

AGENDA ITEM 3 - Annual Report 2000

1) Introduction

At the beginning of January 2000 the Association's membership stood at 45 (27 Full Members and 18 Associate Members) while the opening balance of its funds stood at US\$66,512.92.

During the year the following new members were admitted:

- i) Sichuan RTVU (Full Member)
- ii) Directorate of Distance Education, University of Jammu (Assoc. Member)
- iii) Simon Fraser University (Assoc. Member)

while the case of CAP College Foundation Inc. is subject to an appeal by the applicant.

As of 31 December 2000 total membership stood at 48 (28 Full Members and 20 Associate Members) and the closing balance stood at a healthy US\$78,831.78.

2) Personnel Changes in the Executive Committee

During the year, the following personnel changes occurred in the membership of the Executive Committee due to retirement/resignation at member institutions.

The following members retired:

- i) Prof. Abdul W Khan (IGNOU)
- ii) Prof. Iam Chaya-Ngam (STOU)
- iii) Prof. M Aminul Islam (BOU)
- iv) Prof. Y Y Chen (NOU, Chinese Taipei)

Their places on the EB were taken up by:

- i) Prof. V S Prasad (IGNOU)*
- ii) Prof. Tong-In Wongsothorn (STOU)
- iii) Prof. M Qaisuddin (BOU)
- iv) Prof. S S Hwang (NOU, Chinese Taipei)**

3) AAOU2000 Annual Conference

The Association's annual conference 'AAOU2000' was successfully hosted by the University of the Philippines, Open University (UPOU) from 25 to 27 October 2000 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Manila on the theme *Ideology, Pedagogy and Technology: Issues in Open Learning and Distance Education*.

A total of 197 delegates from 21 countries attended the conference. Of these, 87 (44%) were from outside the Philippines.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Dr Ester Garcia, Chairperson of the Philippines Commission on Higher Education while the closing ceremony was officiated by Dr Francisco Nemenzo, President of the University of the Philippines System.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Konaiholeva Helu-Thaman of the University of the South Pacific while plenary reports were delivered by Dr Ulrich Bernath (Carl Von Ossietzky University), Dr Nancy Van Wagoner (Acadia University) and Ms Louisa Kwok (Open University of Hong Kong). A fourth keynote speaker, Dr Motilal Sharma (Asian Development Bank) did not show up. Fortunately, Prof. Tony Bates was able to step in on short notice and did a commendable job with the rescue effort.

Besides these, 64 oral and 30 poster presentations were also scheduled. However, it was a matter of disappointment and an increasing concern that 31% of the oral presenters and 43% of the poster presenters did not show up. This trend of no shows is getting rather serious and steps must be taken to address the problem in future AAOU Conferences.

On the other hand, it is pleasing to report that a new activity featuring a series of 'Round-table sessions' with experts (Prof. Tony Bates of UBC, Prof. Gary Poole of UBC, Prof. Judith Greene of UKOU, Dr Fred Lockwood of UKOU, Dr Ulrich Bernath of CVOU, Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede of OUHK and Dr Joan Collinge of SFU) were well received by the participants.

In addition, a number of pre-conference workshops and a meeting with the President and Secretary-General of the AAOU were also organised. Attendance was satisfactory and participants were able to develop a better understanding on the working of the Association.

In keeping with the standard of AAOU conferences, there were numerous good quality presentations. The best paper prize was awarded to Dr Paul Kawachi of Saga University for his paper entitled *Democratisation of access to learning opportunities: opening up global education to Japanese learners*.

As in previous AAOU conferences, participants were treated to a variety of cultural and gastronomic experiences, which were most interesting and enriching. It is hoped that this will continue at future conferences.

