

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



**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 2019	3
3.2	AAOU Annual Conference 2019	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 2019	14
6	THE AAOU INTER-UNIVERSITY STAFF EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	14
7	AAOU JOURNAL	18
8	THE 34TH AAOU ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 2020	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	21

1 INTRODUCTION

This report offers an account of the activities of the AAOU conducted in 2019, as well as the decisions of the Executive Committee and General Body Meetings. It also incorporates the 33rd AAOU Annual Conference 2019 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 4 September 2019:

2.1.1 The granting of the 2019 AAOU Meritorious Award to Dr. Yang Zhijian (Former President of The Open University of China)

2.1.2 Proposal for the Allocation of Funds for the AAOU Conference Fellowship to Senior Authors/One of the authors of each of the papers published in the AAOU Journal (AAOUJ) amounting to US\$6,000 per year starting the 2019 AAOU Conference.

3 MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

3.1 AAOU Annual Meetings of the Executive Committee and General Body 2019

The 34th AAOU Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) and the 33rd Annual Meeting of the General Body (GB) were held on 14 October 2019 and 15 October 2019 respectively in the Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore, Pakistan. The Virtual University of Pakistan was the host for the 33rd 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 2019

The 33rd AAOU Annual Conference was hosted successfully by The Virtual University of Pakistan (VUP)

in Lahore, Pakistan from 14 to 16 October 2019 with the theme ‘Open Distance Learning: 2020 and Beyond’.

The 33rd AAOU Annual Conference brought together about 600 delegates who came from over 13 different countries. The participants comprised Presidents, Rectors, Chancellors, Vice Chancellors, scholars, senior administrators, and policy-makers representing the open universities in the Asian Region and other ODL institutions and organizations. The conference was officiated by Prof. Masroor Ellahi Babar, Conference Chair; Dr. Nasir Naveed, Conference co-chair; Mr. Naeem Tariq, Rector of VUP; and Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, AAOU President and Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU). The inaugural ceremony featured Chief Guest, Dr. Khalid Maqbool Saddiqui, Federal Minister for IT and Telecom, and Dr. Bandalaria who delivered a keynote speech on “Attaining SDGs through ODL.”

The AAOU 2019 Conference program featured 10 keynote speeches, four plenary panels, five parallel sessions, and two special 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:

- Next Generation Education Technologies/ Innovations
- Ensuring and Enhancing Quality
- Lifelong Learning: Addressing Personal, Professional and Societal Development
- Challenges for Policymakers and Education Providers
- Social Sciences and Humanities: New Challenges, New Horizons

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

	TOPIC	SPEAKER(S)
Keynote Speech 1	Attaining SDGs through ODL	Prof. Melinda Bandalaria Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU)
Plenary Panel Session 01	Open University Beyond 2020: Challenges for Policymakers and Providers	Prof. Tian Belawati Former Rector, Universitas Terbuka
	Challenges for Policymakers and Education Providers in Pan Asian Academic Program Development and Delivery- the AEU Experience	Prof. Dato’ Dr. Ansary Ahmed President/CEO, Asia e-University (AeU)

Parallel Sessions 1-5	ODL Practices and Prospects	Paper Presenters
	Educational Technology and Technology in Education	
	Assessment and Evaluation	
	Quality Assurance for Operational Excellence	
	Innovative Pedagogies in E-Learning	
Plenary Panel Session 02	New Generation Learning Impacting Present and Future Design, Development and Delivery of ODL	Prof. John Arul Phillips Dean of the School of Education and Cognitive Science, AeU
	OER and the Future Educational Technologies	Prof. Rory McGreal UNESCO/ICDE Chair in OER, Athabasca University
Plenary Panel Session 03	Flexibility or Fragmentation: Implications of Unbundled Online and Distance Education	Ms. Sukaina Walji Online Education Project Manager, The Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching University of Cape Town
	ODL to Transform the Lives of Masses in Pakistan	Prof. Dr. Rauf-i-Azam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Education, Lahore
Parallel Sessions 1-5	ODL Practices and Prospects	Paper Presenters
	Human Resource Development in ODL	
	Blended Learning as a Paradigm Shift	
	ODL-Community Linkages for Social Development	

	Roles and Competencies of Educators in ODL	
Plenary Panel Session 04	Knowledge is not Competence: The Acquisition of Competencies in the Digital Age	Mr. Uwe Wieckenberg Director, Institut für Bildungstransfer
	Open Distance Learning 2020 and Beyond	Prof. Asha Kanwar President & CEO of Commonwealth of Learning
	eGovernance of Open Distance Learning in Managed Learning Eco-System (MLE) & Dynamic Frameworks for Technology Enhanced Learning (TeL)	Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University
Special Sessions	Accreditation of Open/Online and Flexible Programs and Institutions	Dr. Grace J. Alfonso Professor, UPOU
	Asian MOOCS	Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria Chancellor, UPOU

During the opening ceremony on 14 October, welcome speeches were given by Dr. Masroor Ellahi Babar, General Chair of the AAOU 2019 Conference; Mr. Naeem Tariq, Rector of the host institution; and Dr. Nasir Naveed, General Co-chair of the conference. This was followed by a keynote speech on “Attaining SDGs through ODL” delivered by Dr. Melinda Bandalaria.



