

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES



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FOREWORD

As the immediate past President of the AAOU, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all members of the Executive Board and General Body of AAOU for their close cooperation and support over the last three years from 2011 till 2013.

The Association's membership has now grown to more than 65 Full and Associate members including the national open universities of Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Current enrolment in AAOU member institutions exceeds 12 million students and many more have graduated over the past several years. The past two decades have seen strong growth in the number of open universities as well as in the number of students they serve. Most significantly, we have also seen impressive improvements in the quality of education delivered through the ODL mode. Most Governments now accept graduates of ODL institutions as 'at par' with those produced by their counterparts using conventional delivery modes. Many employers prefer to hire graduates from ODL institutions as they are characteristically more mature and possess rich working experience.

The AAOU has enabled many Asian ODL communities to foster co-operations and collaborations as well as enhance the development of ODL in the region and globally. It also paves the way for exchange of research findings and experience sharing among the practitioners.

Last but not least, my heartiest congratulations to Prof. John Leong of Open University of Hong Kong who has been elected as the new AAOU President for the period of 2014 to 2016. The Association will certainly continue to progress and reach greater heights under his stewardship. Let me also offer my congratulations to the newly elected AAOU Executive members comprising members from Allama Iqbal Open University, Hanoi Open University, Korea National Open University, Payame Noor University, Universitas Terbuka and The Open University of China

With best wishes,

Prof. Dato' Dr. Ho Sinn Chye

President

1st January 2014

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The end of 2013 recorded another milestone in the history of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) as the beginning of 2014 would see Prof. John Leong, the President of Open University of Hong Kong assuming the office of AAOU President. Consequent to this the AAOU Secretariat would be relocated to OUHK with Dr. Li Kam Cheong as the Secretary-General.

Collection of membership fees have always been a challenge to the AAOU Secretariat. Invoices are forwarded to all members at the beginning of each year and followed by email reminders by the Secretariat to those who have yet to settle their subscription fees. In year 2013, there was an improvement in the collection of membership fees particularly from the Full Member institutions. Further details are recorded in Item 4 of this report.

This report generally describes the AAOU related activities conducted in 2013 as well as the decisions of the Executive Board and General Body Meetings. This report also incorporates the 27th AAOU Annual Conference 2013 event and some of the actions taken based on the Minutes of the Meetings.

2.0 MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

2.1 AAOU Annual Meetings of the Executive Board and General Body 2013

The 28th AAOU Annual Meeting of the Executive Board (EB) and the 27th Annual Meeting of the General Body (GB) were held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Islamabad, Pakistan on 2nd October, 2013 where AIOU was the host for the 27th AAOU Annual Conference.

Minutes of the EB and GB meetings had been circulated via email to all members for their comments and feedback. Feedback had been received and amendments had been incorporated accordingly. The revised minutes were then forwarded to all members for their retention.

2.2 AAOU Annual Conference 2013

The 27th AAOU Annual Conference was successfully organized by the Allama Iqbal Open University of Pakistan from 1st to 3rd October, 2013 with the theme “Leveraging the Power of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) for Building a Divergent Asia –Today’s Solutions and Tomorrow’s Vision” (Figure 1 and 2).



Figure 1. Opening Ceremony of the 27th AAOU Annual Conference

The 27th AAOU Annual Conference had successfully brought together more than 250 international and local delegates comprising Vice-Chancellors, Rectors, Presidents, scholars, senior administrators and policy makers representing the Open Universities in the Asia region and other ODL institutes or organizations from countries across Europe, Middle East, United Kingdom and United States of America. The conference was officiated by the Pakistan State Minister For Education, Training & Standards in Higher Education, Hon. Mr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman.



