ANNUAL REPORT
2017

**ASIAN ASSOCIATION
OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1   INTRODUCTION

This report offers an account of the activities of the AAOU conducted in 2017, as well as the decisions of the Executive Committee and General Body Meetings. It also incorporates the 31st AAOU Annual Conference 2017 event and some of the actions taken based on the Minutes of the Meetings.

2   ACTION THROUGH CIRCULATION

2.1   AAOU_EB_2017_01

Three items were submitted for action by the Executive Committee Members on 10 April 2017:

2.1.1   Transfer of AAOU money from The Open University of Hong Kong's designated bank account to the University of the Philippines' designated bank account

2.1.2   Co-optation of two additional members to the AAOU Executive Committee: Payame Noor University and Korea National Open University

2.1.3   Additional budget allocation of USD3,600 to the two research projects on MOOCs

The Executive Committee approved these matters presented for action. The relevant documents for these matters are in **Attachments A, B, and C** of this Annual Report.

2.2   PAYMENT OF 2018 ICDE MEMBERSHIP FEE

The item "Payment of AAOU Membership Fee to ICDE" amounting to EUR900 was submitted for action by the AAOU Executive Committee on 18 December 2017.

The Executive Committee approved the matter. The relevant document is in **Attachment D** of this report.

3   MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

3.1   AAOU Annual Meetings of the Executive Committee and General Body 2017

The 32nd AAOU Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) and the 31st Annual Meeting of the General Body (GB) were held on 26 September 2017 and 28 September 2017 respectively in Royal Ambarrukmo Hotel, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Universitas Terbuka (UT) was the host for the 31st AAOU Annual Conference.

Minutes of the EC and GB meetings in 2016 were circulated via email to all members

for their comments and feedback. There was no need to make any amendments or corrections to the minutes.

3.2 AAOU Annual Conference 2017

The 31st AAOU Annual Conference was hosted successfully by Universitas Terbuka in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 27 to 29 October 2017 with the theme 'Open University for Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education'.

The AAOU President, Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, delivers her welcoming speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 31st AAOU Annual Conference.

The 31st AAOU Annual Conference brought together about 500 delegates who came from over 15 different countries. The participants comprised Vice-Chancellors, Rectors, Presidents, scholars, senior administrators, and policy-makers representing the open universities in the Asian region and other ODL institutions or organizations. On 27 September 2017, the conference was officiated by Prof. Drs. Ojat Darojat, Rector of Universitas Terbuka; Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, President of the AAOU; and Prof. Muhamad Nasir, Minister of Research, Technology and Higher Education of Indonesia.

The AAOU 2017 featured two pre-conference workshop packages, three keynote speeches, two plenary panels, and four parallel sessions. The Conference aimed to bring together Asian ODL advocates, academics, administrators, policy-makers, practitioners, scholars, and students in an event that provides a focal point for bringing everyone up to date on the issues, ideas, and developments in the field of open distance learning, with focused discussions on the following sub-themes:

- Repositioning Open University in the Digital Era: Providing Sustainable Learning Pathways
- Leadership in Open, Distance, and Online Learning University
- Quality Assurance in Open University
- Assessment and Accreditation of Learning in Open University

- Access and Justice in Open, Distance and Online Learning

The details of the seminars and sessions in the conference were as follows:

	TOPIC	SPEAKER(S)
Pre-Conference Workshop Package 1	**Learning Analytics**	**Dimas Prasetyo** Software Developer, Universitas Terbuka **Prof. Daryono Daryono** Professor & Dean of the Faculty of Law, Social, and Political Sciences, Universitas Terbuka
	Microsoft for Education and Big Data Mining and Management	**Tony Seno Hartono** National Technology Officer, Microsoft Indonesia
Pre-Conference Workshop Package 2	**Adopting Quality OER**	**Prof. Mohan B. Menon** Assistant Vice-Chancellor for Academic Support, Wawasan Open University
	OER Repository	**Prof. Tsuneo Yamada** Professor, Center for ICT and Distance Education, The Open University of Japan **Prof. Kazutsuna Yamaji** Professor, Digital Content and Media Sciences Research Division, National Institute of Informatics (Japan)
Keynote Speech 1	**Leadership in Open and Distance Learning University**	**Prof. Tian Belawati** Former Rector, Universitas Terbuka
Keynote Speech 2	**Quality Assurance in Open University**	**Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria** Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University
Keynote Speech 3	**Access and Justice in Open, Distance, and Online Learning**	**Dr. Wayne Mackintosh** Founding Director, OER Foundation
Plenary Panel 1	**Leadership in Open and Distance Learning University**	**Prof. S.A. Ariadurai** Vice Chancellor, The Open University of Sri Lanka **Dr. Li Kam-Cheong** Director, University Research Center, The Open University of Hong Kong **Prof. Cheong Hee Kiat** President, Singapore University of Social Sciences
Plenary Panel 2	**Assessment and Accreditation of Learning in Open University**	**Dr. Naveed Malik** Rector, Virtual University of Pakistan **Prof. Ho Sinn Chye** Vice Chancellor, Wawasan Open University

Plenary Panel 1 moderator Prof. Kandarpa Das with speakers
Prof. Samuel Ariadurai, Dr. Li Kam-Cheong, & Prof. Cheong Hee Kiat

Plenary Panel 2 speakers Dr. Naveed Malik & Prof. Ho Sinn Chye
with moderator Prof. Ojat Darojat

Members of the Asian MOOCs Steering Committee launch the AAOU Initiatives 2017.

Members of the AAOU Asian MOOCs Steering Committee, who are the initial movers of the AAOU OER Repository, and the heads of the institutions spearheading the World Languages MOOCs also came together onstage to officially launch the AAOU Initiatives, which are set to open in January 2018.

In the closing ceremony of the Conference, Emeritus Professor Tan Sri Gajaraj Dhanarajan gave a Conference Reflection, presenting a brief history of the AAOU and

its annual conferences throughout the years. Then, the AAOU Paper Awards and the Meritorious Service Award were presented by Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso, the AAOU Secretary-General. Prof. Ojat Darojat then gave his closing remarks together with a video recap of the events during the three-day conference. The host for AAOU 2018, Hanoi Open University, also promoted the upcoming conference through a video presentation.

Delegates from the AAOU 2018 host institution Hanoi Open University promotes the upcoming annual conference.

3.3   AAOU Awards and Winners

2018 AAOU Meritorious Service Award

The AAOU Secretariat received one nomination for the 2017 AAOU Meritorious Service Award (MSA).

The nominations were assessed and evaluated by an Adjudication Committee composed of Dr. Li Kam-Cheong, Directory of the University Research Centre of the Open University of Hong Kong; Prof. Ho Sinn Chye, Vice Chancellor of Wawasan Open University; Prof. Asha Kanwar, President and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning; and Prof. Tian Belawati, Former Rector of Universitas Terbuka.

The Adjudication Committee recommended the sole nominee, Dr. Yoichi Okabe, former President of the Open University of Japan, as the recipient of the 2017 AAOU Meritorious Service Award, and the recommendation was accepted by the President and then approved by the Executive Committee by circulation.

Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, AAOU President, presents the AAOU 2018 Meritorious Service Award to Dr. Yoichi Okabe, along with Secretary-General Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso and the members of the Adjudication Committee.

AAOU Best Paper Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2017 Best Paper Award consisted of the following members:

Chair: **Dr. Jean Saludadez**, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, University of the Philippines Open University

Members: **Dr. Kim Oi-Sook**, President, Korea National Open University

Dr. Kuncheon Jeotee, Professor, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University

The Academic Sub-Committee of the Conference Organizing Committee selected 10 papers from the full papers submitted. The 10 selected papers were then forwarded to the Best Paper Award Adjudication Committee which shortlisted six papers as the Best Paper Award finalists. The details of the six finalists are as follows:

PAPER ID	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)	INSTITUTION(S)
BPA_2017_02	Applying Quality Tools to Improve Student Retention Supporting Process, A Case Study From WOU	Chuah Poh Lean & Lim Peng Keat	Wawasan Open University, Malaysia
BPA_2017_03	Modelling the Notions and Dimensions of MOOCs Perceived by ODL Faculty	Maximus Gorky Sembiring	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
BPA_2017_06	The Constructivism Approach: Its Application on the Development of Writing Skills through Online Instruction	Darminah & Lidwina Sri Ardiasih	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia

BPA_2017_07	Students' Persistence Observed from Situational, Institutional, Dispositional, Epistemological and Technological Influences	Maximus Gorky Sembiring	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
BPA_2017_09	Perception and Experiences of Distance Learners on the Use of Open Educational Resources at National Open University, India	Ms. Sujata Santosh & Prof. Santosh Panda	Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
BPA_2017_10	Trends in the Governance of Asian Open Universities: An Exploratory Study	Madhulika Kaushik, Gajaraj Dhanarajan, & R. Padmanathan	Wawasan Open University, Malaysia

On 28 September, the Adjudication Committee further evaluated the six finalists based on the quality of the oral presentations given by the authors. Three papers were selected as winners of the Best Paper Award competition. The results were announced during the closing ceremony. The Best Paper Award medal winners were:

BEST PAPER AWARD	AUTHOR(S) AND INSTITUTION(S)	PAPER ID AND TITLE
Gold Medal	**Maximus Gorky Sembiring** Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia	**BPA_2017_03** Modelling the Notions and Dimensions of MOOCs Perceived by ODL Faculty
Silver Medal	**Chuah Poh Lean & Lim Peng Keat** Wawasan Open University, Malaysia	**BPA_2017_02** Applying Quality Tools to Improve Student Retention Supporting Process, A Case Study From WOU
Silver Medal	**Madhulika Kaushik, Gajaraj Dhanarajan, R. Padmanathan** Wawasan Open University, Malaysia	**BPA_2017_10** Trends in the Governance of Asian Open Universities: An Exploratory Study

AAOU Best Practice Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2017 Best Practice Award consisted of the following members:

Chair: **Dr. Li Kam-Cheong**, Director of the University Research Centre, the Open University of Hong Kong

Members: **Dr. Melinda Lumanta**, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of the Philippines Open University

Prof. Kandarpa Das, Professor & Head of Department of Foreign Languages, Institute of Distance and Open Learning, Gauhati University

The Academic Sub-Committee of the Conference Organizing Committee selected 11

papers from the full papers submitted. The 11 selected papers were then forwarded to the Best Practice Award Adjudication Committee which shortlisted six papers as the Best Practice Award finalists. The details of the six finalists are as follows:

PAPER ID	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)	INSTITUTION(S)
BPrA_2017_04	Research on the Construction of Seamless Learning Platform Based on Open Education	Yong Rong Xin	Jiangsu Open University, China
BPrA_2017_05	Development of a Hybrid Learning System to Enhance ODL; Printed Course Material Amelioration via Smartphones	Mohomed Haroon M.R. & de Mel W.R.	The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
BPrA_2017_07	Online Studies Group Support Service Model of Distance Learning University Students Based on Learner's Big Data	Yeon Sin Kim, Sang Im Jung, Chung Hun Lee, & Kwang Sik Chung	Korea National Open University, Korea
BPrA_2017_08	The Effects of Experiential Learning Theory (ELT) to the Design of Reflective Online Learning Environment (ROLE) for Post-Graduate Program at Open University Malaysia	Zahari Hamidon	Open University Malaysia, Malaysia
BPrA_2017_09	Development and Testing of a Mobile Application through Design-Based Research	B.G. Jayatilleke, G.R. Ranawaka, G.G.W.C. Wijesekara, & M.C.B. Kumarasinha	The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
BPrA_2017_11	Extending the Boundaries of Remote Laboratory by Providing Hands-On Experience	Samaranayaka T.G.A.A. & de Mel W.R.	The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

On 28 September, the Adjudication Committee further evaluated the six finalists based on the quality of the oral presentations given by the authors. Three papers were selected as winners of the Best Practice Award competition. The results were announced during the closing ceremony. The Best Practice Award medal winners were:

BEST PRACTICE AWARD	AUTHOR(S) AND INSTITUTION(S)	PAPER ID AND TITLE
Gold Medal	**Mohomed Haroon M.R., de Mel W.R.** The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka	**BPrA_2017_05** Development of a Hybrid Learning System to Enhance ODL; Printed Course Material Amelioration via Smartphones
Silver Medal	**B.G. Jayatilleke, G.R. Ranawaka, G.G.W.C. Wijesekara, M.C.B. Kumarasinha** The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka	**BPrA_2017_09** Development and Testing of a Mobile Application through Design-Based Research

Silver Medal	**Yeon Sin Kim, Sang Im Jung, Chung Hun Lee, Kwang Sik Chung** Korea National Open University, Korea	**BPrA_2017_07** Online Studies Group Support Service Model of Distance Learning University Students Based on Learner's Big Data

AAOU Young Innovator Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2017 Young Innovator Award consisted of the following members:

Chair: and **Dr. Andy Liew Teik Kooi**, Registrar & Director of Quality Assurance

External Relations, Wawasan Open University

Members: **Dr. Maximus Gorky Sembiring**, Associate Professor in Educational Management and Distance Education, Universitas Terbuka

Prof. Tsuneo Yamada, Professor, Center for ICT and Distance Education, The Open University of Japan

Out of the five papers chosen by the Conference Organizing Committee, the YIA Adjudication Committee selected the following three papers as the winners of the YIA category:

YOUNG INNOVATOR AWARD	AUTHOR(S) AND INSTITUTION(S)	PAPER ID AND TITLE
Gold Medal	**Yong Rong Xin** Jiangsu Open University, China	**YIA_2017_01** Research on the Construction of Seamless Learning Platform Based on Open Education
Silver Medal	**Reinald Adrian Pugoy** University of the Philippines Open University	**YIA_2017_02** Badge Enrolment and Digital Certificates: Technical Considerations in Customizing the UP Open University Massive Open Distance e-Learning Platform
Silver Medal	**Mari Anjeli L. Crisanto** University of the Philippines Open University	**YIA_2017_05** Group Reporting as a Tool to Enhance the Quality of Courses: The Response of Database Students to Online Cooperative Learning

These awardees were given the Cash Incentives of:
USD500 for the Gold Medalists
USD250 for the Silver Medalists

4 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Termination of Membership

By 31 May 2017, the AAOU Secretariat received two requests for AAOU membership termination. The requests received are from the following institutions:

	INSTITUTION	TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	REQUEST DATE
1	Caritas Institute of Higher Education, Hong Kong	Full institutional member	13 April 2017
2	Aldersgate College, Philippines	Associate institutional member	02 May 2017

The Executive Committee approved the aforementioned requests during the 31st Executive Committee Meeting held on 26 September 2017, and the institutions involved were duly informed on 03 November 2017.

4.2 New Membership Applications

The Executive Committee approved the two applications submitted in 2017. The details and status of the approval are shown in the following table:

	INSTITUTION	TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP APPLIED FOR	RESOLUTION
1	GlobalNxt University, Malaysia	Full member	Approved for **Associate Membership**
2	Netaji Subhas Open University, India	Full member	Approved for **Full Membership**

The Executive Committee decided that GlobalNxt University would receive associate membership instead of full membership due to it being a relatively new institution, with a relatively small body of faculty. For Netaji Subhas Open University, which was a previous full member but was removed from the roster in 2015 because of being in arrears for more than three years, the Executive Committee decided to grant full membership given that the institution will settle their previous arrears, along with the membership fee for 2017.

However, upon being informed of the condition that to be granted full membership, previous arrears must be paid, Netaji Subhas Open University sent an email on 09 November 2017 requesting for their previous arrears to be waived and for their invoice to contain only the membership fee for 2018. They were then requested on 06

December 2017 to submit a formal letter regarding the said request, and that the matter will be taken up in the 33rd AAOU Annual Executive Committee Meeting. They sent the aforementioned letter on 07 December 2017.

5   AAOU STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR 2017

According to the audited statement of accounts, the cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year 2017 was USD354,371 and the cash and cash equivalents as of 31 December 2017 was USD363,730. AAOU granted a subsidy of USD3,000 to meet a portion of the cost for conducting the 31st AAOU Annual Conference.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) provided a grant of CAD5,000 to cover the registration fees and accommodation subsidy of selected participants attending the 31st AAOU Annual Conference.