Masroor Ellahi Babar, General Chair of the AAOU 2019 Conference (left) and Mr. Naeem Tariq, Rector of the host institution (right) delivering their welcome speeches.



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



The AAOU President, Dr. Melinda dP. Bandalaria, delivers her welcoming and keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 33rd AAOU Annual Conference.

Plenary sessions featured keynote speeches by Prof. Tian Belawati of Universitas Terbuka (UT), Indonesia on “Open University Beyond 2020: Challenges for Policymakers and Providers;” and by Prof. Dato’ Dr. Ansary Ahmed of Asia e-University (AeU), Malaysia titled “Challenges for Policymakers and Education Providers in Pan Asian Academic Program Development and Delivery- the AEU Experience.” Two parallel sessions were conducted during the afternoon of 14 October, continuing on to 15 October with the remaining three parallel sessions.

The second day of the conference featured four keynote speeches delivered by Prof. John Arul Phillips, Dean of the School of Education and Cognitive Science, AeU on “New Generation Learning Impacting Present and Future Design, Development and Delivery of ODL”; Prof. Rory McGreal,

UNESCO/ICDE Chair in OER, Athabasca University, Canada on “OER and the Future Educational Technologies”; Ms. Sukaina Walji, Online Education Project Manager, The Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching University of Cape Town, South Africa on “Flexibility or Fragmentation: Implications of Unbundled Online and Distance Education”; and Prof. Dr. Rauf-i-Azam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Education, Lahore, Pakistan on “ODL to Transform the Lives of Masses in Pakistan.”



(From left to right) The ten keynote speakers of AAOU 2019: Prof. Melinda Bandalaria, Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU); Prof. Tian Belawati, Former Rector, Universitas Terbuka; Prof. Dato' Dr. Ansary Ahmed, President/CEO, Asia e-University (AeU); Prof. John Arul Phillips, Dean of the School of Education and Cognitive Science, AeU; Prof. Rory McGreal, UNESCO/ICDE Chair in OER, Athabasca University; Ms. Sukaina Walji, Online Education Project Manager, The Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching University of Cape Town; Prof. Dr. Rauf-i-Azam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Education, Lahore; Mr. Uwe Wieckenberg, Director, Institut fur Bildungstransfer; Prof. Asha Kanwar, President & CEO of Commonwealth of Learning; Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice-Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University.

A Gala Dinner sealed the second day of the conference where participants enjoyed Lahori cuisine over performances by Pakistani musicians and delegations from Hanoi Open University (HOU), Vietnam; UT, Indonesia; Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka and UPOU, Philippines.



(Left to right) AAOU delegates from Hanoi Open University (HOU), Vietnam; UT, Indonesia; Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka, and UPOU, the Philippines as they sing traditional songs for the AAOU participants.

The last day of the conference began with keynote speeches on “Open Distance Learning 2020 and Beyond” delivered via a video presentation by Prof. Asha Kanwar, President & CEO of Commonwealth of Learning, and “eGovernance of Open Distance Learning in Managed Learning Eco-System (MLE) & Dynamic Frameworks for Technology Enhanced Learning (TeL)” delivered by Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor of Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan. Dr. Bandalaria, AAOU President, and Project Lead of the Asian Massive Open Online Courses (Asian MOOCs) and Dr. Grace Alfonso, AAOU Secretary-General, UPOU Professor and Project Lead of the Accreditation System for Quality Assurance of Technology-Mediated Education in Times of Openness in the Digital Age and Institutions also shared the status of these two initiatives of the AAOU.

The turnover ceremony of AAOU leadership was also held during the closing ceremony. Outgoing President, Dr. Bandalaria and Outgoing Secretary-General, Dr. Grace Alfonso passed the leadership to the Incoming President, Dr. Ojat Darajat, Rector of UT and Incoming Secretary-General, Dr. Rahmat Budiman, Head of Protocol & International Affairs of UT.

Outgoing President Dr. Bandalaria and Outgoing Secretary-General, Dr. Grace Alfonso as they turnover the AAOU flag to the Incoming President, Dr. Ojat Darajat, Rector of UT and Incoming Secretary-General, Dr. Rahmat Budiman, Head of Protocol & International Affairs of



UT.

President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, also graced the closing ceremony and delivered a closing address to the AAOU 2019 participants. Together with Dr. Bandalaria, Mr. Tariq and Dr. Babar, President Alvi presented the various awards to the AAOU winners such as the Meritorious Service Award, Best Paper Award, Best Practice Award, and Young Innovator Award.



