Message from Prof. Gajaraj Dhanarajan (CRIDAL IAB member)

It is significant to note that Asia’s youngest open university is also its most innovative, not only in the way it manages and delivers education and training in the city state of Hong Kong, but also in the way it disseminates the knowledge that its staff and others create on open and distance learning to scholars globally. The Newsletter of which this is the second volume is a powerful attestation to the imagination, drive and seriousness with which the staff and management of CRIDAL take their responsibility to provide scholarly insight into the ways and means of making distance education and open learning more effective to its users and appealing to the providers. As someone who once had a short and serious association with the OUHK I am proud to witness the distance the University has traveled especially in its pursuit of practical research in the field of DEOL.

While the primary purpose of open universities is to develop and maintain very high levels of proficiency in their “teaching” tasks it is equally important that these institutions pay as much importance to research and development in order to maintain the required levels of sophistication and efficiencies of their institutions, learning materials, student support systems and staff caliber. CRIDAL is meant to do all of these for the OUHK. While its primary purpose is to serve the needs of the OUHK its research findings have relevance beyond Hong Kong SAR and China. Even after 30 years of modern distance education and open learning, there is so much that we need to know of our clients, their needs and learning behaviours; there is much to know about the application of technologies for our purpose; there is a need to understand academic staff fears, needs and desire for rewards and there is a constant need to improve management and bring even greater economies to the venture. Distance teaching institutions, around the world, share all of these concerns. They need to collaborate in a search for answers to these concerns. It is my expectation that CRIDAL can, and my belief that it must, show regional if not global leadership in this search and collaboration.

I wish you well and even greater success in your attempts.

---

Message from the Director

This Newsletter marks the end of the second year of CRIDAL. We have now established a number of activities and research projects of significance to OUHK, local and regional communities. Through the provision of relevant and appropriate professional development workshops, which were received with great enthusiasm, CRIDAL has provided interested OUHK staff with the appropriate skills and knowledge of distance and adult education research methodology. CRIDAL is also carving out a niche for itself in the international arena through several collaborative ventures and consultancies including its selection by the World Bank as its East Asia Regional site for the Global Distance Education Network. Indeed, during the 1998 World Bank General Conference, the CRIDAL-managed East Asia Regional Net was used as the showpiece for the newly established Global Distance Education Network initiative. Additionally, CRIDAL successfully held the first ever video-conferenced session on distance education at the 1998 Hong Kong Educational Research Association conference, in which participants at four sites (Hong Kong, Australia, USA, & India) were linked electronically.

Looking into the future from the solid foundation already laid should provide CRIDAL with the platform to accomplish more of the same and more importantly a focus on a variety of new initiatives which will lead to its emergence in the region and the world as a leader in distance and adult education research. CRIDAL has proposed a major international workshop for top management of distance and open universities to discuss on institutional research, will host the first conference on research in distance and adult learning in Asia in June 2000, and plans to vigorously launch into a number of externally funded research projects and consultancies. All these should provide more fertile ground for research activities at OUHK and make it a hive of academic exchange, idea generation, and research outcomes of immediate and long term relevance and use within the community.
CRIDAL’s vision is to **nurture** and **enhance excellence** in research with a view to become the **leader** in the **Asia-Pacific region** in research in distance and adult learning.

CRIDAL Projects

Projects labelled as CRIDAL Projects are those that are led by CRIDAL, with academic staff from other units seconded on a part-time basis to join the team. In line with one of CRIDAL’s missions, a goal of these projects has been to provide the opportunity and support structure for academic staff to participate in and to acquire or refine the skills needed for research in distance education.

New CRIDAL Projects

**Learning activities, ageing and expertise, and metacognitive knowledge of older adults in Hong Kong**

This project will investigate the learning activity preferences, the effect of ageing on expertise, and the metacognitive knowledge of older adults in Hong Kong. The changing demography of the world’s population and the increase in life expectancy in all parts of the globe imply that in due course a sizeable majority of the population of many countries will be older adults aged 55 and above. Hong Kong will not be an exception. As has already occurred in other parts of the world, this change will force a rethink of adult learning and what lifelong education means to older adults in Hong Kong. It will also force distance and open education providers to reconceptualise their courses and examine newer and more relevant areas for life-long courses for the aged. To do this effectively, there is a need to explore:

- the learning activities in which older adults in Hong Kong will prefer to engage in
- the relationship between ageing and factors such as intelligence, information processing and memory with regard to the Hong Kong older adult population
- the effect of metacognitive factors and personal and demographic variables on the learning of older adults.