Figure 2. Opening Ceremony of the 27th AAOU Annual Conference



Figure 3. Closing Ceremony of the 27th AAOU Annual Conference

This annual conference featured a Keynote Address, 4 plenary speeches, one pre-conference workshop and parallel sessions where 137 oral presentations were delivered. The Conference deliberations focused on the role of open and distance learning and the need for new developments in the field to find solutions to myriad of problems in catering for diverse societies of the region through ODL. The presentations delivered in the parallel sessions focused on the following conference sub-themes:

- Emerging trends in open and distance learning
- Building a global future through research and innovative practices in ODL
- ODL and human capacity building
- Technologies and strategies for providing education through ODL
- Application of ODL in various disciplines

The Keynote for this year's conference was delivered by Mr. Vis Naidoo, Vice President of Commonwealth of Learning who spoke on the topic "*Why People Matter – Using ODL and Technology for Social Inclusion and Economic Progress*"

The four plenary speakers and their topics were:

- Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali
President & Vice Chancellor of Open University of Malaysia
"Open and Distance Learning for Human Capital Development – Propelling Asia Forward"



- Prof. Paul Kawachi
Professor of Instructional Design,
Editor Asian Journal of Distance Education, China
“Building a World Class University – Structures and Strategies – Survey Findings and Suggestions for a Divergent Asia”
- Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sangi
Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University
“Designing Socio-Economic Open Schooling Model: Educating the Nation”
- Prof. Marilyn Leask
Research Professor
Educational Knowledge Management,
University of Bedfordshire, UK
“Re-engineering Research, Teaching and Learning with Digital Technologies – How AAOU members might Collaborate for the Benefit of Teachers and Learners in their Societies”

The Conference closing ceremony was officiated by His Excellency Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan (**Figure 3**) who was impressed by how much Open Distance learning has contributed to the development of human capital in Asia. His Excellency hopes that through the deliberations and sharing of knowledge as well as experience during the Conference have set an agenda for building a divergent Asia and knowledge-based societies in the respective countries.

2.3 AAOU Awards and the Winners

(i) 2013 AAOU Meritorious Service Award

The AAOU Secretariat received a total of five nominations as depicted below for the 2013 AAOU Meritorious Service Award (MSA):

No.	MSA Nominees
1.	Prof. Dr. Colin Latchem Former Head of the Teaching Learning Group at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia

No.	MSA Nominees
2.	Dr. Rajan Chopra Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, India
3.	Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Wong Tat Meng Former Vice Chancellor and Former AAOU President, Wawasan Open University, Penang, Malaysia
4.	Prof. Tae Rim, Lee Professor of Department of Information Statistics, Korea National Open University, Korea
5.	Prof. Zhang Deming Former President of Shanghai Open University

The nominations were assessed and evaluated by an Adjudication Committee chaired by Prof. Tian Belawati, Rector of Universitas Terbuka Indonesia and President of International Council of Distance Education and assisted by Prof. Asha Kanwar, President of Commonwealth of Learning, Prof. Yoichi Okabe, President of The Open University of Japan and Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso, Chancellor, The University of the Philippines Open University.

The Adjudication Committee had unanimously recommended Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Wong Tat Meng, to be awarded the 2013 AAOU MSA (**Figure 4**). The President accepted the recommendations and this was also endorsed by the Executive Committee.



Figure 4. Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Wong Tat Meng

This is an appropriate acknowledgement and recognition of Prof. Wong's outstanding achievements as a visionary, dynamic leader and achiever in open distance learning education.

(ii) AAOU Best Paper Award

The Adjudication Committee (AC) for the 2013 Best Paper Award consisted of the following persons:

Chair: Prof Naveed A.Malik
Rector, Virtual University of Pakistan

Members: Prof. Vasudha Kamat,
Vice Chancellor, SNTD Women's University

Prof. Le Van Thanh
President, Hanoi Open University

Assoc. Prof. Chailerd Pichitpornchai
President, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University

The Academic Sub-Committee of the Conference Organising Committee had selected fifteen papers for further evaluation by the Adjudication Committee (AC). The AC assessed the fifteen papers and shortlisted 6 papers as the 2013 BPA finalists. The details of the six finalists are as follows:

	Title	Author(s)	Institution	Paper ID
1.	Mobile Phone Intervention for Sri Lankan Mushroom Producers	Mahinda Wijeratne & Nilantha De Silva	University of Ruhuna, Mapalana, Kamburupitiya	10
2.	A Study Relationship Between Learning Styles of Students and Instructional Inputs of Teacher Education Programme of IGNOU	Sahoo, Prof. Pravat Subhash Chandra	University of Allahabad, India	50
3.	The Practice of The Design and Development of Pad-Based Mobile Learning Resources	Wei Yuan Guo Hong Jing XIN	The Open University of China	70
4.	KNOU – UNESCO Cooperative Model for PCPD Region Developement	Jinah Seol	Korea National Open University	144
5.	Mastering New Information through Facebook and Discussion Forum: A Comperative Analysis	Nantha Kumar Subramaniam, & Maheswari Kandasamy	Open University Malaysia	170
6.	Flexible Learning: Dimensions and Leaner Preferences	Dr Li Kam Cheong	Open University of Hong Kong	189



