

ANNEXURE B:
AAOU ANNUAL REPORT 2009 (REPORTED ON MARCH 4th, 2010)

INTRODUCTION

Previous Meetings held by TJRTVU, Tianjin, China, in 2008 has recommended the Secretariat to carry out the 4 (four) Task Force programs of (1) the AAOU Quality Assurance (A-QA), (2) the AAOU Shared Curriculum for Masters Program on the Management Open and Distance Education (A-CMODE), (3) the AAOU Publication Copyright (A-PCR), and (4) the AAOU Young Innovator Awards (A-YIA). In 2009, through consultations with the Executive Committee of the AAOU, the Secretariat has implemented the Program on two steps, namely coordinating the formation of the four TF teams and managing the facilitation of TF team meetings. The Executive Committee (EC) has approved that the face to face meeting was worth intending to facilitate intensive discussions among members of the TFs. As a consequence, this facilitation has brought about financial supports from the AAOU.

Another issue arisen in 2009 was concerning membership payment. As usual, invoices have been distributed to all members followed by email reminders from the Secretariat to those who have not yet fulfilled their payment. By the end of the year of 2009, there were only 24 Members who have committed to fulfill their membership fee payment.

The above situations have led to a deficit of USD 9,612.00 in the AAOU Balance 2009 (USD 221,279.68). The details of the AAOU cash receipts and disbursements 2009, which has been audited by a certified auditor, will be reported to the EBM and GBM 2010 to be held by the Hanoi Open University (HOU), Vietnam, in 26th of October.

The following describes the Secretariat's Reports regarding AAOU activities, including the results of the General Body and General Body Meetings along with the 23rd AAOU Annual Conference 2009, and some actions based on the Minute of the Meetings.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE

The AAOU Annual Meetings of the General Body and General Body 2009

The 23rd AAOU Annual Meetings of the General Body (GBM) and the General Body (GBM) have taken place in Tehran, Iran on November 3, 2009. The meetings were facilitated by the Payame Noor University (PNU) as part of the 23rd Annual Conference.

The Minutes of the GBM has been circulated to the Executive Committee via email and uploaded into the AAOU Website. In addition, the Minutes of the GBM has also been

distributed to all members of the AAOU via email and uploaded to the AAOU Website. The Secretariat has also informed the members of the progress of the actions taken to follow up the Minutes through the website "News". As for the case that the GBM did not meet its quorum, as requested by the GBM 2009, the Secretariat has distributed the Minutes of the Meeting to all the members and requesting them, especially those who have not attended the Meeting, to respond the Meeting agenda. By the writing of this report, none of the members have raised their objection to the Agenda.

AAOU Annual Conference 2009

The 23rd AAOU Annual Conference 2009 was successfully hosted by the PNU on 3 - 5 November, at the IRIB International Conference Center, in Tehran, Iran. Theme of the conference was "*Evaluation of Open and Distance Learning Systems*".

The Conference was attended by 165 foreign participants who come from 36 different countries. The Organizing Committee (OC) of the Conference received more than 515 abstracts from Iran and all around the world and, on the basis of these abstracts, 159 full papers were selected for inclusion in the conference program and proceeding.

The president of AAOU expressed her great appreciation to all participants of the 23rd AAOU Annual Conference whom have made great efforts, and made the time as well as financial commitment to attend this annual gathering for academicians, practitioners, and policy makers in the field of open and distance education in Asia.

The President also extended her appreciation to all paper presenters and Keynote Speakers for their valuable contribution to the AAOU. On behalf of the AAOU, the President also expressed her highest appreciation to the former President of the Payame Noor University, Prof. Seyed Mohamed Hosseini, who had been working together with the Chair of the OC, Prof. Ghaseem Farajollahi and for his hard-working and effective team in preparing the successful conference. Her appreciation was also delivered to the new President of the Payame Noor University, Prof. Hasssan Zairi, for his supports and commitments to make the conference a successful event.

