

ANNEXURE B

Annual Report 2018

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



**ASIAN ASSOCIATION
OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	
2	ACTION THROUGH CIRCULATION	3
3	MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES	3
3.1	AAOU Annual Meetings of the Executive Committee and General Body 2018	3
3.2	AAOU Annual Conference 2018	3
3.3	AAOU Awards and Winners	8
4	MEMBERSHIP	14
4.1	Termination of Membership	14
4.2	New Membership Applications	14
5	AAOU STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018	14
6	THE AAOU INTER-UNIVERSITY STAFF EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	14
7	AAOU JOURNAL	18
8	THE 33RD AAOU ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 2019	19
9	E-COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	19
10	AAOU INITIATIVES	20
10.1	ASIAN MOOCs	20
10.2	Report of the Proposed Open Education Accreditation Service	21
10.3	Proposal for New Initiatives for Future Collaborative Work	21
11	CONCLUDING REMARKS	22

1 INTRODUCTION

This report offers an account of the activities of the AAOU conducted in 2018, as well as the decisions of the Executive Committee and General Body Meetings. It also incorporates the 32nd AAOU Annual Conference 2018 event and some of the actions taken based on the Minutes of the Meetings.

2 ACTION THROUGH CIRCULATION

2.1 AAOU_EB_2018_01

The items were submitted for action by the Executive Committee Members on 25 September 2018:

2.1.1 The granting of the 2018 AAOU Meritorious Award to Prof. Dr. Naveed Malik, Rector of the Virtual University of Pakistan (Pakistan)

2.1.2 Renewal Proposal from Emerald Publishing Services for the AAOU Journal for 5 years (2019-2023) amounting to £54,280.00 (USD71,125.80) or £10,856.00 (USD14,226) per year

2.1.3 Proposal to Establish the AAOU Collaborative Research Program with Funding Allocation of USD18,000 for 2019

3 MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

3.1 AAOU Annual Meetings of the Executive Committee and General Body 2018

The 33rd AAOU Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) and the 32nd Annual Meeting of the General Body (GB) were held on 23 October 2018 and 25 October 2018 respectively in Melia Hanoi Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam was the host for the 32nd AAOU Annual Conference.

Minutes of the EC and GB meetings in 2018 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 2018

The 31st AAOU Annual Conference was hosted successfully by Hanoi Open University in Hanoi, Vietnam from 23 to 25 October 2018 with the theme ‘Open Education in Human Resource Development in Asia’s Period of Integration’.



The AAOU President, Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, delivers her welcoming speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 32nd AAOU Annual Conference.

The 32nd AAOU Annual Conference brought together about 327 delegates who came from over 16 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. The conference was officiated by Dr. Truong Tien Tung, President of Hanoi Open University; Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, President of the AAOU; and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training.

The AAOU 2018 featured a two-day pre-conference activities with two plenary sessions and five parallel sessions. The AAOU 2018 Conference program featured three keynote speeches, three plenary panels, and six 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:

- Human Resource Development in Open Universities
- Open Education in Technical, Vocational, and Skills Development
- Open Education Practices in Foreign Languages and Academic Disciplines
- New Technologies in Open Education

The details of the sessions in the pre-conference were as follows:

SESSIONS	ACTIVITIES
Plenary Session 1	Opening of the Meetings of the Asia MOOCs Steering Committee, OU5 Research Group
Parallel Sessions	Asia MOOCs Steering Committee Meeting
	OU5 Research Group: Institutional Research
	OU5 Research Group: ASEAN Studies Research
	AAOU Task Force Accreditation
	OU5 Presidents Meeting
Plenary Session 2	Wrap-up of OU5 President Meeting Wrap-up of OU5 Research Groups Meeting

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

	TOPIC	SPEAKER(S)
Keynote Speech 1	New Technologies in Open Education	Prof. Melinda Bandalaria Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University
Plenary Panel Sessions	Human Resource Development in Asia's Period of Integration and Openness in Education	Prof. Tian Belawati Former Rector, Universitas Terbuka
		Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Mai Huong Chair of the Board of Regents of Hanoi Open University
		Dr. Li Kam Cheong Director of Research of Open University of Hong Kong
Parallel Sessions 1-6	Human Resource Development in Open Universities	Paper Presenters
	Open Education in Technical, Vocational, and Skills Development	