**Learning about learning: A focus on problem-based learning in distance education — second cycle**

This project will be an umbrella project representing the second cycle of the action research project “Learning About Learning”, the first cycle of which was funded by PACRD in 1998/99. OUHK colleagues will conduct seven sub-projects that have developed from research conducted in the first cycle. These will include the use of e-mail and other strategies to facilitate peer support in the PBL process, examination of tutors’ roles in PBL, and analysis of PBL activities in existing course materials. The OUHK staff participating in this project will be May Chan (S&T), Mabel Lam and Irene Siaw (B&A), and Annie Lee, Angela Leung, Vanessa Mok and Cecelia Tsui (CCCE).

Current Projects: OUHK Staff Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factors that contribute to high or low achievement in open learning</td>
<td>Dr. Rocky Fan, Ms. May Chan</td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A comparative study of the administrative styles, educational processes and outcomes of selected Asian open universities</td>
<td>Ms. Cecelia Tsui, Mr. Fowie Ng, Ms. Louisa Kwok</td>
<td>CCCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning about learning: A focus on problem-based learning in distance education</td>
<td>Ms. Angela Leung, Ms. Peggy Kwok, Ms. Susannah Chu, Ms. Annie Lee, Ms. Nancy Cheung, Ms. Vanessa Mok, Mrs. Cecelia Tsui, Ms. Bridget Swearse, Ms. May Chan, Ms. Mabel Lam, Ms. Irene Siaw</td>
<td>All from CCCE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Table continued]
Four of the participants have been invited to give their personal perceptions of the value of this exercise.

**May Chan 陳淑貞女士**

Last year when I read the message from Prof. Jegede, forwarded through our Dean, Prof. T.M. Wong, to invite staff to join a research project titled “Factors that contribute to high or low achievement in open learning”, I expressed my interest at once. I had little experience in writing articles and doing research, so I believed that it would be a good chance for me to develop and enhance the research aspect of my career. Additionally, I had a strong interest to learn how OUHK students study because it would help me to provide better academic support when co-ordinating my courses. Although I had previously written a few papers for some conferences, these were usually descriptive rather than based on research. After joining the “Achievers” project, I learned not only how to write a critical and meaningful paper but also how to conduct a research project formally. Besides, I have even have confidence to submit a referred journal paper. Therefore, it was a “smart” choice for me to join a research project in CRIDAL.

**Fowie Ng 伍時豐先生**

It is a great opportunity for me to take part in the research project about the comparative study of the administrative style, educational processes, and outcomes of selected Asian open universities which is funded by the President’s Advisory Committee on Research and Development (PACRD). The idea of incorporating staff members from other schools and centres to participate in CRIDAL’s projects has provided tremendous support to enhance research skills and the research culture among staff in a collaborative way. As academics at the Open University of Hong Kong, we have to deal with heavy workloads everyday in both administrative and academic tasks. Under the current arrangement of the research funding, I am able to free up more time to actually involve in this research project with the help of a teaching assistant employed by the project to do some of my other duties. In addition, I have gained valuable experiences in using electronic media to arrange the discussion group with leading academics around the world. Of course, I have also learned a lot about distance learning and especially the issues around outcomes of distance education.

**Angela Leung 梁綺雯女士**

I am glad to have been nominated by the CCCE Director to participate in the Problem-based Learning (PBL) Research Project which was initiated by CRIDAL. It is a golden opportunity for me to join in, and learn about, action research. Over the last year, I have been working closely with Dr. Margaret Taplin, the Principal Investigator. We have documented changes in the project participants’ feelings and beliefs about PBL through interviews and reflective journals, and have reported the project’s progress by presenting papers at various conferences.