Dr. Arif Alvi, President of Pakistan, as he delivers the closing address during the closing ceremony

The AAOU 2019 conference closed with an open invitation to attend the 34th AAOU Annual Conference hosted by the Open University of Sri Lanka on 21-23 October 2020 with the theme “Opening Minds for a Sustainable Future: Re-orienting ODL to Surmount Challenges”.



Representatives from the Open University of Sri Lanka welcome all participants to the AAOU 2020 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

3.3 AAOU Awards and Winners

2018 AAOU Meritorious Service Award

The AAOU Secretariat received one nomination for the 2019 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. Tian Belawati (Former Rector, Universitas Terbuka), Dr. Naveed Malik (Former Rector, The Virtual University of Pakistan), and Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso (Former Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University).

After evaluating the nomination documents submitted, the Adjudication Committee recommended Dr. Yang Zhijian as the recipient of the 2019 AAOU Meritorious Service Award. The recommendation was accepted by the President and approved by the Executive Committee by circulation.



Dr. Yang's representative, Mr. Shi Yunzhi, Deputy Director of the International Office of The Open University of China, received the award from President Arif Alvi, Mr. Naeem Tariq, and Dr. Melinda Bandalaria.

AAOU Best Paper Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2019 Best Paper Award consisted of the following members:

Chair: **Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso**, Former Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University

Members: **Dr. Li Kam Cheong**, Director, University Research Centre, The Open University of Hong Kong University

Dr. Alexander G. Flor, Dean, Faculty of Information and Communication Studies, University of the Philippines Open University

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

Dr. Samuel Anbahan Ariadurai, Vice Chancellor, The Open University of Sri Lanka

The Academic Sub-Committee of the Conference Organizing Committee selected 18 papers from the AAOU Annual Report 2018 | 12

full papers submitted. The 18 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)
BPA2019_01	Learning Material Development at Universitas Terbuka: Quality and Management Perspectives	Lidwina Sri Ardiasih Ludivica Endang Setijorini Tengku Lufiana	Universitas Terbuka
BPA2019_02	The Perception And Expectation Quality Website Services Of Open University	M. Arifin Zaidin	Universitas Terbuka
BPA2019_05	Perception Of Distance Learners On The Use Of Nanolearning Videos As An Educational Tool	Michelle Loh Woon Har Phalachandra Bhandigadi Jasmine Selvarani Emmanuel	Wawasan Open University
BPA2019_06	Issues and Challenges faced by Online Higher Education Teachers	Darakhshan Muslim Dr. Munawar Sultana Mirza	Virtual University of Pakistan
BPA2019_07	Research Supervision in Distance Learning: Issues and Challenges	Muhammad Zaheer Saba Munir	Virtual University of Pakistan
BPA2019_08	A Comparative Study of Knowledge and Use of Blooms' Digital Taxonomy by Teachers and Students in Virtual and Conventional University	Hina Amin Dr. Munawar Sultana Mirza	Virtual University of Pakistan

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>	Hina Amin Munawar Sultana Mirza Virtual University of Pakistan	BPA2019_08 A Comparative Study of Knowledge and Use of Blooms' Digital Taxonomy by Teachers and Students in Virtual and Conventional University
<i>Silver Medal</i>	Darakhshan Muslim Munawar Sultana Mirza Virtual University of Pakistan	BPA2019_06 Issues and Challenges faced by Online Higher Education Teachers
<i>Silver Medal</i>	Muhammad Zaheer Saba Munir Virtual University of Pakistan	BPA2019_07 Research Supervision in Distance Learning: Issues and Challenges

AAOU Best Practice Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2019 Best Practice Award consisted of the following members:

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

Members: **Dr. Andy Liew Teik Kooi**, Registrar & Director of Quality Assurance and
External Relations, Wawasan Open University

Dr. Kunchon Jeotee, Assistant Professor, Sukhothai Thammathirat
Open University

Dr. Zaheed Majid, Vice-Chancellor, Allama Iqbal Open University

The Academic Sub-Committee of the Conference Organizing Committee selected 25 papers from the full papers submitted. The 25 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)
BPrA2019_02	Cyber Security and Digital Forensics as a Preventive and Repressive Step to Overcome Cheating in Online Tutorials	M Jeffri Arlinandes Chandra Purwaningdyah Murti	Universitas Terbuka

		Wahyuni Herry Novrianda	
BPrA2019_07	Computational Chemistry as Virtual Laboratory in Open and Distance Learning	Tomokazu Yasuike	The Open University of Japan
BPrA2019_09	Development of online courses on a method of coding education for K12 teachers in Japan	Tatsumi Takeo	The Open University of Japan
BPrA2019_11	Research on the Application of Data Visualization and Analysis Technology in Online Education	Wei Fangfang Wei Shunping	The Open University of China
BPrA2019_13	Transforming Online Teaching & Learning In ODL Environment Through Application Of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Nantha Kumar Subramaniam	Open University Malaysia
BPrA2019_24	Recruitment and Retention Practices of Hanoi Open University	Nguyen Thi Thuy Hong	Hanoi 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
<i>Gold Medal</i>	Nantha Kumar Subramaniam Open University of Malaysia	BPrA2019_13 Transforming Online Teaching & Learning In ODL Environment Through Application Of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
<i>Silver Medal</i>	Tomokazu Yasuike The Open University of Japan	BPrA2019_07 Computational Chemistry as Virtual Laboratory in Open and Distance Learning
<i>Silver Medal</i>	M Jeffri Arlinandes Chandra Purwaningdyah Murti Wahyuni Herry Novrianda Universitas Terbuka	BPrA2019_02 Cyber Security and Digital Forensics as a Preventive and Repressive Step to Overcome Cheating in Online Tutorials