	Open Education Practices in Foreign Languages and Academic Disciplines New Technologies in Open Education	
	Open Education Practices in Foreign Languages and Academic Disciplines New Technologies in Open Education	
Keynote Speech 2	Human Resource Development and Lifelong Learning for Open Universities	Prof. Asha Kanwar Commonwealth of Learning
Keynote Speech 3	Open Education in Technical, Vocational, and Skills Development	Dr. Rory McGreal UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning Chairholder in Open Educational Resources

During the opening ceremony on 24 October, welcome speeches were given by Dr. Truong Tien Tung, President of the host institution Hanoi Open University; Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, President of the Asian Association of Open Universities; and the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training. This was followed by a keynote speech on New Technologies in Open Education delivered by Dr. Bandalaria, and a plenary session on Human Resource Development in Asia's Period of Integration and Openness in Education by Dr. Li Kam-Cheong, Director of the University Research Centre of the Open University of Hong Kong. Two parallel sessions were also conducted during the afternoon of 24 October, continuing on to the 25th of October with the remaining four parallel sessions.



Dr. Truong Tien Tung, President of the host institution Hanoi Open University (left) and Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, President of the Asian Association of Open Universities (right) delivering their welcome speeches.



Prof. Rory McGreal together with other key participants gather at the Main Ballroom for the Opening Ceremony.

On the 26th of October, the last day of the conference, two keynote speeches were delivered by Prof. Asha Kanwar, President & CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning, on Human Resource Development and Lifelong Learning for Open Universities; and by Prof. Rory McGreal, UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning Chairholder in Open Educational Resources, on Open Education in Technical, Vocational, and Skills Development.



(From left to right) The three keynote speakers of AAOU 2018: Prof. Melinda Bandalaria – Chancellor Of the University Of The Philippines Open University, AAOU President, President of AAOU on New Technologies in Open Education; Prof. Rory McGreal, UNESCO/Commonwealth of Learning Chairholder in Open Educational Resources, on Open Education in Technical, Vocational, and Skills Development; and Prof. Asha Kanwar, President & CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning, on Human Resource Development and Lifelong Learning for Open Universities.

Closing remarks were then delivered by Hanoi Open University President Dr. Truong Tien Tung, and AAOU President Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, thanking the host institution for a successful conference, as well as everyone who attended and participated. Afterwards, a video presentation was shown by representatives from the host institution of the next conference, the Virtual University of Pakistan, who invited the participants to join the 33rd AAOU Annual Conference to be held in Lahore, Pakistan in 2019.



The Conference Organizing Committee of Hanoi Open University thanks everyone who attended the AAOU 2018.



Representatives from the Virtual University of Pakistan welcome all participants to the AAOU 2019 in Lahore, Pakistan..

3.3 AAOU Awards and Winners

2018 AAOU Meritorious Service Award

The AAOU Secretariat received five nominations for the 2018 AAOU Meritorious Service Award (MSA).

The nominations were assessed and evaluated by an Adjudication Committee composed of Chair Prof. Tian Belawati (Former Rector, Universitas Terbuka) and Members Prof. Asha Kanwar (President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning), Dr. Yoichi Okabe (Former President, The Open University of Japan), Prof. Gajaraj Dhanarajan (Former Vice Chancellor, Wawasan Open University), and Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso (Former Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University).

After evaluating the nomination documents submitted, the Adjudication Committee recommended Dr. Naveed Malik as the recipient of the 2018 AAOU Meritorious Service Award. The recommendation was accepted by the President and approved by the Executive Committee by circulation.