Two particular incidents were particularly exciting for me. The first one was my “maiden” presentation at an international conference, and the second one was the development of the small-scale action research project that I did with a group of my CCCE colleagues. On both occasions, CRIDAL staff gave me any necessary help. As a young researcher, I highly appreciate the support from CRIDAL staff who have contributed both their professional knowledge and tremendous effort in motivating us to work better in our research. Participating in this PBL project has enabled me to develop some research skills (particularly in qualitative methodologies), presentation skills and the most important of all, confidence to participate in research in the future.

**Louisa Kwok 郭麗志芬女士**

After having worked at Open University for quite a while, I have seen how many students struggle in their courses, for example because they do not have concepts or have difficulty understanding English. Our students do not just want a qualification. A lot of them have reputable careers. They are accountants, technicians, teachers, … They want learning that can widen their experience and provide them with the essential skills in coping with the fast changing society today. Some struggle to find the time and finance for the course because they need to maintain the care of their families and to fulfil their duties to their work. This is the local situation. How much do you know about the Asian open universities?

Last year, I joined CRIDAL on the project on comparative studies. Our first phase was to hold a world-wide electronic discussion on administrative styles, educational processes and outcomes among various distance online learning institutions. Before the discussion, we were aware of the different practices at these universities. But they seemed so remote that we did not think what others had done would affect us. As experts contributed their knowledge and shared their experiences with us, I realised that we are a part of a supportive community in distance learning, not alone in our type of education. I would not have discovered this if I have not joined the electronic discussion as a facilitator.

As our project continues, I am learning more of the difficulties experienced by Asians in distance learning. Temples in Thailand are used as tutorial venues. To resolve language difficulties, television or radio broadcast is taking over the job of transmitting knowledge in China and in Japan, while they arrange face-to-face meetings to facilitate individual learning. The more I am involved with this project, the more I can see the reasons behind the practice of these policies and the deeper is my insight about distance education.

**Project Outcomes**

**研究成果**

Several papers and articles, listed below, have been prepared to report on aspects of the three projects described above.

**Factors that contribute to high or low achievement in open learning**

遙距學習中影響學生學業成就的因素分析

Abstracts submitted to the 1999 Asian Association of Open Universities Conference, Beijing, China, October (only first authors are listed).

- Chan, M.S.C, A comparison of the study habits and preferences of high achieving and low achieving open university students
- Fan, R, Effective support services - a target-oriented approach
- Jegede, O, Locus of control and metacognition in open and distance learning: A comparative study of low and high achievers
- Taplin, M, Help-seeking strategies used by high-achieving and low-achieving distance education students

**A comparative study of the administrative styles, educational processes and outcomes of selected Asian open universities**

**Learning about learning: A focus on problem-based learning in distance education**

**Other Projects**

- **Employer and Student Perceptions of OUHK and Distance Education**
- **Project Title**
  - A Database of Experts and their Expertise in Distance/Adult Education: An Asian Inventory
  - Trainee Teachers’ Perception of Features of Expert Science and Mathematics Teacher Education

**Abstracts submitted to the 1999 Asian Association of Open Universities Conference, Beijing, China, October. (only first authors are listed).**


Networking and Collaboration
對外聯系與合作

Study Visit to three Radio & TV Universities in Mainland China
考察內地三所電視大學

At the invitation of Ningxia Radio & TV University, Shanghai TV University and Jiangsu Radio & TV University, Professor Olugbemiro Jegede and Dr. Zhang Wei-yuan undertook a 10-day study tour of the three universities from Monday 25 January to Thursday 4 February 1999. During the visits, seminars were presented at all universities visited and a series of meetings held with top management of each university, including their Presidents. Some of the issues discussed included academic exchange, staff development and training in distance education research, potential research collaborations and the World Bank Distance Education Network.

This first visit by CRIDAL to some Mainland universities that have Open Education Research Institutes has been beneficial in many ways including:

- on-the-spot assessment, dialogue, and familiarisation with situations and resources in Mainland China,
- initiation of exchange of publications and reports and hopefully, in the future, personnel, which will be of mutual benefit for developing and informing on research and scholarship activities,
- establishment of ways in which CRIDAL can potentially contribute to the development of research expertise in distance and open learning in Mainland China.