AAOU Young Innovator Award

The Adjudication Committee for the 2019 Young Innovator Award consisted of the following members:

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

Members: **Prof Daryono Daryono**, Dean of the Faculty of Social and Political Science of Universitas Terbuka

Dr. Ria Mae Borrromeo, Director of the Information and Communication Technology Development Office, University of the Philippines Open University

Out of the two papers chosen by the Conference Organizing Committee, the following paper had been chosen for the 2019 Young Innovator Awards:

YOUNG INNOVATOR AWARD	AUTHOR(S) AND INSTITUTION(S)	PAPER ID AND TITLE
<i>Silver Medal</i>	Kamran Mir Allama Iqbal Open University	YIA2019_01 Golden: Geospatial Model For Distance Education

4 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 Termination of Membership

The AAOU Secretariat received two requests for AAOU membership termination from Charles Sturt Open University, and Uttarakhand Open University. The two membership termination requests were approved by the Executive Committee and noted by the General Body.

4.2 New Membership Applications

The Executive Committee approved two applications submitted in 2019. The details and status of the approval are shown in the following table:

	INSTITUTION	TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP APPLIED FOR	RESOLUTION
1	SEAMEO Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH), Philippines	Associate member	Approved for Associate Membership
2	Manipur International University (MIU), India	Associate member	Approved for Associate Membership

The Executive Committee decided that SEAMEO INNOTECH and Manipur International University would receive full membership.

4.3 Two Proposals from the Executive Committee

4.3.1 Increase in AAOU membership fee effective 2021

This proposal considers the need for the members to look into the various activities that would be beneficial to members and to enable the Association to have more activities and propose more programs for AAOU in addition to the existing AAOU initiatives and programs. The additional funds from membership fee will also be beneficial to the AAOU Annual Conferences.

Dr. Mansoor noted that the AAOU cash flow indicates that the Association have enough fund thus he argues that there is no reason for the Association to increase the membership fee. He then suggests to maintain the membership fee at USD 600 for Full Members and USD 400 for Associate Members.

The President then noted that the AAOU maintains a healthy financial standing over the years and attributes it to the continuous campaign for membership fee payment among members. She also pointed out that if the Association plans to increase activities and programs in the coming years that would benefit the members, then increasing membership fee is something worth considering. The President also remarks the duration of time of which the membership fee has been at USD 600 for Full Members and USD 400 for Associate Members for a long time, considering the inflation rate, etc. which is the main argument for increasing the membership fee.

Mr. Naeem Tariq added that the expenditure and income for the years 2018 and 2019 are almost the same, thus in order to maintain an upward trend, a slight increase in the revenue can be beneficial to the Association. He also mentioned that even ICDE and other bodies are charging USD 3000 to USD 4000 annually.

Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum also called the attention of the General Body to the importance of having more members of the Association than increasing the membership fee. He suggests that it would be best to

have another General Body meeting before the proposal of increasing membership fee takes effect in 2021. Although a USD 100 increase in membership fee will not hamper the balance statements of the institutions, Dr. Ul-Qayyum suggests that deferring the decision regarding the proposal to the next General Body Meeting will give the AAOU Executive Committee enough time to present worth value of being a member of the AAOU. Holding the meeting is important to discuss ideas and exchange views, however, Dr. Ul-Qayyum argues that as an association, such meetings would require funds. He then suggests to propose more ideas how the member institutions could really work on the improvement of distance education across the member states while standardizing education standards and working on policies etc. Dr. Ul-Qayyum concludes that once the AAOU members see the value of being members of AAOU, most probably the members would be happily pay for the membership fee. Thus, he further suggests that the Executive Committee should prepare a roadmap for the Association for the next two or three years. He also put forward the possibility of raising funds from alternative means since he believes that any association cannot really be maintained solely through the membership fee.

The President then acknowledge the addition proposal raised by Dr. Ul-Qayyum which is to defer the decision on the proposal to increase membership fee for next year's General Body meeting. She then opened voting for the deferment of the proposal. All members were in favor of deferring the proposal to the next General Body meeting in 2020.

The President noted the decision of the General Body and assured the Body that the proposal will be included in the Agenda of the next General Body meeting in 2020.

4.3.1 50% discount in the first year of membership to attract new members effective 2020

The proposal aims to increase the level of interest of non-members of AAOU and encourage them to apply for membership. The President opened the floor for suggestions from the Body.