Dr. Naveed Malik delivers his acceptance speech via video recording shown during the awarding of AAOU 2018 Meritorious Service Award

AAOU Best Paper Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2018 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: **Prof. Dr. Zoraini Wati Abas**, Acting Vice Chancellor, Wawasan Open University

Prof. Drs. Ojat Darajat, Rector, Universitas Terbuka

The Academic Sub-Committee of the Conference Organizing Committee selected nine papers from the full papers submitted. The nine 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)
BPA2018_01	Learning Economy through Crowd-Sourced Learning	Masumi Hori Seishi Ono Toshihiro Kita Hiroki Miyahara Shiu Sakashita Kensuke Miyashita Kazutuna Yamaji Tsuneo Yamada	CCC-TIES Kumamoto University University of Yamanashi Acutus Software, Inc. Kyoto Women's University National Institute of Informatics The Open University of Japan
BPA2018_03	Leadership and Distance Learning: Exploring Roles of Administrators and Leaders in Digital Age	Bakare Kazeem Kayode	Al-Madinah International University
BPA2018_04	Alumnus-Perceived Effectiveness of Open Education	A.M.P.B. Abeysinghe, B.G. Jayatilleke, B.C.L. Athapattu, L.P.S. Gamini	The Open University of Sri Lanka
BPA2018_05	Can e-Servicescapes Improve Student Management? Evidence from the Open University of Sri Lanka	H. C. Dassanayake W.A.R. Senevirathne	University of Sri Jayewardenepura The Open University of Sri Lanka
BPA2018_06	Developing Human Resource for Enhancement of Training Quality and Effectiveness at Hanoi Open University	Nguyen Thi Thuy Hong	Hanoi Open University
BPA_2018_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
BPA2018_09	Design Case Study for e-Learners	Tran Thi Lan Thu & Ngo Van Duc	Hanoi Open University

During the conference, 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
<i>Gold Medal</i>	H. C. Dassanayake University of Sri Jayewardenepura W.A.R. Senevirathne The Open University of Sri Lanka	BPA2018_05 Can e-Servicescapes Improve Student Engagement? Evidence from the Distance Education in Sri Lanka
<i>Silver Medal</i>	A.M.P.B. Abeysinghe B.G. Jayatilleke B.C.L. Athapattu L.P.S. Gamini The Open University of Sri Lanka	BPA2018_04 Alumnus-Perceived Effectiveness of Open Education
<i>Silver Medal</i>	Masumi Hori Seishi Ono CCC-TIES Toshihiro Kita Kumamoto University Hiroki Miyahara University of Yamanashi Shiu Sakashita Acutus Software, Inc. Kensuke Miyashita Kyoto Women's University Kazutuna Yamaji National Institute of Informatics Tsuneo Yamada The Open University of Japan	BPA2018_01 Learning Economy through Crowd-Sourced Learning

AAOU Best Practice Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2018 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. Samuel Anbahan Ariadurai, Vice Chancellor, The Open University of Sri Lanka

The Academic Sub-Committee of the Conference Organizing Committee selected 15 papers from the full papers submitted. The 15 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)
BPrA2 018_01	Mediating Effect of APEL on Competency and Opportunity in ODL Environment Using Structural Equation Modeling	Mohamad Afzhan Khan Mohamad Khalil	Open University Malaysia
BPrA2 018_03	Construction and Application of Online Education Cloud Platform for Learning Analysis	Wei Fangfang, Wei Shunping, Wu Shuping	The Open University of China
BPrA2 018_08	Blending Television with MOOCs: An Experiment in Elementary Teacher Training in India	Gaurav Singh	Indira Gandhi National Open University
BPrA2 018_09	Ranking Criteria for e-Learning Adoption: The Case of Vietnam	Nguyen Le Hoang Thuy To Quyen & Doan Ho Dan Tam	Ho Chi Minh City Open University
BPrA2 018_11	Employers' Attitudes Towards HOU's Post Graduates' Skills and Qualities for 21st Century	Hoang Tuyet Minh	Hanoi Open University
BPrA2 018_13	Implementation and Challenges of Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL): The Assessors' Perspective	Ooi Li Hsien & Arathai Din Eak	Wawasan Open University

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	Ooi Li Hsien & Arathai Din Eak Wawasan Open University	BPrA2018_13 Implementation and Challenges of Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL): The Assessors' Perspective
Silver Medal	Nguyen Le Hoang Thuy To Quyen & Doan Ho Dan Tam Ho Chi Minh City Open University	BPrA2018_09 Ranking Criteria for e-Learning Adoption: The Case of Vietnam
Silver Medal	Gaurav Singh Indira Gandhi National Open University	BPrA2018_08 Blending Television with MOOCs: An Experiment in Elementary Teacher Training in India