AAOU Awards and the Winners

1. AAOU Best Paper Award

In 2009, the Secretariat in coordination with the OC of the Conference has selected 12 nominees for this Award, as follows:

No.	Author(s)	Paper	University
1.	Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani & Dr. Saeed-ul Hasan Chishti	Problems of Female Adult Learners in Rural Areas of Pakistan and the Role of Open and Distance Learning	AIOU, Pakistan
2.	Dr. Tran Duc Vuong	Role of Open and Distance Learning for Sustainable Development in Vietnam	HOU, Vietnam
3.	Dr. Chang Yeul Yang & Dr. Bowon Kim	Standards and Indexes for Evaluating Open Universities	KNOU, Korea
4.	Tsuneo Yamada & Yosuke Morimoto	Utilization of Metadata for Quality Assurance in The International Sharing and Reuse of Open Educational Resources	OIJ, Japan
5.	Marjan Chinnanpour	Consulting Domestic Universities in Using A New Effective Teaching-Learning Method (KM-Tfu) Based on The Method of 'Teaching for Understanding' and The Concept of 'Learning-By-Doing Knowledge Management'	PNU, Iran
6.	Ali A. Khasseh	Library and Information Services: A Key Factor in The Success of ODL Systems	PNU, Iran
7.	Dr. Shahbakhti Rostami	Challenging A New Version of Geographical Barriers in Distance Education in Iran	PNU, Iran
8.	Mahboubeh Asgari	Students' Evaluation of Success in an Online Mentoring Program	SFU, Canada
9.	Waranya Poonnawat, Sumruay Komlayut, & Nuttaporn Henchareonlert	The Enhancement of ODL Student Recruiting Campaign with Data Warehouse Development and Data Mining Techniques	STOU, Thailand
10.	Alexander G. Flor	The Changing Profile of Distance Learners	UPOU, The Philippines

No.	Author(s)	Paper	University
11.	Pardamean Daulay	Using of ICT Center in Increasing Access to Learning Resources for Students of Universitas Terbuka	UT, Indonesia
12.	Eko Yuliasuti ES. & Helmatin	The Student Activities in Online Assessment	UT, Indonesia

Note: The highlights (No.3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, & 12) show the Best Paper Finalists 2009. The Yellow highlights (no.10 & 12) are the finalists who have resigned from the candidacy due to some reason expressed to the Secretariat.

The 12 nominated papers were forwarded to the Adjudication Committee (AC) that was chaired by Professor John C.Y. Leong, the President of The Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK). Members of the committee were Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso, Chancellor of The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) and Prof. Upali Vidanapathirana, Vice-Chancellor of The Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL). The committee selected six finalists from the 12 nominees as listed as numbers 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 12 on the above table. Due to some reasons expressed to the Secretariat in Jakarta, two of the finalists from UPOU (no.10) and UT (no.12) have resigned their candidacy for the paper presentation assessment in Tehran, Iran. Therefore, the Committee has reselected one more finalist (No. 9) to make the five-BPA finalist.

The final selection of the winners of the AAOU Best Paper Award took place after assessment of their paper presentations were done during the AAOU Annual Conference 2009. Due to the absence of all the BPA-AC Members, the AAOU President has appointed new members of the AC for the purpose of the paper presentation assessment. The new BPA-AC for the paper presentation assessment consisted of Prof. Tat Meng Wong (Wawasan Open University -WOU), Penang, Malaysia; Prof. Li Yawan (Open University of China - OUC), Beijing, China; and Dr. Hamid Kamarzarin (Payamee Noor University - PNU), Tehran, Iran. Based on their presentation, the committee selected three papers as the winners of the Best paper, namely:

Gold Medal:

“Students’ Evaluation of Success in an Online Mentoring Program”, written by Mahboubeh Asgari (PNU),

Silver Medal:

“Consulting Domestic Universities in Using A New Effective Teaching-Learning Method (KM-Tfu) Based on The Method of 'Teaching for Understanding' and The Concept of 'Learning-By-Doing Knowledge Management’”, written by Marjan Chinnanpour (PNU), “Standards and Indexes for Evaluating Open Universities”, written by Bowon Kim, Chang Yeul Yang (Korea National Open University - KNOU).