6   THE AAOU INTER-UNIVERSITY STAFF EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The AAOU Inter-University Staff Exchange Fellowship Programme aims 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 Asian open universities.

In 2017, the following five institutions offered fellowships to deserving candidates in the AAOU Inter-University Exchange Fellowship Programme:

1. The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
2. Korea National Open University, Korea
3. Shanghai Open University, China (two rounds)
4. Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
5. University of the Philippines Open University, Philippines

It was reported that one successful application was identified for the Open University of Sri Lanka fellowships. For both the Korea National Open University and Universitas Terbuka fellowships, only one applicant per institution was offered the fellowship. For the first round of the Shanghai Open University fellowships, 10 applicants were offered fellowships, and for the second round, 9 successful applicants were identified. As for the University of the Philippines Open University fellowships, two applicants were offered the fellowships. The details of the recipients and their research proposal titles are indicated in the following tables:

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Prof. Dr. Santhi Raghavan	Associate Professor	Open University Malaysia, Malaysia	Shaping Futures of Juvenile Prison Inmates via Higher Education

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY KOREA NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Dr. Sun Zhijuan	Associate Professor, School of Engineering	The Open University of China, China	Comparative Study of Open Education Resources between KNOU and OUC

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY SHANGHAI OPEN UNIVERSITY (FIRST ROUND: 15-26 MAY 2017)

Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Tore Hoel	Researcher	Oslo and Akershus University of Applied Sciences, Norway	Data sources for learning analytics: Exploring – from a Chinese and an international perspective – proxies for learning activities and related pedagogical concepts
Plotnikova Vera	Professor	Saratov Socio-Economic Institute, Russia	The implementation of the concept of a lifelong learning system in a learning society through the interaction of undergraduate and distance vocational education and training
Ignatius Gert Petrus Gous	Professor	UNISA, South Africa	Expert Teaching for the Sake of Effective Self-Directed Lifelong Learning in ODL
Hanmo Jeong	Researcher	Kyoto University, Japan	A Study of Transition and Prospects of Learning Support in the Open University UK
Nantha Kumar Subramaniam	Dean	Open University Malaysia, Malaysia	Revisiting the Design and Development of Online Courses for Adult Learners

Salha Mohammed A. Abdo	Lecturer	Open University of Sudan, Sudan	Non-Academic Support in ODL in Open University of Sudan and Shanghai Open University: A Comparative Study
Teenah Jutton	Lecturer	Open University of Mauritius, Mauritius	A Comparative Study of the alienation concept in ODL between Open University of Mauritius and the Shanghai Open University
Mateo Macalaguing Jr.	Director of Students Affairs and Service	CAP College Foundation, Inc., Philippines	The Distance Learning Alternative System
Ladda Vatjanasaregagul	Assistant Professor	Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand	A Comparative Study on Quality Assurance between Shanghai Open University and Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University
Lidalize Grobler	Lecturer	UNISA, South Africa	Expert Teaching for the sake of Effective Self-directed Lifelong Learning in ODL

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY SHANGHAI OPEN UNIVERSITY (SECOND ROUND: 13-24 NOVEMBER 2017)			
Name	**Post**	**Institution**	**Research Proposal Title**
An Walshe	Lecturer	The Open University, UK	Comparative study between SOU and the OU around the quality and pedagogy of tuition provision
Henry Magat	Professor	Jose Rizal University, Philippines	BOLUNTARYONG LUNAS BASA (Reading Aid Assistance): A step towards ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all
Marina Yashina	Associate Professor	Saratov Socio-Economic Institute (branch) Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Russia	Comparative study on open education and students support services in China and Russia
Manan Kumar Mandal	Associate Professor	Netaji Subhas Open University, India	Exploring Student Support Service & Reorientation of Humanities Courses : A Comparative Study of NSOU & SOU