International Visitors
國際訪問學人

CRIDAL has continued to receive a steady flow of overseas visitors. These have included:

- Prof. Zhang Ren-jie & Dr. Wang Wei-dong, Director & Associate Professor, Institute of Educational Science, Guangzhou Normal University, China
- Prof. Guo Bonong, Vice-President, Shanghai Television University, China
- Ms. Ellen Bunker, Consultant of the World Bank Group, USA
- Prof. Yi Bin, Deputy Director, Shanghai TV University, China
- Dr. Julian Wu, US Army Research Office (Far East), USA
- Dr. Wan Pu & six colleagues, President, Southwest Institute of Technology, China
- Prof. Ding Gang, Dean of College of Educational Science and Technology, East China Normal University, China
- Sir John Daniel, Vice-Chancellor, The Open University, UK
- Prof. Ference Marton, Goteburg University, Sweden
- Li Yiming & Zhou Xiangqian, Vice-President & Deputy Director of Educational Technology Research Unit, Guangdong Radio & TV University, China
- Dr. John Holford, School of Educational Studies, University of Surrey, UK
- Prof. Yu Chang-yun, Prof. Wei Ke-xin & Ms. Song Li, Tianjin Institute of Technology, China

Dr. Elizabeth F. Watson, Librarian LRC, UWI & President of the Commonwealth Library Association, Barbados.

Prof. Terry Evans, Director of Research, Faculty of Education, Deakin University, Australia.

Visiting Fellows
客席研究員

Professor Chen Jianguo
陳建國教授

Former Director of Adult Education College, East China Norma University, Shanghai

Under the sponsorship of the Croucher Foundation, Professor Chen will be based in CRIDAL for a total of 6 months during 1999. He has just completed his first three months, from February-April, and will return in late June for a further three months. His main work is with Professor Jegede on a project titled First international study on science, culture and science education nexus, and distance learning. So far, he has been occupied with translating survey and interview instruments and modifying these to suit the context of Mainland China. Professor Chen has also been working with Dr. Zhang Wei-yuan on a project titled The Chinese adult learner. A joint paper, titled Some considerations on developing an adult learning theory with Chinese characteristics has been submitted to the journal China RTV University Education. Professor Chen said that during his first three months in CRIDAL he has obtained some useful information about theory and methodology of adult and distance education and open learning.

Professor Glenn Shive
夏龍教授

Professor Glenn Shive has been a Visiting Fulbright Scholar with CRIDAL and with Hong Kong America Center based at CUHK for the past year. This is the first Fulbright affiliation with OUHK.

He has done research on school improvement and diffusion of curricular innovations in the U.S. He has taught at East China Normal University, been Assistant Dean at the East West Center, Director of China Programs for the Institute of International Education, and CEO of the Council of International Programs based in Washington DC. He is on leave from Governors State University in Chicago, where he is Director of the Board of Governors Degree Program designed for adults working anywhere in the U.S.

Professor Shive is co-editing a book with Professor Jegede on open and distance education in Asia. Senior scholars and leaders in distance learning from over twenty countries are represented in the book.

Professor Shive has been part of the research team at CRIDAL, participated in AAOU in November 98 and COL in Brunei for OUHK in March 99, and has given several workshops, symposia and seminars here during his year at OUHK.
CRIDAL's Activities During the Past Year

The graph below gives a general overview of the main activities undertaken by the CRIDAL research staff.

- CRIDAL's major projects
- CRIDAL's minor projects
- Assisting colleagues with research and publication
- Academic exchange & collaboration
- Conference, seminar, colloquia and workshop activities
- Administrative tasks
- Academic papers
- Proposals for future projects