AAOU Young Innovator Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2018 Young Innovator Award consisted of the following members:

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

External Relations, Wawasan Open University

Members: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Krisana Rungrojwanich**, Acting Vice President for Research, Innovation, and International Affairs, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University

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

Out of the 14 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
<i>Gold Medal</i>	Kamran Mir Allama Iqbal Open University	YIA2018_13 Formative Mobile Assessment in Distance Learning
<i>Silver Medal</i>	Saumya Pandey Indira Gandhi National Open University	YIA2018_04 Social Work Programmes through Open and Distance Learning: Case Study of IGNOU, India
<i>Silver Medal</i>	Wang Yan Jiangsu Open University	YIA2018_06 The Application of Micro-course in Open Education in the Perspective of Teaching in English Interpretation

4 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Termination of Membership

The AAOU Secretariat did not receive request for AAOU membership termination.

4.2 New Membership Applications

The Executive Committee approved one application submitted in 2018. The details and status of the approval are shown in the following table:

	INSTITUTION	TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP APPLIED FOR	RESOLUTION
1	The Cyber University of Korea, Korea	Full member	Approved for Full Membership

The Executive Committee decided that The Cyber University of Korea would receive full membership.

5 AAOU STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR 2018

According to the audited statement of accounts, the cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year 2018 was USD363,730 and the cash and cash equivalents as of 31 December 2018 was USD366,532.13. AAOU granted a subsidy of USD3,000 to meet a portion of the cost for conducting the 32nd 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 32nd 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 2018, the following four institutions offered fellowships to deserving candidates in the AAOU Inter-University Exchange Fellowship Programme:

1. Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand (1 slot, 1 successful application)
2. Shanghai Open University, China (up to 15 slots, 19 successful applications)
3. Korea National Open University, Korea (2 slots, 2 successful applications)
4. Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia (2 slots, 2 successful applications)

It was reported that one successful application was identified for the Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University fellowships. For the Shanghai Open University, 19 successful applicants were offered fellowships. For both the Korea National Open University and Universitas Terbuka fellowships, two applicants per institution were offered the fellowship.

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

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY THE SUKHOthAI THAMMATHIRAT OPEN UNIVERSITY			
Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Dr. Jeetendra Pande	Assistant Professor	Uttarakhand Open University, India	A comparative study of OER practices at Uttarakhand Open University (UOU), India & Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU), Thailand

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY SHANGHAI OPEN UNIVERSITY			
Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Jennifer Munday	Senior Lecturer	Charles Sturt University, Australia	Exploring the potential of initiating ePortfolios with the advent of a new Learning Management System: The current situation at Shanghai Open University
Aynura Ismayilova	Deputy Director	Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms (ISRER) under the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan	Promoting Academic & Research Mobility & Strengthening Inter-Cooperation Activities between Institutions in China and Azerbaijan
Maryam Asoodar	Assistant Professor	Maastricht University, Netherlands	Use of Augmented and Virtual Reality in Medical Education
Mabel Bothasitse	Acting Director, Centre for Teaching, Learning and Quality Assurance	Botswana Open University, Botswana	A comparative study of QA practices at SOU & Botswana Open University (BOU)

Georg Wimmer	Full Professor	University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt (FHWS), Germany	Development of blended learning units
Goski Alabi	Professor/ West Africa Representative of the Executive Board of ACD	Laweh Open University College, Ghana	A Comparative Study of Deployment of Virtual Live Sessions as Quality Assurance Practices of Open and Distance Learning between Laweh Open University
Shimna Shakeeb	Lecturer	The Maldives National University, Maldives	Comparative Study of Quality Assurance Practices Guiding Open and Distance Learning at The Maldives National University and Shanghai Open University
Sadia Rahat Saeed	Senior Designer	Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan	Research on Team Teaching in ODL / Use of Artistic Design and Visual Art in Education
Kensol J. Rui	Executive Director	University of Goroka, Papua New Guinea	A Comparative Analysis on Teachers Professional Development of SOU and The University of Goroka (UOG) and What Lessons Can Be Learnt for Improvement
Yoon Ping Chui	Head of Programme	Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore	Develop of e-learning in human factors and safety for the safety professionals in Singapore
Abdullah Saykili	Lecturer	Anadolu University, Turkey	The Comparison of Instructional Strategies and Processes Adopted by Shanghai Open University and Anadolu University Through Investigating Cultural, Dialogic, Motivational and Personality Orientations of Learners
Sally Crighton	Senior Lecturer in Mathematics & Statistics	The Open University, UK	A comparative study into how peer observation and evaluation, and sharing of good practice, can enhance teaching and quality assurance measures in open and distance teaching and learning
Steve Walker	Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor)/Staff Tutor	The Open University, UK	Learning analytics: an exploratory comparative study of the use of data to support students
Md. Fakhrul Islam Patwary	Lecturer	Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh	Challenges of Developing Courses of Studies for Online