The BPA Adjudication Committee further evaluated the six finalists based on quality of their oral presentations. Three papers were selected as winners of the BPA competition. The results were approved by the President and announced during the closing ceremony. The BPA medal winners were:

BPA Medal	Author & Institution	Title
Silver Medal	Prof. P.K. Sahoo Prof. Subhash Chandra (University of Allahabad, India)	<u>Paper 050:</u> A Study of Relationship Between Learning Styles of Students and Instructional Inputs of Teacher Education Programme of IGNOU
Silver Medal	Mr. Nantha Kumar Subramaniam Prof. Maheswari Kandasamy (Open University Malaysia, Malaysia)	<u>Paper 170:</u> Mastering New Information through Facebook and Discussion Forum: A Comparative Analysis
Gold Medal	Dr Li Kam Cheong (Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)	<u>Paper 189:</u> Flexible Learning: Dimensions and Learner Preferences

(iii) AAOU Young Innovator Award

The Young Innovator Awards (YIA) Adjudication Committee for 2013 comprised the following members:

Chair: Emeritus Prof. Dato' Dr. Wong Tat Meng
Former AAOU President and Vice Chancellor of Wawasan Open University

Member: Prof. Madhulika Kaushik
Education Specialist (Higher Education)
Commonwealth of Learning

Prof. John Leong Chi Yan President
Open University of Hong Kong

Prof. Uma Coomaraswamy
Former Vice Chancellor of Open University of Sri Lanka

The Academic Sub-Committee of the 2013 Conference Organising Committee recommended ten papers for evaluation by the YIA Adjudication Committee. The YIA Adjudication Committee assessed the seven papers and selected the following three papers as the winners of the YIA category:

	Title	Author	Institution
1.	Gold medal <u>Paper No. 216:</u> Measuring the Impact of E-Portals in Enhancement of Learning in Higher Education	Aysha Khalil	Allama Iqbal Open University
2.	Silver medal <u>Paper No. 199:</u> Student Perceptions of Using SCORM Compliant Learning Object (SCLO) for Learning in ODL Environment	Ean-Teng Khor	Wawasan Open University
3.	Silver medal <u>Paper No. 9:</u> Blog based Practical Study	Wang Hongmei	Zhejiang Radio & Television University



	Title	Author	Institution
	on Curriculum Teaching Reform in Open Education – The Curriculum of International Finance		

3.0 MEMBERSHIP

(i) Termination of membership

The following members who were in arrears for more than three years had been removed from the AAOU membership list:

Full members

- Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, India
- Henan Open University, China
- Inner Mongolia Radio and TV University, Mongolia
- Jiangxi Open University, China
- Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University, India
- Nalanda Open University, India
- Shaanxi Open University, China
- Shenyang Open University, China
- Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, India

Associate members

- Directorate of Distance Education, Madurai Kamaraj University, India
- Korea Educational Development Institute, Korea
- MIT School of Distance Education, India

There was no response despite numerous reminders through the various mode of communications adopted by the AAOU Secretariat since 2011.

In the 27th Executive Board meeting held in 2012, Simon Fraser University had notified the AAOU Secretariat in writing that it would like to withdraw its membership. However in November 2012, Simon Fraser University had revoked their earlier intention and expressed their interest to continue their membership. Therefore Simon Fraser University is still an Associate Member of the AAOU.

(ii) New membership applications

The Executive Board approved three out of the four applications submitted in 2013. The details and status of the approval are reflected in the following table:

	Institution	Type of membership	Remarks
1.	Al-Madinah International University (MEDIU), Malaysia	Full Member	Approved MEDIU is a dedicated ODL institution in Malaysia
2.	Board of Secondary Education Madhya Bharat Gwalior (M.P.), India	Full member	Rejected This is an examination board that conducts exam for Year 10 and Year 12 students and subsequently grant them the relevant awards.
3.	Chongqing Radio & TV University, Chongqing, China	Full member	Approved Chongqing Radio & TV University is an approved ODL institution in China
4.	IPSE Foundation Colleges, Haryana, India	Associate member	Approved This college is part of the IPSE Group of Institutions



	Institution	Type of membership	Remarks
			in India whose primary delivery mode is not through ODL.

