
- 3) The AAOU started implementing from the current year the following:
  - a) A scheme for Inter-university exchange of academics/staff, and
  - b) Institution of two awards i.e. the Best Research Paper Award and the Award for Meritorious Services to the Cause of Distance and Open Learning in Asia.

- 4) The X Annual Conference of the AAOU was held at Tehran under the auspices of the Payame Noor University, Tehran, on 14-16 November 1996. In all 350 participants from various countries of Asia attended the Conference. UNESCO PROAP, Bangkok and COL, Vancouver, Canada had also sent their representatives. The main theme of the Conference was Innovations in Distance and Open Learning. Besides plenary sessions, there were several discussion sessions at which research papers were presented and discussed. The participants expressed satisfaction over the arrangements for the Conference and the standard of discussions in the sessions.
- 5) It was decided at Tehran that the XI Conference of the AAOU would be held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, under the auspices of the Institut Teknologi MARA, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia, in November 1997. The main theme of this Conference is: Quality Assurance in Distance and Open Learning.
- 6) It was decided at Tehran that the next meeting of this Executive Board as well as of the Annual Meeting of the General Body, may be held at Kuala Lumpur preceding the Annual Conference. Accordingly these meetings are being held here.
- 7) **COL Assistance:** The Commonwealth of Learning has agreed to provide a sum of US \$ 3000 to be kept at the disposal of the President of the AAOU for being utilised in giving financial assistance to deserving academics/scholars from the Commonwealth countries which are members of the AAOU, to participate in the XI Annual Conference now being held at Kuala Lumpur. The COL was also kind enough to agree to the utilisation of balance amount of US \$ 750 carried forward from the year 1996 for the same purpose during the current year. It may be recalled that some of the academics/scholars who were granted financial assistance did not finally participate in the Tehran Conference and hence there was this saving of US \$ 750.

- 8) **UNESCO PROAP Assistance:** It is learnt that the UNESCO, PROAP, Bangkok, has provided a financial assistance of US \$ 3000 for the Xith Annual Conference of the AAOU now being held at Kuala Lumpur. The amount has been directly sent to the organisers of the Conference i.e. Institut Teknologi Mara, Malaysia.
- 9) The AAOU **has provided** a financial assistance of US \$1000 to the Organisers of the XI AAOU Conference. This is in keeping with the practice followed in the past.
- 10) As a part of the drive to raise membership of the AAOU, the President wrote letters to several Universities outside Asia to become "Associate Members". In addition, he also wrote to several Correspondence Course Institutions of India (attached to the conventional universities) for becoming "Associate Members". In response we have received requests from 4 Universities in India (Mumbai, Hyderabad, Madurai and Kodaikanal) and 3 institutions from abroad. Their cases are being put up for the consideration of this Board.

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