2. Meritorious Service Award (MSA)

The Adjudication Committee (AC) for the MSA 2009 was chaired by Prof. Tan Sri Anuwar Ali, the President/Vice-Chancellor of the Open University Malaysia (OUM). Members of the AC consisted of Prof. See-Won Chang, the President of KNOU, Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, the Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), and Prof. Fevzi Surmeli, the Rector of Anadolu University (AU).

As reported to the Meetings 2009 in Tehran, Iran, the President has understood and therefore accepted the recommendation of the AC of the No-Award of Meritorious Service being granted for the year of 2009. The Secretariat has also noted that the Executive Executive has appreciated the recommendation of the MSA-AC to include the nomination for Dr. Rajan Madhavrao Welukar in the next Meritorious Service Award nomination 2010.

Memberships

1. New Membership Application and Reactivation

By February 1st, 2010, two membership applications and one Full membership reactivation have been approved by the AAOU, namely respectively Korea Cyber University (KCU), Korea, International Center for Academics (ICA), Nepal and Nalanda Open University (NOU), India.

The 23rd Annual Meeting of AAOU General Body (GBM) 2009 has approved the application of KCU, Korea to become AAOU Full Member. This membership status will be effective starting in 2010. The second approval for Full membership has been given by the AAOU EC to the ICA, Nepal. This approval has been given after careful assessment on the submitted documents by the EC. This membership status will be effective in 2010.

On 20 January 2010, the Secretariat has received a formal request for membership reactivation from NOU, Bihar, India. Professor Jitendra Singh, the new appointed Vice Chancellor of the NOU has previously initiated correspondences with the AAOU President expressing their interest to reactivate their AAOU membership prior to

sending the formal statement. Based on consultation with the Executive Committee on 21 January 2010, it was concluded that the request for reactivation of the NOU membership can be approved by the AAOU. This membership reactivation will be effective in 2010

With regard to the status of membership application of the Barkatullah University (BU), Bhopal, India, the Meetings 2009 has requested the Secretariat to further correspond with the BU asking for some documents to support their application. The Secretariat has afterward made several communications via email with Prof. Dinesh Nagar, the Director of the BU. The latest communication was made by the Secretariat sending a formal letter requesting for the intended documents. Up to writing of this Report, there has been no response from the BU.

2. Membership Fee Payment

As decided by the Meetings 2009, the Secretariat has made the following actions concerning membership payments:

Sending reminding emails to the following institutions whose membership payments are in arrears for three years by 2009, as follows:

- a. Full Members
 - 1) Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan
 - 2) DR. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, India
 - 3) Karnataka State Open University, Mysore
 - 4) Al-Quds Open University, Amman, Jordan
- b. Associate Members
 - 1) Korean Education Development Institution
 - 2) Simon Fraser University, Canada
 - 3) University of British Columbia
 - 4) Open Learning Agency of Australia Pty LTd
- c. Closing the disputed past payment of the following institutions:
 - 1) UPOU, for payments of 2004 and 2005,
 - 2) BOU, for payments of 2005 and 2007, and
 - 3) PNU, for payment of 2004.
- d. Distributing the approved membership guideline for payment to all of the AAOU members and publishing it through the AAOU Website.

The Inter-University Staff Exchange Fellowship Program

One of the important activities of the AAOU is the inter-university staff exchange program. Last year of 2009, the program was hosted by the KNOU, Korea and UT, Indonesia. The KNOU and UT have invited member institutions to nominate their candidate to participate

in the program 2009. The Secretariat has expressed great appreciation to the KNOU and UT who have keenly participated in the Program.

The KNOU has awarded the fellowship to Mr. Ho Huu Tri (Director of Center for Distance Education of Ho Chi Minh City Open University (HCMCOU), Vietnam) and Ms. Teoh Ai Ping (A senior lecturer of a school of business and administrative, WOU, Malaysia) to conduct their research activities in the KNOU for four weeks from August 31 to September 25, 2009. It was apparent that both of the participants have shown their interests to promote the interchange between their university and KNOU. The KNOU was considering increasing the number of AAOU staff exchange fellowship in the future up to four fellows.