The AAOU membership of these institutions would commence in January 2014 subject to them paying their membership fees.

4.0 AAOU STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR 2013

According to the audited statement of accounts there was an opening balance of USD 290,569 at the beginning of year 2013. The closing balance as of 31st December, 2013 was USD 309,672 which reflects a net increase of USD 19,103 in the Association's funds. AAOU had granted a subsidy of USD 3,000 to meet a portion of the cost for conducting the 27th AAOU Annual Conference.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and UNESCO Bangkok had provided a grant of CAD5,000 and USD1,000 respectively to cover the registration fees and accommodation subsidy of selected participants attending the 27th AAOU Annual Conference.

5.0 THE AAOU INTER-UNIVERSITY STAFF EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The AAOU Inter-University Staff Exchange Fellowship Programme is developed to provide a platform for capacity building and the establishment of sustainable partnerships as well as fostering the exchange of knowledge and promotion of mutual understanding among staff of the open universities of Asia.

In 2013, four institutions as listed below had offered fellowships to deserving candidates in the AAOU Inter-University Exchange Fellowship Programme:

- a) Korea National Open University
- b) Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University

- c) Universitas Terbuka
- d) Wawasan Open University

The details of the recipients and their research proposal titles are indicated in the following table:

Fellowships offered by Korea National Open University			
Name	Designation	University	Research proposal titles
Prof. Wang Ying	Professor/ Deputy Director, Institution of Distance Education Research	Open University of China	Research into Korea and China Conception of Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition
Ms. Meirani Harsasi	Lecturer	Universitas Terbuka	Utilization of OER in e- Learning: A Comparative Study Between Universitas Terbuka and KNOU
Prof. Mojdeh Kiani	Assistant Professor	Payame Noor University	Puzzle of Dropout: A Comparative Study Between IPNU and KNOU
Fellowships offered by Universitas Terbuka			
Name	Designation	University	Research proposal titles
Norfardilawati Bt Musa	Lecturer, Faculty of Applied Social Science	Open University Malaysia	Implementation of Open and Distance Learning Education - A Comparative Study Between Open University Malaysia and Universitas Terbuka.



Shi Lei	-	Open University of China	Comparative Research of Online Resource Construction Mode and Online Teaching Mode in Universitas Terbuka – Open University China.
Fellowship offered by Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University			
Name	Designation	University	Research proposal titles
Ms. Mira Aryani	IT staff	Universitas Terbuka	The Development of ICT Instructional Media for m-learning: A Comparative Study between Universitas Terbuka and STOU
Ms. Wu Lina	Curriculum and Teaching Methodology	Beijing Open University	M-Learning-a New Stage of Learning
Fellowships offered by Wawasan Open University			
Name	Designation	University	Research proposal titles
Dr. Yousef Sabbah	Director of Quality Assurance	Al-Quds Open University	A Proposed Self-e-Assessment Model Based on the AArU Standards for ODL Universities and Programmes
Prof. Chung Kwang Sik	Associate Professor in Computer Science Department	Korea National Open University	Design and Establishment of a Mobile Learning Service Considering Learners Economic Needs

6.0 AAOU JOURNAL

The AAOU Journal issue [Volume.8 (No. 1)] was published on 30th March, 2013 in the AAOU website (www.aaou.org). This issue also incorporated three shortlisted papers from the 2012 AAOU Annual Conference Best Paper Award (BPA) and Young Innovator Award (YIA). The details of the 11 papers published in this issue are as follows:

AAOU Journal [Volume.8 (No. 1), March 2013]

	Titles	Authors	Institutions
1.	Designing an online learning environment on Open Educational Resources for science education	Shironica Karunanayaka, Chandana Fernando and Vajira de Silva	The Open University of Sri Lanka
2.	Personalised system of instruction: The ODL way	Prakash Arumugam	Wawasan Open University
3.	Comparative study on the usage of an online plagiarism-detection service when presenting distance learning courses [BPA Finalist]	Loo Choo Hong and Tung Lai Cheng	Wawasan Open University
4.	Floundering among adult learners in classrooms: Fact or fallacy? [BPA Finalist]	Nantha Kumar Subramaniam and Maheswari Kandasamy	Open University Malaysia
5.	Determinants of students' loyalty at Universitas Terbuka	Maximus Gorky Sembiring	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
6.	The establishment of academic credit accumulation and transfer system: A case study of Shanghai Academic Credit Transfer and Accumulation Bank for Lifelong	Huikang Li, Yaoting Sun, Min Yang and Zhihui Wei	Shanghai Open University, China



