

### AGENDA ITEM 3- Annual Report 2006

#### 1) Introduction

At the beginning of January 2006, the Association's membership stood at 63 members (38 Full members, 23 Associate members and 2 Individual members) while the opening balance of its funds stood at USD 182,499.61.

At the XXI Executive Board Meeting, the following applications were admitted. The institutional applications were approved to begin its membership from 1 January, 2007.

- Zhejiang Radio & TV University, China
- Wawasan Open University, Malaysia
- SIM University, Singapore

The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, one of the Associate members applied for withdrawing from AAOU during 2006.

As of 31 December, 2006 the total membership stood at 62 (38 Full members, 22 Associate members and 2 Individual members) and the closing balance stood at a healthy USD 198,300.92.

#### 2) AAOU 2006 Annual Conference

The XX AAOU Annual Conference was successfully hosted by Yunnan Radio & TV University, China from October 11-14, 2006 at the Kunming Expo' Garden Hotel, Kunming under the theme "*Reflections on and Future Prospects for Choice and Use of New Technologies in ODL-Strategies, Cost-Effectiveness and Impacts*".

A total of 293 delegates from 22 countries and regions attended the conference.

The Opening ceremony was presided by Mr. He Fusheng, Deputy Director-General for the Education Department of Yunnan Province. Mr. He Fusheng also officially opened the 20<sup>th</sup> AAOU Annual Conference on 12 October, 2006. Prof. Shao Nan, Chairman of the conference organizing committee and President of Yunnan Radio & TV University, Prof. Ge Daokai, President of AAOU gave the opening speech respectively. Sir John Daniel, President and CEO of Commonwealth of Learning, Dr. Wei Yu, Vice Chairman of China Association for Science and Technology, Prof. Thomas Hulsmann, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany, Prof. Gajaraj Dhanarajan, Vice Chancellor and CEO of Wawasan Open University, Malaysia and Prof. Michael Graham Moore, Professor of Education, the Pennsylvania

State University, USA delivered the keynote speeches.

The Conference received 339 abstracts, 130 full papers eventually. For the Best Paper Awards, the gold medal was awarded to Ahmad Hashem & Mansor Fadzil of Open University Malaysia, Malaysia. Their paper is known as: *Coping with Short-Term Sustained Peak Demands ---Several Cost-Effective Strategies*. One silver medal was awarded to Chang Fengyan & Liu Dailin of China Central Radio and TV University, China. Their paper is entitled: *On the Feasibility of Conducting Formative Assessment Online Illustrated with the Web-Based Formative Assessment for "This is English"-- a Course for the First Year Non-English Majors of CCRTVU*. The other silver awardee was Suciati & Suhartono of Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia. Their paper is named as: *Online Instructional Clinic for Teacher:An Innovative Program to Remedy Instructional Competence Deficiency*.

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

- Members of Selection Committee of AAOU Meritorious Service Award

Chair –Prof. Tan Sri Datuk Dr Anuwar Ali (Senior Vice-President of Open University Malaysia, Malaysia)

Prof. Zhang Deming ( President of Shanghai Television University, China)

Prof. Dr Norihito Tambo ( President of the University of the Air, Japan)

- Members of Selection Committee of AAOU Best Paper Award

Chair – Sir John Daniel (President and CEO of Commonwealth of Learning)

Prof. Gao Liming (Professor of Peking University, China)

Prof. Soon Jeong Hong (Korea National Open University, Korea)

AAOU Secretariat thanks the organizing committee of the Conference for their efforts and excellent job in hosting the 2006 AAOU Conference.

### 3) Sponsorship for AAOU 2006

AAOU contributed a sum of USD 3,000 to meet the costs of the holding of the Executive Committee Meeting, the General Board Meeting and the XX Annual Conference. COL has contributed a sum of CND 5,000 to support delegates from Commonwealth Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) and UNESCO contributed a sum of USD 2,000 to support participants from Philippines, Fiji, Indonesia, China and Thailand to enable their participations in the Conference.

### 4) Inter-University Staff Exchange Scheme

For the year 2006, Korea National Open University (KNOU), the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK), China Central Radio & TV University (CCRTVU), Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University joined the scheme.

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 guidance and support and to all the Executive Board and General Board members for their co-operation and endeavors. It is a pleasure to record big thanks to Prof. Sir John Daniel (COL) as well as Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer (UNESCO-PROAP) for their sustained supports.

**The Board is requested to consider and adopt this report.**