



The 29th Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities

Theme: New Frontiers in Open and Distance Learning



Dates: 30 November–2 December 2015
Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia
Host: Open University Malaysia



Register for this big event **NOW** before the deadline (1 November)!

The 29th Annual Conference this year (AAOU 2015) will bring together academics, administrators and professionals to share ideas on the ways and means to reach new frontiers in open and distance learning (ODL). This conference aims to be the catalyst for knowledge-sharing among participants, particularly in areas related to the sub-themes below:

- New Paradigm for Open Universities
- Technology as a Driver in ODL
- New Research and Practices in ODL
- Quality Assurance in ODL
- The Open Knowledge Movement.

Keynote speeches on the above five areas will be given by distinguished scholars. Do not miss the chance of acquiring first-hand knowledge of the latest developments in ODL. Please click [here](#) for more information on the keynote speakers.

For more details of the conference, please visit the conference website:
<http://aaou2015.oum.edu.my>.



Call for papers for the *AAOU Journal*

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](#). Manuscripts which fulfil the criteria will be reviewed for possible publication.

Our website revamped — improvements made for your easy navigation

Many improvements have been made to the AAOU website for easy browsing. The contents have been reorganized and the new design allows you to obtain the information you need quickly. You can go directly to a subpage by clicking a button in a pull-down menu. Please click [here](#) to find out more about the new website.

The screenshot shows the AAOU website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Annual Conferences, AAOU Journal, Staff Exchange Fellowships, Resources, Web-conferences, and Memberships. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area includes a section titled 'About Asian Association of Open Universities' with a detailed description of the organization's mission and history. Below this, there is a 'Member 2015' section featuring a profile of Professor Tian BELAWATI, Rector of Universitas Terbuka, Banten, Indonesia. To the right, a 'Latest News' sidebar lists recent events such as a web-conference by Dr Wayne Mackintosh and an international symposium. The footer of the page features a globe graphic with the text 'Educating the WORLD Through Asia'.

Fellowship

Invitation to offer fellowships

The AAOU Staff Exchange Fellowship Programme aims to provide a platform for capacity-building and establish sustainable partnerships among open universities. Any AAOU member institution (donor) may contribute to the programme by offering one or more short-term Fellowships to staff from other member institutions (recipients) 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 more details and a template for announcing a 'Call for applications'.

AAOU Conference

Call for proposals for hosting AAOU 2017



Educating the
WORLD
Through Asia

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 31st AAOU Annual Conference in 2017. The 'Guidelines for Hosting AAOU Annual Conference' are available [here](#). If your institution is interested in hosting this important event, kindly submit a proposal at aaou@ouhk.edu.hk by 9 November 2015.

Web-conferences



Mobile Learning and DIY Android Apps

The web-conference 'Jumpstarting Mobile Learning through DIY Android Apps' hosted by Dr Ishan Abeywardena was held on 14 September. It was well received, with many responses from the participants during the Q and A session.

The whole conference was recorded and uploaded online. It has been put onto the web-conference [webpage](#) under a Creative Commons license for the sharing of open educational resources.

Open Educational Resource universitas (OERu)

There will be another web-conference at the end of October. It will introduce the OERu which is an international collaboration of universities, colleges and polytechnics spanning six regions of the world. It provides free learning opportunities using courses based solely on OER for all students worldwide, with pathways to achieve formal academic credit.

- Title:** OERu: Towards Sustainable Education Futures
Date: 27 October 2015 (Tuesday)
Time: 14:00–15:00 Hong Kong time (06:00–07:00 GMT)
Speaker: Dr Wayne Mackintosh Director of OER Foundation and OERu facilitator

To obtain further information about this web-conference or register for it, please visit this [webpage](#). You are most welcome to register for the conference as a guest participant and may type in questions for instant interaction with the speaker.

Symposium

International Symposium "Assessment of Learning in the 21st Century: Supporting and Recognizing Learning"

Supported by the Nakajima Foundation
 OUI TIEC International Symposium

Assessment of Learning in the 21st Century : Supporting and Recognizing Learning



- Dates:** 27 November, 2015
Venue: Tokyo International Exchange Center, International Conference Hall (Plaza Heisei 3F)
Fee: Free of charge (Reservation is required.)

An international symposium is being organized by one of our member institution, the Open University of Japan (OUJ). Given that abundant learning resources are available online and 'learning at learners' fingertips' has become commonplace, recognizing and assessing such learning is a pressing issue. A learning management system (LMS) enables visualizing learning in various formats and connecting teachers and learners beyond temporal and geographical limitations. This symposium will look at the issues and possibilities of assessment *of* learning, as well as assessment *for* learning, from multiple perspectives.

More details are available on the official website: <http://www.ouj.ac.jp/eng/sympo/ojis/eng/>.

Call for papers for PJDOL

Allama Iqbal Open University, a full member of the AAOU, is going to launch a new journal — the *Pakistan Journal of Distance & Online Learning* (PJDOL). It is a bi-annual journal aimed at promoting research and disseminating information about distance education and online learning. The first issue is expected to be published in December 2015. It is now calling for paper submission.



PJDOL
PAKISTAN JOURNAL OF DISTANCE
& ONLINE LEARNING

More details are available [here](#).

Conference

The International Conference on Research and Practices in Education

Theme: Connecting Educators: A Global Community of Research & Practice



Dates: 2–3 February 2016

Organizer: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Islamabad, Pakistan

AIU invites all educators doing research on areas from early childhood education (ECE) to higher education (HE) to present their work in various forms, e.g. paper presentations, and roundtable discussions.

The major goals of the conference are as follows:

- To bring closer the wider community of practice for educators around the world
- To share the latest research findings within various themes and levels of education
- To highlight innovative methods and modes of research around the world
- To initiate an analytical and critical discourse among the researchers and scholars in the field
- To identify the ways of connecting the learners and instructors through the Internet and build a safer environment for ubiquitous education.

For details, please visit the official website: <http://icrpe.aiou.edu.pk/>.

Please share this *eBulletin* with your colleagues and staff members.

Do you have news to share with the AAOU community?

Your suggestions, information or ideas for sharing with us are most welcome!

Please contact the AAOU Secretariat at: aaou@ouhk.edu.hk