			Higher Education: a Comparative Study on SOU and BOU
Dona Octanary	Research & Development Officer	SEAMOLEC, Indonesia	Teacher Professional Development through MOOC SEAMOLEC
Yen Wan Chong	Senior Lecturer	Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia	Usage of gamification and mobile technologies to delivery enhance student engagement in open and online education
Maragtas Amante	Affiliate Faculty	University of the Philippines Open University, Philippines	China and ASEAN Labor and Employment Relations – Comparative Policy, Practice and Digital Learning Opportunities
Kiselev Maksim	Professor	Saratov Socio-Economic Institute of Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Russia	Differences in perceptions of the world by representatives of east and western civilizations and their influence on economic and cultural integration of China and Russia
Nishshankage Abeysinghe	Dean - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka	Instruments for stakeholders in quality assurance of open and distance learning(ODL)

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY KOREA NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY

Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
V. Sivalogathanan	Senior Lecturer	The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka	Quality Assurance in Open University in Asia: Policies and Practices
Mesut Aydemir	Lecturer	Anadolu University, Turkey	Comparing Recognition of Prior Learning in Higher Education Contexts: The Case of Korea and Turkey

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY UNIVERSITAS TERBUKA

Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Dr. Naveed Sultana	Professor	Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan	A Comparative Study of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIQU) and University Of Terbuka, Indonesia To Utilize MOOCs for the Professional Development Of University

			Teachers
Dr. Meraz Ahmed	Lecturer	Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh	MOOCs and Entrepreneurship Development: A Comparative Study on Bangladesh and Indonesia Perspective

7 AAOU JOURNAL

The first 2018 issue of the AAOU Journal [Volume 13 (No. 1)] was published in August. The details of the papers published in this issue are as follows:


	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)	INSTITUTION
1	Advancing learning through smart learning analytics: a review of case studies	Kinshuk (1) Vivekanandan Kumar (2)	1 University of North Texas, USA 2 Athabasca University, Canada
2	Open Universities: the next phase	Alan Tait	The Open University, UK
3	Transforming and empowering higher education through Open and Distance Learning in India	Ritimoni Bordoloi	Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, India
4	Genre analysis of the “About Us” sections of Asian Association of Open Universities websites	Louise S. Villanueva Mary Aizel C. Dolom Jennifer S. Belen	University of the Philippines Open University, Philippines
5	Applying quality tools to improve student retention supporting process: a case study from WOU (2017 Best Paper Award, Silver Medal)	PohLean Chuah & PengKeat Lim	Wawasan Open University, Malaysia
6	Group reporting as a tool to enhance the quality of courses: The response of database students to online cooperative learning (2017 Young Innovator Award, Silver Medal)	Mari Anjeli Lubrica Crisanto	University of the Philippines Open University, Philippines
7	Research on the construction of seamless learning platform based on open education (2017 Young Innovator Award, Gold Medal)	Yongrong Xin	Jiangsu Open University, China
8	Modelling the notions and dimensions of MOOCs (2017 Best Paper Award, Gold Medal)	Maximus Gorky Sembiring	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia

8 THE 33RD AAOU ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 2019

In the Executive Committee Meeting in 2017, it was resolved that the host for the AAOU 2019 would be the Virtual University of Pakistan.