P. M. C. Thilakerathne	Professor	University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	Quality assurance in Open and Distance Learning – A comparative study between Centre for Distance & Continuing Education (CDCE), University of Kelniya, Sri Lanka and Shanghai Open University (SOU), China
Mokoena Sello	Associate Professor	Page 12 UNISA, South Africa	Student support services or comparative study on distance education or E-learning
Brair Sara Lavinia	Associate Professor	Al Neelain University, Sudan	Training Program for Facutly to Implement and Teach in Distance Learning Programs
Samalia Mande	Associate Professor	National Open University of Nigeria, Nigeria	The Role of Open & Distance Learning Institutions in Community Education : How involved is the National Open University of Nigeria and Shanghai Open University
Milomba Reachel Velu	Lecturer	Cavendish University, Zambia	A Review of Two Decades Service of Shanghai Open University, Shanghai, China: Challenges and Achievements

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY UNIVERSITAS TERBUKA			
Name	**Post**	**Institution**	**Research Proposal Title**
Dr. Anirban Ghosh	Associate Professor of Commerce	Netaji Subhas Open University, India	A Comparative Study of Distance Learning Practices at Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), India & Universitas Terbuka (UT), Indonesia

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES OPEN UNIVERSITY			
Name	**Post**	**Institution**	**Research Proposal Title**
Dr. Bo Yang	Lecturer	Beijing Open University, China	Quality Assurance System Operation of BJOU and UPOU: A Comparative Study
Dr. Ghanta Pushpa Chakrapani	Professor	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, India	Open Educational Resources (OERs) for Equitable Quality

	Education in the Philippines

7   AAOU JOURNAL

The first 2017 issue of the AAOU Journal [Volume 12 (No. 1)] was published in August. The details of the papers published in this issue are as follows:

	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)	INSTITUTION
1	A design-based approach to support and nurture open educational practices *(2016 Best Practice Award – Gold Medal)*	Shironica P. Karunanayaka (1) & Som Naidu (2)	1 The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka 2 The University of South Pacific, Fiji
2	Learning analytics in higher education: an analysis of case studies *(2016 Best Paper Award – Finalist)*	Billy Tak Ming Wong	The Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
3	Student characteristics and knowledge on ODL concepts at first registration: A case study from OUSL	K.A.J.M. Kuruppuarachchi & K.O.L.C Karunanayake	The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
4	Analyzing students online learning behavior in blended courses using Moodle *(2016 Best Paper Award – Finalist)*	Rosalina Rebucas Estacio & Rodolfo Callanta Raga Jr.	Jose Rizal University, Philippines
5	Quality assurance in learning material development at OUM *(2016 Best Practice Award – Finalist)*	Nazrai Ahmad Zabidi, P. Rajesh Kumar, Mansor Fadzil, Syarifah Hidayatul Syed Husain	Open University Malaysia, Malaysia
6	The online examinations at Universitas Terbuka: an innovation diffusion viewpoint *(2016 Best Practice Award – Finalist)*	Sugilar Sugilar	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
7	The potential and challenges of MOOCs in Pakistan: a perspective of students and faculty	Syed Saad Ahmed (1), Essa Khan (1), Muhammad Faisal (1), Sara Khan (2)	1 Bahria University, Pakistan 2 Institute of Business Administration, Pakistan
8	A multi-objective evolutionary algorithm-based soft computing model for educational data mining: A distance learning experience *(2016 Best Paper Award – Silver Medal)*	Choo Jun Tan, Ting Yee Lim, Chin Wei Bong, Teik Kooi Liew	Wawasan Open University, Malaysia

The details of the papers published in the second 2017 issue of the AAOU Journal [Volume 12 (No. 2)] are as follows:

	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)	INSTITUTION
1	Exploratory study of academic excellence associated with persistence in ODL setting	Maximus Gorky Sembiring	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
2	Integration of EBSCO Discovery Service widget into the learning spaces of LMS: A case study of Wawasan Open University	Bee Leng Chew (1), Marnisya Abdul Rahim (1), Vighnarajah (2)	1 Wawasan Open University, Malaysia 2 UCSI University, Malaysia
3	Persuading student involvement via peripheral services offered	Hansani Chathurika Dassanayake (1), Busige Nishantha (2), Asanka Senevirathne (3)	1 University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka 2 University of Colombo, Sri Lanka 3 The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka
4	Mobile learning in nursing education: catering for students and teachers' needs	Kam Cheong Li, Suet-Lai Wong, Ivy Sui-Yu Yau, Billy Tak Ming Wong	The Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
5	Conceptions of learning in technology-enhanced learning environments: A review of case studies in Taiwan	Chin-Chung Tsai	National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan
6	The behavioural intention to use video lecture in an ODL institution: Insights from learners' perspective	Chooi Chea Chiam, Han Tek Chung, P. Rajesh Kumar K.P. Nair	Open University Malaysia, Malaysia
7	E-learning for introductory Computer Science concept on recursion applying two types of feedback methods in the learning assessment	Lynnard Mondigo & Demelo Madrazo Lao	University of the Philippines Cebu, Philippines
8	An empirical framework for mainstreaming OER in an academic institution	Ishan Sudeera Abeywardena	Commonwealth of Learning, Canada

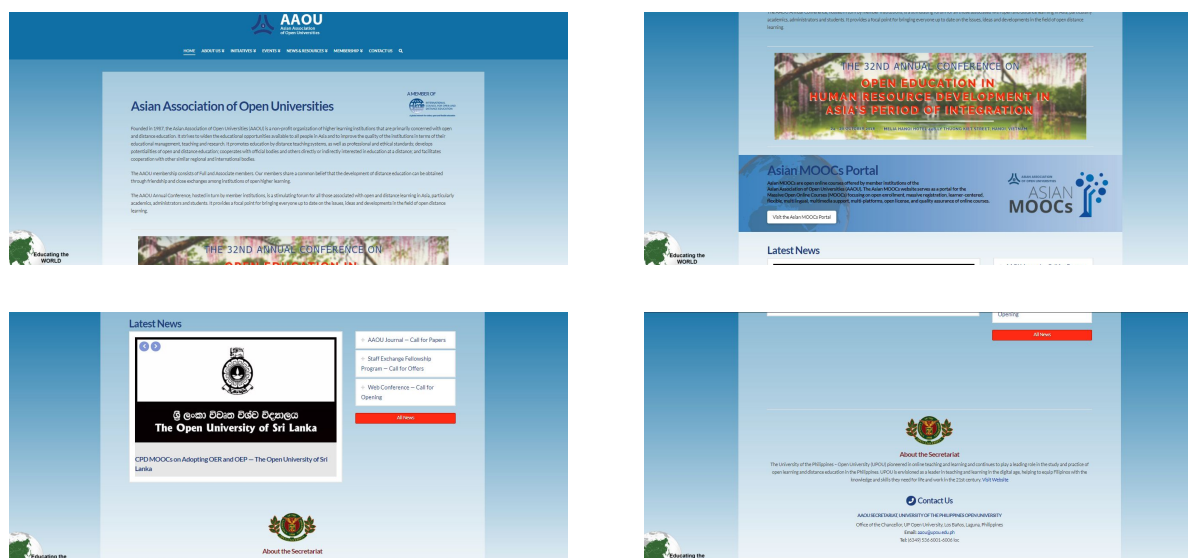# 8   THE 32ND AAOU ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 2018