Overall, the host, UPOU, led by Chancellor Cristina Padolina, deserves our congratulations and thanks for the excellent job they did in organising the conference.

a) Sponsorship for AAOU 2000

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and UNESCO-PROAP provided grants of CN\$5,000 and US\$5,000 respectively. In the interest of providing support to as many delegates from developing countries as possible, these funds were disbursed in the form of COL and UNESCO-PROAP awards, each valued at the cost of the Conference Registration Fee. It was hoped that armed with these awards, participants would be able to secure additional funding support from their own institutions. The participants who received awards and the titles of their papers are as follows:

i) COL Awards

- Ms Selina Akhtar Jahan (BOU, Bangladesh)
Access to Higher Education: For Whom and the Role of Bangladesh Open University School of Education
- Prof. Asha Kanwar (IGNOU, India)
Joint paper entitled: *Access to Distance Education for Asian Women*. Also gave a presentation at the AAOU Meeting of the General Board
- Dr S Ganesan (IGNOU, India)
Technological Support Services at IGNOU: a Hill Slate Experience
- Dr Ramershawar Prasad Sharma (Kota OU, India)
Ideology, Pedagogy, Technology in Open and Distance Learning
- Ms Jayati Roy (UiTM, Malaysia)
Success in Distance Learning: Malaysian Study
- Dr Abu Daud Silong (UNITAR, Malaysia)
Barriers to Self Directed Learning in a Virtual Environment Among Adult Students
- Prof. N Arthenayake (SLOU, Sri Lanka)
Member of Meritorious Service Award Adjudication Panel, participated in the AAOU Meetings of the Executive Board and General Board

The following were offered and accepted the awards but did not show up at the conference:

- Dr Renu Nanda (University of Jammu)
- Dr Chandrakant Puri (SNDT Women's University)
- Dr Syeda Ifteara Khanum (BOU)

The President and CEO of COL, Dato Prof. G Dhanarajan has kindly agreed that the left over funds amounting to US\$910 be used (together with a new allocation) to sponsor participants for the AAOU2001 conference in New Delhi.

ii) UNESCO-PROAP Awards

- Dr Paulina Pannen (Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia)
The Learning Tutor
- Dr Naswil Idris (Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia)
The Issue of High Technology and High Human Touch in Open Learning and Distance Education
- Prof. Ji Dinguan (Shaanxi RTVU, China)
The Application of Educational Technology in Open Education in Remote Regions

- Prof. Ding Xin (CCRTVU, China)
On Modern Distance Education Pilot Programs in China
- Qi Hong (CCRTVU, China)
Educational Concept Facing of New Century's Challenge
- Prof. Sun Luyi (CCRTVU, China)
Attended the AAOU Meetings of the Executive Board and General Board
- Prof. Ge Xiaochun (Harbin RTVU, China)
On the Establishment of the Learning Support Services System for Open and Distance Education in China
- Prof. Zhang Daixia (Beijing RTVU, China)
Attended the AAOU Meeting of the General Board
- Dr Somkid Promjouy (STOU, Thailand)
Participated in the AAOU Meeting of the General Board and Workshop 1
- Dr Nguyen Dang Suu (Hanoi OU, Vietnam)
Participated in the AAOU Meeting of the General Board
- Dr Priscelina Legasto (UPOU, Philippines)
Nation formation, Identity Construction and the Distance Learner: The Filipiniana Online Project of the UP Open University
- Prof. Melinda Bandalaria (UPOU, Philippines)
Distance Education Research in the Philippines: What Can the Data Tell Us?
- Dr Rosalina Ora'a-Fuentes (SAIDE, Philippines)
Open Learning – A Personal Experience: From 'Sage on the Stage' to 'Guide on the Side' to 'Advocate for Increased TLC and support'
- Dr Joane Serrano (UPOU, Philippines)
Persistence of UPOU's Tele-Tutorial Students
- Prof. Patricia Arinto (UPOU, Philippines)
The Theory and Practice of Self-Directed Learning at the UP Open University
- Dr Franco Teleg (UPOU, Philippines)
Open Learning for Government Employees Toward Effective Public Service
- Dr Melecio Fabrios (UPOU, Philippines)
Sa Loob ng Sariling Pamamahay: Learners Perception of Feeling at Home in the Culture-bound Terrain of Komunikasyon / Test and Tutorials at the UP Open University
- Dr Shyamal Majundar (Colomb Plan Staff College, Philippines)
A Framework for selecting appropriate Web-based Instruction

- Dr Roderic Ofrin et al. (UPOU, Philippines)
A Pilot Study on the Information Technology for Health Research Course
- Dr Caridad Fiar-od (Mountain Province State Polytechnic College, Philippines)
Open College Program and Research through Village Dialogues in Indigenous Communities: An Experience