9 E-COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President and Secretariat are keen to enhance communication among AAOU members and update them on the latest events and developments at member institutions, as well as provide updated news about the AAOU and ODL field, in order to bring the most recent information directly to scholars and professionals. In 2018, four issues of the eBulletin were published, and three email announcements were delivered. In these e-communications, important events — such as international conferences on open and distance education, the offering of the Inter-University Staff Exchange Fellowship Programme by our member institutions, and the publication of the AAOU Journal — were announced. Also, calls for paper submission, award nomination, and updated news from member institutions were delivered.



**ASIAN ASSOCIATION
OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES**

eBulletin
Issue No. 1, 2018



**CONFERENCE ON
OPEN EDUCATION IN
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN
ASIA'S PERIOD OF INTEGRATION**

2018 Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference

**AAOU 2020 — CALL FOR
PROPOSALS FOR HOSTING**

Every year, the AAOU Annual Conference is hosted in turn by a full-member institution. We would like to invite your institution (if it is a full member) to consider submitting a proposal to host the 34th AAOU Annual Conference in 2020. The Conference is a stimulating forum for all those associated with open and distance learning (ODL) in Asia, and is a focal point for updating everyone on the latest news and developments in the field of ODL in the region. It is also an international platform for the critical exchange of knowledge and experience among ODL academics, researchers and practitioners.

The "Guidelines for Hosting the AAOU Annual Conference" are available here: <http://aauopen.edu.ph/guidelines-for-hosting/>.

If your institution is interested in hosting this important event, kindly submit a proposal to aauopen.edu.ph by 30 June 2018.

**The 32nd Annual
Conference of the
Asian Association of
Open Universities**

Theme: Open Education in Human Resource Development in Asia's Period of Integration

Details such as the conference sub-themes, important dates, and the conference program are now available on the conference website: <http://aau2018.hou.edu.vn>

If you have not yet registered for this conference and still wish to do so, you are welcome to register here: <http://aau2018.hou.edu.vn/registration-form/>

AAOU eBulletin
Issue No. 1, 2018

**AAOU 2018 Meritorious Service Award
— Call for Nominations**

Every year, the AAOU may present a Meritorious Service Award (MSA) to an individual for his/her outstanding services and contributions to open and distance education. Individual academics or administrators may be nominated by AAOU member institutions.

If you wish to submit a nomination, please note the following details:

- Individual academics or administrators may be nominated by AAOU member institutions or by senior faculty (not below the rank of Full Professor) working in AAOU member institutions.
- Nominations need not be restricted to persons presently working for or associated with the member institutions of AAOU.
- Nominations must be signed either by the Chief Executive of the nominating institution or by at least three Senior Academics of AAOU member institutions.
- More than one nomination can be made.

For each nomination, the following three documents must be submitted:

- A signed nomination letter;
- A statement of no more than 1,000 words giving the reasons for making the nomination; and
- A copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.


The deadline for nomination is 30 June 2018. Further details regarding this highly prestigious award are in this webpage: <http://aauopen.edu.ph/aau-meritorious-service-award/>

AAOU eBulletin
Issue No. 1, 2018

Web Conference — Call for Opening

To share the latest knowledge, ideas, insights, and information in the field of ODL, the AAOU organizes web-conferences. You may view our past events here: <http://aauopen.edu.ph/web-conferences/>

Academics, scholars, and experts who wish to share useful and practical knowledge or skills on an ODL topic with our colleagues are invited to become our speakers and give a talk at an AAOU web conference. A speaker must be an expert in the area/field that he/she presents. If you are interested in sharing ODL topics with practitioners and scholars in the field, please send a proposal to aaupress@open.edu.ph and provide details of the contents to be shared in the web conference.



AAOU's Asian MOOCs Portal

AAOU has decided to take an initiative to help institutional members to benefit from the development of massive open online courses (MOOCs). A portal, "Asian MOOCs" (<http://aauopen.edu.ph/>), was established to link the MOOCs offered by AAOU member institutions, as an integrated hub for providing information to potential MOOC learners, as well as promoting the MOOCs of our members.

AAOU members who are offering massive open online courses are invited to send us information about your MOOCs by accomplishing this Google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/AAACndB8gJch9y2>


AAOU Journal

**AAOU Journal — Call for
Papers**

The AAOU Journal serves as a forum for academics and practitioners to share their expertise and experience in ODL. Researchers, academics, administrators, and professionals in this area are welcome to submit papers to the Journal.