The UT has awarded the fellowship to Assoc. Prof. Ladda Vatjanasaregagul, Senior Lecturer of School of Management Science, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU), Thailand and Rosmah Mohamed, PhD, the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Business and Management, Open University Malaysia (OUM), Malaysia. These fellows have conducted their research projects at UT for a period of two weeks starting from August 3, 2009. UT has assigned counterparts who were responsible to facilitate the fellows in meeting their goals of activities during their stay at UT. Accompanied by the counterparts, the fellows conducted several meetings with UT Academic and Administrative staffs, including with the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, for Finance and General administration Affairs, and for Student affairs, of the four faculties in UT. They have also visited some supporting units at UT Head Office, including the Examination Center, Multimedia Development and Production Center, and Learning Materials Distribution Center. After completing their activities, the fellows presented their results to the UT staffs.

The AAOU will continue to encourage more members of the AAOU to join the Inter-University Staff Exchange Fellowship Program since it will foster the exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices among institutions as stated in one the objectives of the AAOU (Article III) which is to improve the cost-effectiveness of member institutions by exchanging management information, teaching materials and research.

AAOU Journal

The AAOU Journal is an international peer-reviewed journal published twice a year. The Journal addresses the need to disseminate the vastly growing theory and practices of open and distance education (ODE). Articles of the Journal provide scientist, managers, and students with valuable information, knowledge, experiences, and best practices in the field of ODE.

In 2009, the Secretariat has published two editions of the Journal; Volume 4, Number 1, 2009, and Volume 4, Number 2, 2009 in both printed and online versions. During the GBM 2009 in Tehran, Iran, AAOU President has called for some members attending the Meeting to participate in nominating names of prospective candidates to become the additional

members of AAOU Journal Board of Editors, as requested by the EC during the GBM 2009. The member institutions that have already stated their interest to have a representative as a member of the Board of Editors are the OUC, PNU, CCRTVU, and OUM. The OUC has named their candidate to join the BOE, namely Prof. Niu Jian.

Task Forces

During the year of 2009, the Secretariat has carried out the AAOU decisions concerning the formation of four AAOU Task Forces (TF). All the TF teams have reported their results to the Meetings in Tehran, Iran. Several inputs have been recommended by the Meetings and followed up by the TF teams. By the writing of this Report, the followings are the results:

1. The AAOU-Quality Assurance TF has continued on the development of the QA documents based on feedbacks from the Meetings, namely considering the use of Delphi system for the intended development. The CCRTVU, OUM, BRTVU, and PNU have given their support to be involved in the Delphi Study. A comprehensive final report regarding the AAOU QA should be submitted to the Secretariat to be distributed to the EC.
2. As recommended by the Meetings, improvement on the AAOU-CMODE program needs to concentrate on only the development of a shared curriculum and will not go into program offering. The request for establishment of an expanded task force for conducting the Task Analysis and Delphi Study has been approved by the EC. Some members have indicated their interest to be a part of the expanded task force namely, OUC, KNOU, BRTVU and UT. The OUC has named their candidate for this TF, namely DR. Wei Shunping.
3. The AAOU-YIA has been approved to commence in 2010. The General Body has added some revision to the proposal of the A-YIA. By writing of this Report, the Secretariat has coordinated with the secretariat of the conference at the HOU for further realization of this Award this year.
4. The General Body has no objection that the AAOU Journal adopts the Creative Commons License. With regard to the ISSN of the AAOU Journal, the Secretariat in Jakarta was requested to apply for another ISSN for the Online AAOU Journal publications. The Secretariat has continued to coordinate with the TF concerning the adoption the License. As a result, the AAOU has successfully applied for the Attribution-No Commercial-No Derivative License for AAOU Online Journal.

Concluding Remarks

From the AAOU Secretariat, I wish to record our sincere thanks to the President and the Executive Committee members for their continuous guidance and supports. The Secretary

General also wishes to express high appreciation to all Adjudication Committees members, the Board of Editor of the AAOU Journal, and all the Task Force team chairs and members for their commitment to support the AAOU programs, to KNOU and UT for their dedication in sponsoring the Inter-University Staff Exchange Fellowship Program, and to the PNU for its dedication in successfully hosting the 23rd AAOU Annual Conference. We wish to continue our cooperation for a more successful AAOU in the future.

Jakarta, January 11th, 2010

Secretary General
Maximus Gorky Sembiring

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