

AGENDA ITEM 3- Annual Report 2004

1) Introduction

At the beginning of January 2004, the Association's membership stood at 61 members (32 Full members, 28 Associate members and 1 Individual member) while the opening balance of its funds stood at USD 141,714.81.

At the 19th Executive Board Meeting, the following applications were admitted. These institutional applications were approved to begin their membership as of 1 Jan. 2005.

- U.P Rajarshi Tandon Open University, India (Full member)
- Royal Ireland Institute of Business and Technology, Ireland (Associate member)
- Dr. Jack Fei Yang, Chinese Taipei (Individual member)

And the Board approved the institute below as a Full membership to begin his membership status on 1 January, 2004.

- The Open University of Israel, Israel (Full member)

At the 18th Executive Board Meeting in Bangkok, the Board resolved to accept those three institutes as Full members with effect from 1 Jan. 2004.

- Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University, India
- Tamiladu Open University, India
- Open University of Malaysia, Malaysia

Also two institutions below withdrew from our association during the year 2004.

- The University of New England, Australia (UNE)
- Technikon SA (merged with University of South Africa, UNISA)

As of 31 December 2004 total membership stood at 63 (36 Full members, 26 Associate members and 1 Individual member) and the closing balance stood at a healthy USD 164,667.71.

2) AAOU 2004 Annual Conference

The 18th Annual Conference was successfully hosted by Shanghai TV University (STVU) from 28 to 30 November, 2004 at the Learning World, Guoshunlu Rd. STVU under the theme *'Quality Education for All: New Missions and Challenges Facing*

Open Universities

A total of 343 delegates from 33 countries attended the conference. Of these, 193 representatives were from outside the China.

The Opening ceremony officiated by Prof. Zhang Deming, Chair of the Organizing Committee of the Conference and opening speeches by leaders and representatives for Ministry of Education of China, Shanghai Municipal Government and President of AAOU, UNESCO and ICDE.

The keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. John Daniel, President and CEO of The Commonwealth of Learning, Prof. Fujia Yang, Academician, China Academy of Sciences, Vice Chairman of China Association for Science & Technology, Chancellor of Nottingham University, UK and Former President of Fudan University, Prof. James Taylor, President of ICDE and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland, Australia and Prof. Dr. Desmond Keegan, Director for the Irish Distance Education Research and Development Institution, Ireland.

In keeping with the improving standard of AAOU conferences, over 150 oral presentations were also scheduled. For the Best Paper prize, the gold medal was awarded to Dr. Duck-Jay Park and Dr. Sung-Soo Kim of Korea National Open University for their paper entitled: *Challenges Facing the Open University: the Case of the Korea National Open University*. One silver medal was awarded to Dr. Wei-yuan Zhang of The Open University of Hong Kong for his paper entitled *Quality Assurance Online: Development, Validation, and Utilization of the Online Learning Environment Scale (OLES)* and the other silver awardee was Dr. Wei Zhihui, Dr. Chen Li and Dr. Xi Jianhua from Shanghai TV University, Beijing Normal University and their title was *Study of the Index System for Assessing Interactive Qualities of Web-Based Courses*.

In addition, four pre-conference workshops were also held and the participants were treated to a variety of cultural and educational experiences as well as understanding on the field of ODL.

We wish to record our thanks to the following persons who served on various adjudication and selection committees.

- AAOU Award of Meritorious Services

Chair- Dr. Praty Vesarach (Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand)

Prof. Liu Shenshui (National Open University, Chinese Taipei)

Prof. Uma Coomaraswamy (The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka)

- AAOU Best Paper Award

Chair – Prof. Desmond Keegan (The Irish Distance Education Research and Development Institution, Ireland)

Prof. Wong Tat Meng (The Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China)
Prof. Mohd Satar Nurhizam Safie (Open University of Malaysia, Malaysia)
AAOU Secretariat thanks the organizing committee of the Conference for their effort and excellent job in hosting the 2004 AAOU Conference.

3) Sponsorship for AAOU 2004

The Commonwealth of Learning generously provided a grant of CAD 5,000 while UNESCO-PROAP provided a grant of USD 2,000 to sponsor conference participants. Most of these funds were used to support as many delegates from developing countries as possible. The participants who received sponsorship are as follows:

3.1) COL Awards / UNESCO-PROAP Awards

- Mr Monjur_khoda Tarafdar (Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh)
- Prof. M Ershadul Bari (Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh)
- Prof. Syed Altaf Hussain (Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad, Pakistan)
- Prof. Santosh Panda (Indira Gandhi National Open University, India)
- Ms. Meenakshi Mishra (Indira Gandhi National Open University, India)
- Ms. Neelam Chaudhary (Indira Gandhi National Open University, India)
- Ms. Pity Koul ((Indira Gandhi National Open University, India)
- Ms. Chistina Shanthi De Silva (The Open University of Sri Lanka)
- Prof. Uma Coomaraswamy (The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka)
- Mr. Babatunde Ipaye (National Open University of Nigeria, Nigeria)
- Mr. Dele Braimoh (Lesotho National University of Lesotho, Lesotho)\
- Ms. Hyun Ji Kim (Korea National Open University, Korea)
- Ms. Caroline G Makobo (Ministry of Education Department of Teacher Training & Development, Botswana)
- Drs. Yan Haryanto, M.Ed (Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia)
- Drs. Max Gorky Sembiring, M.Sc (Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia)
- Ir. Ida Zubaidah, MA (Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia)
- Drs. Rustam, M.Pd (Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia)
- Drs. Ojat Darajat, MBus (Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia)
- Dra. Siti Julaeha (Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia)

4) Inter-University Staff Exchange Scheme

For the year 2004, a total of four members have joined the scheme: Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), Open University of Malaysia (OUM), Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) and Korea National Open University (KNOU).

We would like to appeal to all the AAOU members to support and enhance this program by offering one or more fellowship so that this program would continue to encourage more members to be contributors for exchange of ideas, experience and

practice for better relationship.

5) Conclusion

The Secretary-General wishes to record her sincere thanks to the President for his support guidance and to all Executive Board and General Board members for their co-operation and support. It is a pleasure to record big thanks to Prof. Sir John Daniel (COL) as well as Prof. Abdul Waheed Khan (UNESCO-PROAP) for their sustained support. Last, I want you to know that I am honored to have served the AAOU as the Secretary-General and I was deeply touched by the friendship, commitment to excellence, diversity, and dedication that the members displayed. I would like to thank you for your support during our service. Again, thank you.

The Board is requested to consider and adopt this report.