Should you wish to do so, please refer to the criteria and guidelines stated in this webpage: <http://www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/services/publishing/asoujournals.htm>

Manuscripts which fulfill the criteria will be reviewed for possible publication.



THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES | AAOU.UPOU.EDU.PH

THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES | AAOU.UPOU.EDU.PH

AAOU eBulletin
Issue No. 1, 2018

Staff Exchange Fellowship Program — Shanghai Open University

Shanghai Open University is pleased to announce that applications for its 2018 International Visiting Scholar Program are now being accepted. Please see the following details:

Period of program: up to two weeks (04-15 June 2018)
Number of fellowships: up to 15
Deadline of applications: 31 March 2018
Notice of acceptance: 20 April 2018

SOU will provide the successful fellowship candidates with the following:

- hotel accommodation
- living expense allowance & transportation within Shanghai (250 RMB per day, 200RMB is total for the transportation within Shanghai)
- workspace with wifi, telephone and internet access

For more details, please refer to this document: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W3Y-1C79neP-1G2dZ82d8a6b8u001/view?usp=sharing>

Staff Exchange Fellowship Program — Call for Offers

The AAOU Staff Exchange Fellowship Program aims to provide a platform for capacity building and establish sustainable partnerships among open universities. Any AAOU member institution (donor) may contribute to the program by offering one or more short-term fellowships to staff from other member institutions (recipient) to spend up to one month at the donor institution in order to receive training, carry out an academic exchange or undertake a collaborative research project. All member institutions are welcome to participate in this initiative.

Interested member institutions can refer to this webpage for a template for announcing a 'Call for Applications' and other details: <http://aaoou.edu.ph/aim-and-template/>

AAOU eBulletin
Issue No. 1, 2018

news from member institutions

Korea National Open University Elects Dr. Ryu Su Noh as President

On 14 February 2018, Dr. Ryu Su Noh, a Professor from the Department of Agriculture in Korea National Open University (KNOU), was newly appointed as the 7th President of the institution. He will be serving in the said position for four years (until February 2022).

Dr. Ryu graduated from KNOU with a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1986, and has been teaching in the university's Department of Agriculture since 1989. It is the first time that KNOU has appointed a university alumnus as President.

The Asian Association of Open Universities duly congratulates KNOU and Dr. Ryu Su Noh. We look forward to working with KNOU under the guidance of Dr. Ryu in forwarding the development of open and distance education in Asia.

Wawasan Open University Appoints Prof. Zoraini Abas as Acting Vice-Chancellor

Prof. Dr. Zoraini Wati Abas, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and Educational Technology was appointed as the Acting Vice Chancellor of Wawasan Open University (WOU) effective 1st January 2018.

Prof. Zoraini brings with her over 30 years of experience in the education industry, and in 2014 was recognised as the 2nd Most Influential Higher Educational Technology Leaders in Southeast Asia and received the Education Leadership Award from the World Corporate Universities Congress in Mumbai, India.

Congratulations to WOU and Prof. Zoraini, and may the efforts to develop open and distance education in Asia be strengthened through the continued partnership of WOU and AAOU.

AAOU eBulletin
Issue No. 1, 2018

news from member institutions

2018 International Conference on Open and Innovative Education (ICOIE 2018) – The Open University of Hong Kong

Organised by the Open University of Hong Kong, the 5th of its annual conference series – International Conference on Open and Innovative Education (ICOIE) – will be held on 4-6 July 2018 at the Jockey Club Campus of the Open University of Hong Kong.

Government established - Diversified and Flexible The conference welcomes papers on all topics related to open or innovative education. For further details regarding abstract/full paper submission, kindly refer to the relevant page in the conference website at <http://icoie2018.oohk.edu.hk/e-call.html>. Accepted full papers will be included in the conference proceedings and considered for the "Best Paper Award" and "Excellent Paper Award". In addition, selected papers will be recommended for consideration to refereed journals, including for this conference special issues of Interactive Technology and Smart Education (ISCI) and Scopus (listed) and International Journal of Mobile Learning and Organisation (Scopus listed).