In the Executive Committee Meeting in 2016, it was resolved that the host for the AAOU 2018 would be Hanoi Open University.
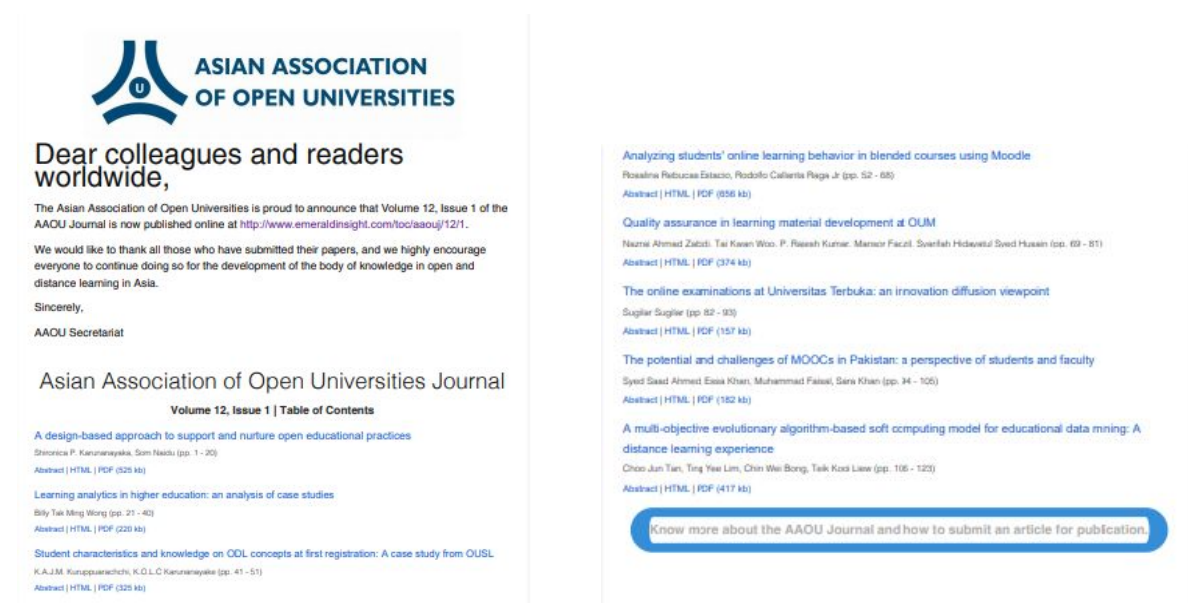
9   E-COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The AAOU Secretariat is keen to enhance the communication among the AAOU members as well as the whole ODL community. The AAOU website has been updated regularly to provide AAOU members with the most recent information about ODL as well as activities of the member institutions. Likewise, four issues of the AAOU

eBulletin were published and three email announcements were dispatched to the AAOU mailing list. The issue release of the AAOU Journal was likewise sent to the AAOU mailing list containing the list of papers published in the issue.

Screenshots of the AAOU website (www.aaou.upou.edu.ph)

Screenshots of the AAOU Journal email communication

10 AAOU INITIATIVES

10.1 Asian MOOCs

10.1.1 Redevelopment of the Asian MOOCs Portal

The Asian MOOCs Portal was redeveloped with the generic name asiamoocs.org.

What are Asian MOOCs?

Asian MOOCs are open online courses offered by member institutions of Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU). Asian MOOCs serves as a portal for the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) focusing on Open Enrollment, Massive Registration, Learner-Centered, Flexible, Multilingual, Multimedia support, Multi-platforms, Open License, and Quality Assurance of online courses.

Asian MOOCs Learning Portal

The Asian MOOCs Learning Portal serves as the official learning portal of the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) from member institutions of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU). You may access the site at http://asianlearningportal.org/

[Visit the Asian Learning Portal]

Course Offerings

Introduction to Descriptive Analytics (01 Oct-20 Oct 2018)

Unsupervised Learning Methodologies (01 Oct-20 Oct 2018)

Introduction To Prescriptive Analytics And Operations Research Overview (01 Oct-26 Oct 2018)

Technology in ODeL (01 Oct-04 Nov 2018)

Assessment of Learning in ODeL (01 Oct-04 Nov 2018)

Oral Communication and Conversational Fluency

Understanding OER (19 Oct-16 Nov 2018)

Searching and Evaluating OER (19 Oct-16 Nov 2018)

This will serve as the landing page for all the MOOCs being offered by the AAOU member institutions.

10.1.2 Survey among member institutions on their MOOCs offering

The AAOU Secretariat has distributed a Google form (https://goo.gl/forms/XRscYDu05iEOmuU83) to all members via email and via the AAOU website.

11   CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall, the year 2017 was successful and eventful. The Association wishes to record its gratitude to all members of the AAOU Executive Committee and General Body for their support and cooperation. The AAOU is also grateful to COL for continuing its sponsorship to support the participation of deserving individuals in the AAOU Annual Conference.