Dr. Mansoor believes that the 50% discount to the membership fee is a bit too much, thus he suggests to give non-members a 5 to 10% discount instead. Dr. Ul-Qayyum believes otherwise, he suggests that the Association should either give no discount at all, or, if AAOU resorts to give discount for membership fee, then the Association must give a respectable amount of discount to non-member since a 5 to 10% discount only amounts to approximately USD 50.

The President then opened the voting for the decision to the second proposal. All members of the General Body are in favor of the proposal to give 50% discount in the first year of membership to encourage new membership effective 2020. The proposal is approved by the General Body and is effective in 2020.

5 AAOU STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR 2019

According to the audited statement of accounts, the cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year 2019 was USD and the cash and cash equivalents as of 31 December 2019 was USD. 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 2019, the following four institutions offered fellowships to deserving candidates in the AAOU Inter-University Exchange Fellowship Programme:

1. Korea National Open University (KNOU), Korea (2 slots)
2. National Open University (NOU) Taiwan, Taiwan (2 slots, 1 successful application)
3. Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU), Thailand (1 slot)
4. Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), Sri Lanka (2 slots, 2 successful applications)
5. Shanghai Open University (SOU), China (15 slots, 14 successful applications)
6. Universitas Terbuka (UT), Indonesia (2 slots, 2 successful applications)
7. University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), Philippines (3 slots, 2 successful applications)

It was reported that the Secretariat is yet to receive the information regarding the Inter-University Staff Exchange Fellowship Program from KNOU. For STOU, the selected applicant was unable to attend the Inter-University Staff Exchange Fellowship Program (1-15 May 2019).

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
Dr. Jeetendra Pande	Assistant Professor	Uttarakhand Open University, India	Comparison of Open educational Practices at Uttarakhand Open University and the Open University of Sri Lanka
Dr. Aminudin Zuhairi	Senior Lecturer	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia	Supporting students to succeed in Open and Distance Learning: Good Practices and Lessons learnt from the Open University of Sri Lanka and University Terbuka, Indonesia during the fellowship

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY THE NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY TAIWAN			
Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Dr. Aminudin Zuhairi	Vice Rector for Information System and Student Service	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia	Exploring Ways and Means of Empowering Lifelong Learning, Retaining Students, and Designing Online Instruction in Open University Education in Taiwan and Indonesia

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY SHANGHAI OPEN UNIVERSITY			
Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Ruifang Hope Sun	Chair, Division of Business, Management, and Leadership	USA State University of New York Empire State College School for Graduate Studies	Exploring A Quality Scorecard for the Administration of Open Education Programs
Bozic Miroslava	Advanced Skill Lecturer	North Metro TAFE	Proposal for future collaboration between NMTAFE and SOU (Shanghai Open University) based on open learning analytics (identifying a series of future challenges for online students) in

			Early Childhood Education study
Carol Elaine Calvert	Senior Lecturer	Open University UK	Learning analytics: A holistic view
Iris Wunder	E-Learning Coordinator	Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg	Open and distance learning in teacher development at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Theology of the FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg and the Shanghai Open University
Massimiliano Di Pace	Professor	University G. Marconi	Exchange of experiences in designing ODL Degrees
Rogério Carlos Traballi	Coordinator and Professor of Agribusiness Distance Learning	Universidade Paulista - UNIP	Agribusiness Distance Learning Education
Win Thida	Professor and Head, Department of Economics	Yangon University of Distance Education	Teachers professional development of open and distance learning
Nguyen Hoang Linh	Lecturer	Hanoi Open University	Designing visual material for m-learning
Cecilia Sabio	Content Developer/Consultant to the President/Full Professor	Asian Institute for Distance Education	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Measures Employed by Shanghai Open University and Asian Institute for Distance Education: A Comparative Review
Manannalage Saman Thushara Priyadarshana	Senior Lecturer/ Director International Relation Unit	The Open University of Sri Lanka	Professional development of academics through direct exposure to industry challenges
Deepanwita Srivastava	Sr. Asst. Professor & Head, (French), School of Foreign Languages, IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University	Teaching/Learning Of Foreign Languages In The Digital Age: A Comparative Study Of Pedagogical Practices At IGNOU (India) And SOU (China)
Manoj Shakya	Assistant Professor	Kathmandu University	MOOC Developing a MOOC for Learning Chinese Language
Kershnee Sevnarayan	Senior Lecturer	University of South Africa	Comparative study of quality assurance of open and distance learning in Africa and Asia
Christopher Jeffery	Senior Lecturer, Music Programme Coordinator	University of South Africa	Developing an Open Electronic Distance Learning model for music students
Betty David Mhando Mntambo	Lecturer	The Open University of Tanzania	Role of Team Teaching to Enhance the Quality of Open and Distance Learning: Considerations from The Open University Of Tanzania and Shanghai Open University