4) Inter-University Staff Exchange Scheme

IGNOU and OUHK continue to be the main supporters of this scheme through the offer of four and two fellowships respectively. Each fellowship was for a month-long visit to the host institution for research and/or training purposes. The host institution provides office space, support for accommodation as well as a living allowance while the recipient institution has to bear the travel costs as well as the salary of their staff. The following fellowships projects were implemented:

a) IGNOU

- Prof. Mohamed Ali Ahmadvand (PNU)
- Prof. Shafiqul Alam (BOU)
- Ms Nilofer Jahan (BOU)
- Dr Zhang Wei-Yuan (OUHK) (unfortunately not completed due to scheduling problems)

b) OUHK

- Prof. Asha Kanwar (IGNOU)
- Ms Jayati Roy (UiTM)

All visiting fellows found the experience very positive for their own development and useful networking took place.

At the XV Meeting of the EB, UPOU, PNU and STOU pledged their support. Of these, STOU has come out with an offer of 4 fellowships in 2001 while PNU contributed one. The offer of support from UPOU has yet to be realised. Discussion with BRAOU on this matter is in progress and BRAOU is expected to announce its contribution at the New Delhi Meeting.

5) AAOU Net – A Webpage with a new address and a new look

During the past two years, the AAOU Website has been hosted inside the OUHK domain. Towards the end of the year the AAOU Website was registered under its own domain name and its new address is: www.aaou.net

Along with this change of address, the Website has been redesigned with more user-friendly features. Realizing that bandwidth is still a serious problem in many AAOU member countries, the Webpage now features two versions: a text only version for those with bandwidth problems and a more fancy version for those with broadband connections. Hyperlinks to the Websites of member institutions were updated. In addition links were also made to the Website of 'Partner' institutions such as COL, ICDE and UNESCO. A 'hit' counter has also been installed to get an idea of the popularity of our Website.

6) International Collaboration and Promotion

- a) The Association collaborated with the ICDE and the University of South Australia (as a supporter) in organising an international conference entitled '*Distance Education: an open question*' held in Adelaide from 11–13 September 2000.

The AAOU President participated in the conference while the Secretary-General served on its International Advisory Committee.

- b) The Association collaborated with the ICDE in the organisation of the ICDE 20th World Conference scheduled to be held in Dusseldorf, Germany from 1–5 April 2001. Prof. S W Tam and Prof. T M Wong as well as a number of AAOU members served on its International Programme Committee.
- c) Prof. S W Tam, as President, represented the AAOU in the meeting of the Regional Follow-up Committee for the World Conference on Higher Education held in Kuala Lumpur from 2–4 November 2000.
- d) Prof. S W Tam, as President of AAOU, delivered a plenary address at the International Symposium on Open Learning of Year 2000 held in Taipei from 16–20 June 2001.
- e) The AAOU collaborated with UNESCO-PROAP and the South China Normal University to co-organise the International Conference on Learning and Teaching On-line: Practices Challenges and Prospects scheduled to be held in Guangzhou from 10–12 January 2001.
- f) The Secretary-General, Prof. T M Wong served as a member of COL's Evaluation Committee to decide on the bids for the hosting of the Commonwealth Forum in 2002.

7) AAOU Development Plan

- a) A new version of the revised Constitution was produced and sent to all members.
- b) A new promotional brochure was produced and distributed to members and at various conferences attended by the President or the Secretary-General.
- c) At the AAOU 2000 conference, the President and Secretary-General met with participants from member institutions to disseminate the Association's development plans and receive feedback from them.

8) Conclusion

Overall, the Year 2000 was a reasonably eventful and successful year. The Secretary-General wishes to record his sincere thanks to the President for his support and guidance, Ms Rita Chui and Ms Winnie Wong for their hard work, and all EB and GB members for their strong co-operation and support. Special thanks to Ms Linda Chow and Mr Tim Maraun for their contributions in the production of this document.

The AAOU is grateful to UNESCO-PROAP and COL for continued sponsorship support

The Board is requested to consider and adopt this report.

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