	Titles	Authors	Institutions
	Education		
7.	Faculty: A success factor in improving quality of distance learning	Muhammad Zaheer	Virtual University of Pakistan, Pakistan
8.	Supportive role of the“CBCI Chair” at IGNOU in ODL programme development	Gracious Thomas	Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
9.	Theoretical and practical dilemma of distance learning: The case of Universitas Terbuka Indonesia	Hanif Nurcholis and Ace Sriati Rachman	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
10.	Addressing the issues of low student enrolment: The case of the Kandy Regional Centre of the Open University of Sri Lanka	P.S.D. Aluwihare and R. Manoshika	The Open University of Sri Lanka
11.	Independent learning skill, competence and job performance of graduates of Universitas Terbuka: Perceptions of graduates and supervisors [YIA Finalist]	Dewi Juliah Ratnaningsih	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia

The second issue of the AAOU Journal [Volume 8 (No.2)] which was published in the first week of October 2013 comprised all the remaining shortlisted BPA and YIA papers of the 2012 AAOU Annual Conference. The details of the papers are as follows:

AAOU Journal [Volume.8 (No. 2), October 2013]

	Titles	Authors	Institutions
1.	Analysis of the cultural factors affecting the proper design of website and electronic courseware for e-Learning in ASEAN	Jintavee Khlaisang	Chulalongkorn University

	Titles	Authors	Institutions
	[YIA Finalist]		
2.	Open learning and Rabindranath Tagore's idea on mass education: A critical study on Lokshikkha Samsad [YIA Finalist]	Dr Manan Kumar Mandal	Netaji Subhas Open University
3.	Web-based learning through mixed-initiative interactions: Design and implementation [YIA Gold Medal]	Nantha Kumar Subramaniam	Open University Malaysia
4.	Reaching the unreached – IGNOU's interventions in Tihar Central Jail [YIA Silver Medal]	Kaushalendra Pratap Singh	Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
5.	Applying networked learning to improve learner interactions: A new paradigm of teaching and learning in ODL [YIA Finalist]	Tung Lai Cheng	Wawasan Open University
6.	Development of an assessment tool to measure the prior experiential learning of adult learners: The case of Wawasan Open University [BPA Gold Medal]	Liew Teik Kooi, Phalachandra Bhandigadi and Teoh Ai Ping	Wawasan Open University and Universiti Sains Malaysia
7.	Automatic content filtering and publishing by email for the UP Open University Doctor of Communication Programme Learning Management System [YIA Silver Medal]	Ria Mae H. Borromeo	University of the Philippines Open University



Two winners (silver award) of the 2012 AAOU BPA category had written to the AAOU Editorial Board requesting the Editorial Board not to publish their papers in the AAOU Journal as their papers had been published in other journal. The details of both the papers are as follows:

	Title	Author(s)	Institution
1.	OERScout: Autonomous clustering of open educational resources using keyword – Document matrix [BPA Silver Medal]	Ishan Sudeera Abeywardena, Choy Yoong, Tham Chee Seng, Chan Venkataraman Balaji	Wawasan Open University, University of Malaya & Commonwealth of Learning
2.	Vicarious learning from reading the good performance of peers' assignments and the tutor's feedback on them in a large web-based course [BPA Silver Medal]	Young-Sook Jung Jihoon Sung, Younghee Woo	Korea National Open University Sungkyul University Korea National Open University

7.0 THE 28TH AAOU ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 2014

The Executive Board at its 27th meeting invited Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) and The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) to consider hosting the 28th AAOU Annual Conference in 2014.

However, UPOU had to withdraw from this bidding exercise as they would be organizing a major event in 2014, "The Second International Conference on Open and Distance e-Learning" in Manila. This left with only OUHK who had submitted their proposal to host the 2014 AAOU Annual Conference and at the 28th Executive Board meeting held on 1st October 2013, the Board had unanimously endorsed the decision to appoint OUHK as the host for the 2014 AAOU Annual Conference. A Memorandum of Agreement had been signed between the AAOU and Open University of Hong Kong on 19th August 2013.