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY UNIVERSITAS TERBUKA			
Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Đặng Thị Thảo Ly Ho Chi	International Cooperation Team Leader	Ho Chi Minh Open University	Vietnam Massive Open Online Course (VMOOCs) – Ambition to bring knowledge to everyone in ASEAN
Jayson O. Madayag	Program Chair, Undergraduate	Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University – Open University System	Assessing The Usability of Learning Management System Of DMMMSU-Open University System

FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED BY UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES OPEN UNIVERSITY			
Name	Post	Institution	Research Proposal Title
Aminudin Zuhairi	Head of Quality Assurance Centre	Universitas Terbuka	Quality Assurance in Open and Distance e-Learning: What has been learnt in terms of achievements, lessons, progress, and future directions from UPOU Philippines and UT Indonesia
Kamran Mir	Assistant System Programmer	Allama Iqbal Open University	Implementation of MOODLE in two Asian Open Universities: A Comparative Study using Delone and Mclean Information Systems Success Model

7 AAOU JOURNAL

7.1 Paper Publication

It was reported that the articles listed as follows have been published in the Second Issue of Volume 13 and the First Issue of Volume 14 of the Asian Association of Open Universities Journal:

AAOU Journal [Volume 13 (No. 2)]

	Title	Author(s)	Institution
1	Innovative assignment rubrics for ODL courses: design, implementation and impact	Rames Mariapan	Open University of Malaysia, Malaysia
2	Student persistence in open and distance learning: success factors and challenges	Oliver Tat-Sheung Au K. Li T.M. Wong	The Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Middlesex University London, United Kingdom The Chartered Institute of Linguists Hong Kong Society, Hong Kong
3	Mediating role of students' engagement to their classes: An experience from higher education in Pakistan	Ahmed Siddiqi	University of Central Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
4	Teaching innovations in Asian higher education: perspectives of educators	T.M. Wong	The Chartered Institute of Linguists Hong Kong Society, Kowloon, Hong Kong
5	Impact of e-servicescapes on student engagement: mediating impact of experience quality	Hansani Chathurika Dassanayake Asanka Senevirathne	University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Colombo, Sri Lanka The Open University of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka
6	Development of mobile application through design-based research	Buddhini Gayathri Jayatilleke Gaya R. Ranawaka Chamali Wijesekera Malinda C.B. Kumarasinha	The Open University of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka
7	Towards human resource development at Hanoi Open University	Hong Thi Thuy Nguyen	Hanoi Open University, Hanoi, Vietnam)
8	Rethinking the rationale of open and distance education: a case of the UK Open University	Hanmo Jeong	Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

AAOU Journal [Volume 14 (No. 1)]

	Title	Author(s)	Institution
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1	Implementation and Challenges of Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning: Admissions (APEL-A): The Assessors' Perspective	Li Hsien Ooi Arathai Din Eak	Wawasan Open University
2	The Research Trends in Recommender Systems for E-learning: A Systematic Review of SSCI Journal Articles from 2014 to 2018	Jiemin Zhong Haoran Xie Fu Lee Wang	Education University of Hong Kong Open University of Hong Kong
3	Employer's Attitudes to HOU Postgraduates' Qualities and Skills	Tuyet Minh Hoang	Hanoi Open University
4	Reaching the Unreached Through Open & Distance Learning in India (With special reference to Kumaun Region of Uttarakhand)	Deepak Paliwal	Uttarakhand Open University
5	The Quality of Orientation in ODL: A Correlational and Content Analysis of ZOU Sessions Held in The Midlands Regional Campus	Silvanos Chirume Mathias Tariro Dick	Zimbabwe Open University
6	Perception Towards Quality and Effectiveness of Social Work Education through Open and Distance Learning: A Study in Delhi	Bishnu Mohan Dash	University of Delhi
7	Design of E-Learning and Online Tutoring as Learning Support for Academic Writing	Chiaki Iwasaki Yasuhiro Tada Tomoki Furukawa Kaede Sasaki Yoshinori Yamada Tsutomu Nakazawa Tomoya Ikezawa	Kansai University Asia University
8	Research on KidsProgram Classroom Teaching under the Guidance of STEAM Education	Wu Chen Xin Tang Ting Mou	South China Normal University

7.2 Awards of the publisher, Emerald

The president reported that starting 2019, Emerald (the publisher hosting the online platform for the Asian Association of Open Universities Journal) presents “Emerald Literati Awards” annually. This year, the winners from the Journal are as follows:

- Outstanding Paper
Author: Alan Tait

Title: Open Universities: the next phase

- Highly Commended Papers

Author: Ritimoni Bordoloi

Title: Transforming and empowering higher education through Open and Distance Learning in India

Author: Kinshuk, Vivekanandan Kumar

Title: Advancing learning through smart learning analytics: a review of case studies

7.3 Indexing

The President also reported that the Asian Association of Open Universities Journal has been indexed in:

- British Library;
- Cabell's Directories; and
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

In particular, the journal has been awarded the “DOAJ Seal”, indicating that the journal has satisfied the requirements of having a clear commitment to open access best practices, of high levels of commitment to publishing standards and best practices, and its open access model is the most open.