Seminars and Colloquia (May 1998-April 1999)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mok Yan-fung</td>
<td>Self-Directed Learning</td>
<td>14 May 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Wan Pu</td>
<td>Distance Education Development in Western China</td>
<td>18 May 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. George Thomson</td>
<td>New Strategies in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education</td>
<td>5 June 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Margaret Taplin</td>
<td>Changing Students’ Perception of Student-Centred Learning</td>
<td>23 Jul 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Ganesan Venkataraman</td>
<td>The Role of Human Values in Higher Education</td>
<td>4 Sep 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Roger Mills</td>
<td>Quality and Standards in Open and Distance Education</td>
<td>10 Sep 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Guo Bonong</td>
<td>Distance Education in Shanghai</td>
<td>12 Oct 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learners in Their Own Mirrors: The Use of the Reflective Process</td>
<td>23 Oct 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Richard Armour</td>
<td>The Student Experience in Hong Kong: The Adaptation and</td>
<td>23 Oct 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administration of a Questionnaire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Yi Bin</td>
<td>The Current State of Distance Education Research in the Mainland</td>
<td>1 Dec 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Yu Chang-yun</td>
<td>The Institute Network and Web-Based Instruction in Distance Education</td>
<td>18 Jan 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Ference Marton</td>
<td>The University of Learning</td>
<td>9 Feb 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Terry Evans</td>
<td>Some Issues about Professional Doctorates in Australia (and elsewhere?)</td>
<td>18 Mar 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Chen Jian-guo</td>
<td>Adult Science Education in Shanghai</td>
<td>15 Apr 1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Colloquium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof. O. Jegede</td>
<td>Collateral Learning and Distance Teaching and Learning</td>
<td>7 May 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Zhang Wei-yuan &amp;</td>
<td>The Influences of Culture and Language on Chinese Adult Learners</td>
<td>18 Jun 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Simon Xu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Margaret Taplin</td>
<td>Sharing of Ideas about Research</td>
<td>6 Aug 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Angela Leung,</td>
<td>In Search of Collaboration Excellence: Study of Students’ Perceptions</td>
<td>2 Sep 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Fowie Ng &amp; Mrs. Susan Ha</td>
<td>in Non-Local Courses in Hong Kong</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Anselm Diu</td>
<td>Development of an On-Line Management and Support System for</td>
<td>25 Sep 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Streamlining Teaching, Learning and Support Services for Distance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education in OUHK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. K.S. Woo</td>
<td>Segmenting Students in Distance Education: A Quality Perception-Based</td>
<td>7 Jan 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Rocky Fan &amp;</td>
<td>Pilot Investigation into Turnaround of Tutor-Marked Assignment</td>
<td>2 Feb 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Mike Robertshaw</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Margaret Taplin</td>
<td>Asian Women’s Access to Distance Education</td>
<td>4 Mar 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Glenn Shive &amp; Mr. Jess Row</td>
<td>Collaborative Learning Across Cultures Using the WWW</td>
<td>8 Apr 1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the past year, CRIDAL has conducted four research skills workshops for OUHK staff. An average of 15 OUHK staff, from a wide range of discipline areas and with a range of research experience, has attended each of these workshops. Feedback has indicated that all participants have been satisfied or highly satisfied with all aspects of the workshops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Questionnaire Design in Distance and Adult Learning</td>
<td>Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis</td>
<td>Dr. Zhang Wei-yuan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Data Collection by Interview</td>
<td>Dr. Margaret Taplin &amp; Ms. Jessie Yum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to Categorisation and Analysis of Qualitative Data</td>
<td>Dr. Margaret Taplin &amp; Prof. Glenn Shive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, the following workshops are planned for 1999:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis (Repeat)</td>
<td>Dr. Zhang Wei-yuan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing a Successful Research Proposal</td>
<td>Prof. Olugbemiro Jegede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quantitative Data Analysis (Intermediate)</td>
<td>Dr. Zhang Wei-yuan &amp; Mr. Clarence Fong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research Report Writing I (Quantitative)</td>
<td>Dr. Zhang Wei-yuan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**External Funding**

**Australian Research Council Project**

Professor Olugbemiro Jegede is a member of a team of three researchers, with Professor Terry Evans (Deakin University, Australia) and Dr. Richard Guy (Papua New Guinea Research Institute), who were successful in the 1999 Australian Research Council Large Research Grant Application. The project, Australian distance education in Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea: An investigation of internationalising education, is for a three-year period with a total finding of AUD$133 600 (HK$666 000). The Chief Investigator is Professor Evans and the funding will be based at Deakin University, Australia. Other applications for external funding are currently under consideration.

**Consultancies**

Professor Olugbemiro Jegede has consulted for the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, and the United Nations Development Program on various training and research based projects.