8.0 AAOU PRESIDENCY 2014 – 2016: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The AAOU Secretariat had received the following four nominations for the AAOU Presidency:

No.	Nominated Candidates	Nominated by
1.	Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sangi Vice Chancellor Allama Iqbal Open University	Mr. Muhammad Bashir Ch. Registrar Allama Iqbal Open University
2.	Prof. Dato' Dr. Ho Sinn Chye Chief Executive and Vice Chancellor Wawasan Open University	Prof. Zhang Shaogang Vice President Open University of China
3.	Prof. Nam Chul Cho President Korea National Open University	Prof. Le Van Thanh President Hanoi Open University
4.	Prof. John Leong Chi Yan President The Open University of Hong Kong	a) Dr. Andy Liew Director, Directorate of Quality Assurance and External Relations, Wawasan Open University b) Assoc. Prof. Chailerd Pichitpornchai President of Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University c) Prof. Dr. Tian Belawati Rector, Universitas Terbuka

In the 28th Executive Board meeting held on 1st October 2013, Prof. Dato' Dr. Ho Sinn Chye from Wawasan Open University and Prof. Dr. Nam Chul Cho from Korea National Open University declined the nomination to provide opportunities to other colleagues to contest for the AAOU Presidency. Both of them had expressed their appreciation to colleagues who have nominated them. In this connection, only Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmed Sangi from Allama Iqbal Open University and Prof. Dr. John Leong Chi Yan from Open University of Hong Kong contested for the AAOU Presidency.

In the 27th General Body meeting, Prof. Nazir had graciously withdrawn his nomination to make way for OUHK to take on the Presidency. The President thanked AIOU for this magnanimous gestures which clearly reflects the true spirit of AAOU brotherhood and the respect member institutions of AAOU have for each other.

With this Prof. John Leong Chin Yan from the Open University of Hong Kong would serve as the new President of AAOU for the period 2014-2016 (**Figure 5**). With this succession, the AAOU Secretariat that previously resided in Wawasan Open University would be relocated to the Open University of Hong Kong beginning January 2014.



Figure 5. Symbolic handover of the AAOU Presidency from Prof. Dato' Ho to Prof. John Leong

The AAOU Secretariat had only received one nomination from member institutions to serve on the AAOU Executive Board. The nominations were as follows and represented the regions as stated in the AAOU Constitution:

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| (i) Allama Iqbal Open University | (South Asia) |
| (ii) Hanoi Open University | (South East Asia) |
| (iii) Korea National Open University | (Far East Asia) |
| (iv) Payame Noor University | (West Asia) |
| (v) Universitas Terbuka | (South East Asia) |
| (vi) The Open University of China | (China) |
| (vii) The Open University of Hong Kong | (China) |

In this connection, all the above members would automatically serve as the new Executive Board members from 2014 to 2016. As per previous practice, the immediate past president would also serve as a member in the Executive Board.

9.0 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AAOU CONSTITUTION

In the 27th AAOU General Body meeting, the following were the approved changes made to the AAOU Constitution (amended version 1999):

Items	Approved amendment
<p>ARTICLE V- The Meeting of the General Body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Meeting of the General Body shall meet every year ... - The quorum of the Meeting of the General Body shall be at least half of the members. 	<p>The Meeting of the General Body shall take place every year to...</p> <p>The quorum of the Meeting of the General Body shall be at at least one-third or 13 whichever is lower of the Full Members.</p>
<p>ARTICLE: VII - Executive Committee</p> <p>(Article VII Section 2 was amended at the Annual Meeting of the General Body in Hong Kong on 3 November 1998 and is incorporated here.)</p> <p>Section 1</p>	