The President also shared the following strategies done by the Secretariat to further increase downloads/traffic in the AAOU Journal site.

- Promotion of the AAOU Journal via the AAOU eBulletin and AAOU Open Calls which were sent via email to all AAOU members. Open calls and promotions of AAOU Journal released via emails are presented in
- Promotion of the AAOU Journal via the UPOU online social media accounts (i.e. Facebook page and Twitter account). Every week, a featured abstract of each paper is posted on social media that links to the full paper of each abstract.
- Proposal for the Allocation of Funds for the AAOU Conference Fellowship to Senior Authors/One of the authors of each of the papers published in the AAOU Journal (AAOUJ) amounting to US\$6,000 per year starting the 2019 AAOU Conference were circulated and approved by the Executive Committee.
- The full journal is accessible through the AAOU website.

The President assured that the Editorial Team will keep working on getting the journal more widely indexed. The level of success that the AAOU will achieve also depends on the number of quality articles submitted to the journal.

8 THE 33RD AAOU ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN 2021

The AAOU Secretariat issued the Call for Proposal for hosting the 35th AAOU Annual Conference in 2021 in March 2019. The call has been made using all possible platforms: AAOU Website; email blasts; AAOU eBulletin; and personal conversations with some AAOU member institutions. The deadline has been extended as well from 30 June 2019 to 15 September 2019. One member had shown initial interest to submit a bid, however, the full proposal was not received by the AAOU Secretariat despite follow-ups.

Given this, the President announced that the hosting for the 35th AAOU Annual Conference (2021) is still open. The AAOU Secretariat will continue to campaign among AAOU member institutions.

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 2019, six issues of the eBulletin were published, and 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.



Series of 2019, Issue No. 1



Series of 2019, Issue No. 2



Series of 2019, Issue No. 3



Series of 2019, Issue No. 4



Series of 2019, Issue No. 5



Series of 2019, Issue No. 6

Screenshots of the AAOU eBulletin

10 AAOU INITIATIVES

10.1 ASIAN MOOCs

The President, member of the Asian MOOCs Steering Committee, reported to the General Body the activities done in 2019 as follows:

- Continued the call for offering of MOOCs and harvest of data from other LMS of AAOU member institutions
- Continued the promotion of Asian MOOCs and Asian Learning Portal websites to AAOU members.
- Created a Facebook Page to promote ASIAN MOOCs and connect the institutions
- Continued developing courses for the Asian Learning Portal websites
- Continued the pilot run of Open Badge Version 2 (OBv2) of IMS Global for implementation in the Asia Learning Portal Moodle site (UPOU and OUJ)

The President also presented the Asian MOOCs Learning Portal that serves as the official LMS of the ASIAN Languages Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) from member institutions of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU). (Nihongo; Korean; English – on going); Thai, Vietnamese; Bahasa (completed). The Asian Languages MOOCs has a total of 2,017 registered users.

The remaining savings from 2019 amounting to USD 7,172.28 will be used to fund the proposed activities for 2020. The proposed activities are as follows:

- Maintain the Asian MOOCs Portal and continue to campaign for MOOCs offering from AAOU Members and MOOCs enrollment
- Evaluate the MOOCs based on AAOU MOOCs QA Framework
- Provide guidelines to AAOU members on MOOCs development (AAOU MOOCs QA)
- Repository of Asian OERs
- Develop MOOCs Certification Programs using MOOCs offered by AAOU members and apply the Open badge system

In 2018, 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. In 2019, there was a total budget of US\$9,555.31 (1,555.31 Savings from 2018 + 8,000,000 (Approved budget for 2019)). As of 30 September 2019, a total of USD 2,888.30 was spent for meetings/workshops/travel arrangement fees.

The remaining savings from 2019 amounting to USD 7,172.28 will be used to fund the proposed activities for 2020. The proposed activities are as follows:

- Maintain the Asian MOOCs Portal and continue to campaign for MOOCs offering from AAOU Members and MOOCs enrollment
- Evaluate the MOOCs based on AAOU MOOCs QA Framework
- Provide guidelines to AAOU members on MOOCs development (AAOU MOOCs QA)
- Repository of Asian OERs
- Develop MOOCs Certification Programs using MOOCs offered by AAOU members and apply the Open badge system

The General Body noted the decision of the Executive Committee to approve the proposed budget by the Asian MOOCs Steering 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.