Further details are available in the Conference website at <http://icoie2018.oohk.edu.hk>.

other news

AAOU Accreditation Task Force

In light of the approved proposal during the 32nd AAOU Annual Executive Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2017, in Indonesia to explore the feasibility of offering open education accreditation services, the AAOU Accreditation Task Force held its first meeting in Manila, Philippines on 16-17 February 2018.

The group is currently conducting interviews with senior staff members of AAOU member institutions for the study, and hopes to present the findings on the next Executive Committee and General Body Meeting to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Please share this eBulletin with your colleagues and staff members. Do you have news to share with the AAOU community? Your experiences, information, or ideas for sharing with us are most welcome! Please contact the AAOU Secretariat at aaa@oou.edu.ph.

ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES

AAOU eBulletin | Issue No. 2, 2018

Featured News

THE 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES

OPEN EDUCATION IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA'S PERIOD OF INTEGRATION

The 32nd Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities

Theme: Open Education in Human Resource Development in Asia's Period of Integration

Details such as the conference sub-theme, important dates, and the conference program are now available on the [conference website](#).

ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES

AAOU eBulletin | Issue No. 4, 2018

Snapshots of AAOU 2018

Prof. Roy Wilhel together with other participants gather at the Main Ballroom for the Opening Ceremony.

AAOU President Dr. Dennis Desautels delivers his welcome speech at the Opening Ceremony.

ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES

AAOU eBulletin | Issue No. 3, 2018

Featured News

THE 32ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES

OPEN EDUCATION IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA'S PERIOD OF INTEGRATION

The 32nd Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities

Screenshots of the AAOU eBulletin

10 AAOU INITIATIVES

10.1 ASIAN MOOCs

Dr. Andy Liew Teik Kooi, member of the Asian MOOCs Steering Committee, reported to the Executive Committee that three outputs were generated by the project in 2018 -- the Asian MOOCs Learning Portal, the AAOU MOOCs QA Framework and Guidelines for MOOCs Development for AAOU Member Institutions, and the AAOU MOOCs Credit Transfer Policy and Guidelines.

Dr. Liew also stated that there is a goal to encapsulate the various AAOU initiatives by integrating the output of the Accreditation Task Force to work with that of the Asian MOOCs Steering Committee.

An additional budget of USD3,000 on top of the savings of USD5,000 from the previously approved budget for 2018 (amounting to a total working budget of

USD8,000 for personnel, hosting, and meetings/workshops/travel arrangement fees) was proposed by the Asian MOOCs Steering Committee and was approved by the Executive Committee.

The President also thanked the host institutions for the meetings conducted for the project, as this was the reason for the savings from the previously approved budget. She also noted that the report from the Asian MOOCs Steering Committee will be made available in the AAOU website.

10.2 REPORT OF THE PROPOSED OPEN EDUCATION ACCREDITATION SERVICES

Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso presented to the Executive Committee the results of the previously approved proposal to explore the feasibility of offering open education accreditation services. She reported that from the various data gathering methods done by the Task Force (survey questionnaires, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions), the respondents deem accreditation as important to their institutions, and that AAOU has the credibility to offer such services. The second phase of the study, along with an additional budget of USD18,000 on top of the savings from 2018 (USD6,112.99), was proposed by the Task Force and approved by the Executive Committee.

The President also thanked the host institutions for the meetings conducted for the project, as this was the reason for the savings from the previously approved budget. She also noted that the report from the Accreditation Task Force will be made available in the AAOU website.

10.3 PROPOSAL FOR NEW INITIATIVES FOR FUTURE COLLABORATIVE WORK

Prof. Drs. Ojat Darajat presented the proposal for two new AAOU initiatives, namely:

- Writing a book on distance education in Asia
- Collaboration to develop post-graduate degree programs to be undertaken by AAOU member institutions

The proposal was approved in principle by the Executive Committee, and Prof. Drs. Darajat was assigned to take the lead in inviting members for the Task Force who will work on the details of the proposal. Prof. Drs. Darajat also stated that the first meeting will be hosted by Universitas Terbuka. Prof. Zoraini Wati Abas and Dr. Zahid Majeed consequently volunteered for the said Task Force, and it was further suggested by the Executive Committee that potential volunteers from the General Body Meeting may also be explored.

11 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall, the year 2018 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.