<p><u>The Executive Committee and Administration of the Association will be vested in an Executive Board which will consist of:</u></p> <p><u>i) A President and seven other members, of which one will be the immediate past President of the Association; and not including two co-opted members.</u></p> <p><u>iii) The Executive Committee will be so constituted that each of the following regions will be represented: South Asia, South East Asia, China and Far East Asia and West Asia. In the event of any region not being represented on the Executive Committee, the Committee shall co-opt members to effect such representation; in as far as possible the Executive Committee will seek to have representation from all member countries.</u></p> <p><u>v) Co-opt up to two additional members.</u></p> <p>vi) Only full members of the Association are eligible to hold office in the Executive <u>Board</u>.</p>	<p><i>Was not amended</i></p> <p><i>Was not amended</i></p> <p><i>Was not amended</i></p> <p>vi) Only full members of the Association are eligible to hold office in the Executive <u>Committee</u>.</p>
<p>Section 2</p> <p>The term of office of the Executive <u>Board</u> will be three years, provided that the President, the Secretary-General and two of the members will be eligible to hold the office for a consecutive second term of three years, and provided further that no person shall hold the same office of the Executive <u>Board</u> for more than two consecutive terms.</p>	<p>The term of office of the Executive <u>Committee</u> be three years, provided that the President, the Secretary-General and two of the members will be eligible to hold the office for a consecutive second term of three years, and provided further that no person shall hold the same office of the Executive <u>Committee</u> for more than two consecutive terms.</p>
<p>Section 4</p> <p>iii) conducting correspondence with members of the Association and outside agencies in accordance with <u>Board</u> policies and in consultation with the Executive <u>Board</u>;</p> <p>iv) responsibility for all the financial transactions of the Association, maintaining budgetary control and preparing statements of accounts for the Executive <u>Board</u> as requested for presentation to the Annual General Meeting;</p> <p>vi) providing administrative support to the Executive Committee and carrying out the decisions made by the <u>executive</u> as required.</p>	<p>iii) conducting correspondence with members of the Association and outside agencies in accordance with <u>existing</u> policies and in consultation with the Executive <u>Committee</u>;</p> <p>iv) responsibility for all the financial transactions of the Association, maintaining budgetary control and preparing statements of accounts for the Executive <u>Committee</u> as requested for presentation to the Annual General Meeting;</p> <p>vi) providing administrative support to the Executive Committee and carrying out the decisions made by the <u>Executive Head</u> as required.</p>

<p>ARTICLE VIII- Election of the Executive Committee</p> <p>Section 1</p> <p>i) The President and the Executive <u>Board</u> members shall be elected for a period of three years</p> <p>vii) The counting of the votes shall be conducted by the Secretary-General, with the ballot papers being opened and counted in the presence of two scrutineers approved by the Executive <u>Board</u>.</p>	<p>i) The President and the Executive <u>Committee</u> members shall be elected for a period of three years.</p> <p>vii) The counting of the votes shall be conducted by the Secretary-General, with the ballot papers being opened and counted in the presence of two scrutineers approved by the Executive <u>Committee</u>.</p>
<p>ARTICLE IX- The President and the President-Elect:</p> <p>(d) In the event that an incumbent President is no longer able to continue in office due to resignation, retirement or any other cause, his/her successor (as President of the Association) will be the person who will replace him/her in the member's institution. <u>The successor will assume the role of the Presidency in an acting capacity until the next AGM.</u></p>	<p>(d) In the event that an incumbent President is no longer able to continue in office due to resignation, retirement or any other cause, his/her successor (as President of the Association) will be the person who will replace him/her in the member's institution. <u>The successor will assume the role of the Presidency until the next AGM.</u></p>
<p>ARTICLE XII – Dissolution</p> <p>The Association may be dissolved by decision of the Meeting of the General Body.</p> <p>The Secretary-General shall circulate the exact terms of any proposal <u>sent by a member</u> to dissolve the Association by registered letter to every member of the Association not less than 90 days prior to the meeting.</p>	<p>The Secretary-General shall circulate the exact terms of any proposal <u>submitted and supported by at least 20% of the Full members</u> to dissolve the Association by registered letter to every member of the Association not less than 90 days prior to the meeting.</p>



10.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall, the Year 2013 was a reasonably successful year. The end of 2013 also marks a significant milestone in the history of AAOU where OUHK succeeds WOU in helming the AAOU Presidency for the next three-year term period (2014 – 2016). The Association wishes to record its heartfelt gratitude to all members of the AAOU Executive Board and General Body for their unyielding support and cooperation. The AAOU is also grateful to COL and UNESCO Bangkok for their continued sponsorship to support deserving individuals to participate in the AAOU Annual Conference.