**Joint Journal**

The special issue of The Open Education Research Journal, Vols. 2&3, edited jointly by CRIDAL and the Institute for Open Education Research, Shanghai TV University to commemorate the second anniversary of the changeover of Hong Kong back to China, will be published in June, 1999. The theme of this journal will be the changing terrain of distance and open education. Contributions will be included from international authors from overseas countries including Australia, UK, Mongolia and Canada as well as Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Several OUHK staff members have contributed to this journal:

- Tam, S.W. A vision for the 21st century: distance teaching vs distance learning and development in Asia.
- Wang, S. N. & Chen, T.Y. Factors influencing the performance in an introductory accounting course within a distance learning environment.

**Publications by CRIDAL staff**

In the past year, CRIDAL staff have been actively establishing a high profile in research publications. The total number of publications is shown below. A selection of these has been listed in the report on current projects. Several more papers have already been submitted for future publication.

- books 2
- book chapters 3
- refereed journal articles 12
- conference proceedings 27
- conference presentations 17
- reports, newsletter and magazine articles 8
**International Advisory Board**

**Future Plans**

**AAOU ’99 Pre-Conference Workshop at OUHK**

**Focus:** Institutional Research in Open and Distance Learning (ODL)

**Date:** Wednesday 13 October 1999

**Organiser/Host:** CRIDAL

A one-day workshop on how institutional research can serve decision making more effectively in ODL institutions is scheduled for Wednesday 13 October 1999. It is planned, to make the 10th anniversary of OUHK, as a pre-Conference workshop to the AAOU conference in Beijing (14 to 17 October) and immediately following the Meeting of Special Conference of Presidents of ODL institutions at the Open University of Hong Kong from 11-12 October. It is planned that this specialised workshop will provide an avenue for meaningful discussion between top management of educational institutions and industry, and experienced researchers and managers of research centres. Pertinent issues relating to institutional research in ODL institutions will be examined critically. The workshop will be attended by top management/Heads of institutions especially and not limited to, ODL institutions, Heads/Directors of research in institutions, Top Management of educationally related organisations, and any other interested persons or groups.

Issues to be addressed include the role and significance of research in ODL; how, in practical terms, to strengthen institutional research in ODL that is relevant for policy makers; how to build in opportunities for reflection by practitioners of ODE; and what role research units should play in organizing this; how to develop, manage, and integrate an articulate research policy in the overall management of an ODL institution; and collaboration and partnership in strengthening institutional research.

**The First Conference on Research in Distance and Adult Learning in Asia (CRIDALA)**

**Theme:** Research as Professional Development

**Date:** June 21-24, 2000

**Organiser/Host:** CRIDAL

This conference will provide a unique blend of pre- and post-conference electronic discussions, with face-to-face plenary addresses, symposia and round-table discussions. The uniqueness comes from the format in which invited expert researchers will present keynote addresses both electronically pre-conference and face-to-face at the conference. These experts will then act as facilitators and critical discussants at a series of symposia in which selected papers will be presented by emerging researchers. Following the symposia, there will be face-to-face and post-conference electronic roundtable discussions in which researchers engaged in a common thematic area will identify current and future research issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

CRIDALA 2000 is designed specifically as a showcase of the current research in the region but it is more than that - it is an opportunity for researchers with common interests to meet together under expert guidance and to make important decisions about the future direction of research. For further information, please contact CRIDAL or visit the conference web-site: [www.ouhk.edu.hk/cridal/cridala](http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/cridal/cridala)

**STAFFING**

**DIRECTOR:** Professor Olugbemiro JEGEDE

**SECRETARY:** Ms. Hebe W.Y. LO

**RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR:** Ms. Jessie C. K. YUM

**RESEARCH FELLOWS:** Dr. Margaret TAPLIN, Dr. Wei Yuan ZHANG

**STATISTICIAN/DATA ANALYST:** Mr. Clarence C. K. FONG

**CLERICAL OFFICER II:** Ms. Eva W.K. CHAN

**CRIDAL** A0841, 30 Good Shepherd Street, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 27686701   Fax: (852) 2715 9042   URL: [http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/cridal/](http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/cridal/)