

AGENDA ITEM 3: Annual Report 1998

a) New members : Seven new members were admitted by the Executive Board at its VII Meeting held on Nov 4 in Hong Kong. These are as follows :

i) Full Members :

Karnataka State Open University, Mysore, India
 Netaji Subhas Open University, Calcutta, India
 Jiangxi Radio & TV University, China

ii) Associate Members :

The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, New Zealand
 SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, India
 The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, New Delhi, India.
 Anadolou University, Open University Faculty Eskirsehir, Turkey

b) New Executive Board : At the Annual General Meeting held on Nov 4 in Hong Kong the following were elected into office for the period Jan. 1999 – Dec. 2001

PRESIDENT:	Professor Tam Sheung-Wai President, OUHK, Hong Kong SAR, China
SECRETARY GENERAL:	Professor Wong Tat-Meng OUHK, Hong Kong SAR, China
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:	Professor Abdul W Khan Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, India
MEMBERS: China & Far East:	Professor Yu Yun Xiu Vice President, CCRTVU, China
South East Asia:	Dr MA. Cristina D. Padolina Chancellor, UPOU, Philippines
	Professor Iam Chaya-Ngam President, STOU, Thailand
South Asia:	Professor M Aminul Islam BOU, Bangladesh
	Professor N. R. Arthenayake Vice-Chancellor, OUSL, Sri Lanka
West Asia :	Professor Hassan Zohoor Chancellor, PNU, Iran
Coopted:	Prof. Dr. Thiab Ayyoush President, Al-Quds OU, Palestine
	Professor Chen Yih-Young President, NOU, Chinese Taipei

c) AAOU 98

The AAOU 98 was successfully organized by the Open University of Hong Kong in its Homantin Campus from Nov. 2-6. Four concurrent Preconference workshops took place on Nov 2-3. These were :

<u>Workshops</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
i) Asian Open Universities Librarians Roundtable	20
ii) The use of IT in the development of distance education course materials in science and technology	23
iii) Meeting staff development needs in open and distance education	10
iv) Adding value to multimedia with video and audio	13

The main Conference was attended by more than 210 delegates representing 80 tertiary institutions from 24 countries.

- The Open Ceremony was officiated by The Hon. Anson Chan, Chief Secretary for Administration, Government of the Hong Kong SAR.
- One keynote, 5 plenary addresses and 115 oral and posters covering the theme : The Asian Distance Learner were presented. The standard of paper presenters and the level of discussion continue to improve and approach international standards.
- The Best Paper Award for AAOU 98 was won by Associate Professor Thomas Tang from the Open University of Hong Kong. His paper is entitled "Approaches to learning of school teachers studying distance education courses in educational psychology"
- The Meritorious Service Award was presented to Professor Shinya Obi, former President of the University of the Air, Japan.

The host, the Open University of Hong Kong was commended for its excellent organisation and delegates were very satisfied with all aspects of the conference.

d) Sponsorship for AAOU 98

Besides COL and UNESCO-PROAP, the AAOU98 Organising Committee at OUHK was able to obtain additional funding support from the World Bank, the Croucher Foundation, the Lam Kin Chung Morning Sun Charity trust and others. The strong financial support enabled a large number delegates from China as well as other developing countries to be supported.

e) AAOU-Net

The AAOU-Net was launched on November 6 in a ceremony officiated by AAOU President, Prof. Abdul W Khan and AAOU President-elect Prof. S W Tam.

Various information concerning the Association are posted on the AAOU-Net which is also linked to the ICDE and COL Webpages. The Websites of member institutions who have provided the Secretariat with the information have also been linked. It is hoped that there will be increased usage as staff from member institutions becomes more aware of its existence.

f) Inter-University Staff Exchange Scheme

After some initial activities in 1997, things became rather quiet in 1998 perhaps due to the Asia economic crisis.