10.2 REPORT OF THE PROPOSED OPEN EDUCATION ACCREDITATION SERVICES

Dr. Grace Javier Alfonso presented to the General Body the progress report of the Phase II of the Accreditation System for Quality Assurance of Technology Mediated Education in Times of Openness in the Digital Age that aimed to develop an accreditation instrument for institutional level accreditation. After a series of virtual and face-to-face meetings, and the workshop in Surabaya, Indonesia last 3 July 2019 with the Accreditation Task Force and Expanded Task Force composed of Quality Assurance and Accreditation experts, an accreditation instrument for institutional level

AAOU Annual Report 2018 | 28

accreditation was developed. The experts invited in the workshops are Prof. Dr. Alyssa Alampay (UP Assistant Vice President for Q.A.), Dir. Dr. Mary Sylvette Gunigundo (OIC, Director IV, OPS of Commission on Higher Education, Philippines), Dr. Ir. Kristanti Ambar Puspitasari (Head of the Education Quality Assurance Center at LPPMP-UT), and Prof. Dr. Paulina Pannen (Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of Indonesia). The following were also accomplished by the Expanded Task Force:

- Discussed the Accreditation Framework
- Identified Accreditation Parameters
- Worked together in developing the Proposed Instrument and Accreditation Process
- Discussed the Proposed Schedule for the Phase III

The third phase of the study, along with an additional budget of USD 6000 on top of the savings from 2019 (USD9,971.68), was proposed by the Task Force. The General Body noted the Executive Committee's approval of the budget proposal.

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.

10.3 AAOU COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM

The President reported that with the approval of the Proposal to Establish the AAOU Collaborative Research Program with Funding Allocation of USD18,000 for 2019, the next steps for the AAOU Collaborative Research Program were done starting with the creation of review committee. The review committee finalized the evaluation criteria, evaluation instrument, and evaluated the proposals submitted for consideration for the program.

Two proposals were received and evaluated by the review committee. The President reported that the proponents were informed of the reviewers' evaluation and are now revising based on comments.

10.4 PROPOSAL FOR TWO PROJECTS INITIATED BY UNIVERSITAS TERBUKA

Dr. Rahmat Budiman presented to the General Body the updates of the two 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

During the Meeting of the Authors of Book on Distance Education in Asia in Surabaya, Indonesia last 3-4 July 2019, a task force, headed by Universitas Terbuka, was formed to produce a book on Distance Education. The Task Force member includes: Allama Iqbal Open University, University of the

AAOU Annual Report 2018 | 29

Philippines Open University, Wawasan Open University, and Open University China. The Task Force is responsible for monitoring the progress of the book writing, including holding meetings (F2F and virtual). The President also reported that the Task Force already discussed the structure of the book and the goal is to have the book published during the AAOU Conference in October 2020 in Sri Lanka.

For the second initiative, another task force was formed consisting of the following: Universitas Terbuka, University of the Philippines Open University, Allama Iqbal Open University, Open University of Malaysia, and Cyber University of Korea. The meeting results to the formation of a post-graduate degree program namely, Master Program in Instructional Design and Technology that targets Teachers/Professional involved in instructional design both in distance education and technology enhanced residential education.

11 ELECTION OF THE AAOU PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2020-2022

The General Body were invited to note and approve the Election process of the AAOU President and Members of the Executive Committee CY 2020-2022 including the voting and counting of votes process as provided for by the AAOU Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE VIII Section 1

“(iv) The Secretary-General shall conduct the elections.

(v) Voting for the President and other elected members of the Executive Committee shall be by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting.

(viii) 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 Committee.”

In accordance with Article VII Section 1 (iv) of the AAOU Constitution, Secretary General, Dr. Grace Alfonso together with the two scrutineers approved by the Executive Committee — Dr. Zahid Majeed (Allama Iqbal Open University) and Dr. Prof. Mohammad Reza Zamani (Payame Noor Open University) — conducted the election.

The result of the election was announced by Dr. Zahid Majeed. The President, upon the suggestion of Prof. Ul-Qayyum and Dr. Prof. Zamani, opened the nomination for one more member to constitute the Southeast Asia region of the Executive Committee, however, no nomination was received from the institutions present during the Meeting.

On behalf of The Open University of China, Mr. Shi Yunzhi, expressed an interest in continuing to serve in the AAOU Executive Committee. The General Body approved the proposal of OUC to be a co-opted

member of the Executive Committee 2020-2022. The President also mentioned that the Open University of Hong Kong also expressed their interest to be a member of the Executive Committee, however, there is still a need to reaffirm their intention as well as their official commitment to being a member of the Committee. Dr. Ul-Qayyum also proposed The Open University of Sri Lanka to be a co-opted member of the Executive Committee since the said institution will be hosting the 34th Annual Conference of the Association. The President then presented an option to have an election between the Open University of Hong Kong and The Open University of Sri Lanka. The results of the election are as follows:

AAOU President CY 2020-2022

No	Name of Institution
1	Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia

AAOU Members of the Executive Committee CY 2020-2022

No	Name of Institution
Eastern Asian Region	
1	The Open University Of Japan, Japan
2	Korea National Open University, South Korea
Southeast Asia Region	
3	Wawasan Open University, Malaysia
South-Central and Western Asia Region	
4	Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan
5	Payame Noor University, Iran
Immediate Past President	
6	University of the Philippines Open University, Philippines

Co-opted Member	
7	The Open University of China, China

12 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall, the year 2019 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.