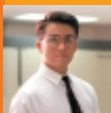




Join

**the Asian Association
of Open Universities**

**and be part of the Asian
Open and Distance
Learning Community**



**ASIAN ASSOCIATION
OF OPEN UNIVERSITIES**

<http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/~AAOUNet>



Asian Association of Open Universities

Introduction

The Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) was founded by a number of open universities in the Asian region in 1987. These universities realised the significant contribution of distance education in democratising the provision of learning opportunities. They also shared a common belief that distance education can be developed through friendship and close exchanges among institutions of open higher learning.

The founding institutions were:

- Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
- Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia
- University of the Air, Japan
- Korea National Open University, Korea
- Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan
- Sri Lanka Open University, Sri Lanka
- Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, Thailand

Objectives

- To widen the educational opportunities available to all the people of the region and to improve the cost-effectiveness of member institutions by exchanging management information, teaching materials and research
- To help promote education by distance teaching systems, and develop its potentialities
- To help promote professional and ethical standards amongst distance educators
- To co-operate with official bodies and others directly or indirectly interested in education at a distance
- To facilitate co-operation with other similar regional and international bodies in all the above objectives
- To carry out other activities conducive to the attainment of the above objectives.

Worldwide Membership

As of October 2000, the AAOU has 49 members (28 full and 21 associate) from 20 countries spread across Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and North America. It has enjoyed steady and sustained growth since its formation. Total student enrolment in AAOU member institutions exceeds 4 million and at least 10 of its member institutions have reached the rank of 'mega-universities'.

Membership Categories

Institutional Membership

Full members: dedicated open and distance teaching institutions located within the Asian continent.

Associate members: all institutions active in promoting or delivering education by the distance mode through departments, faculties, centres or schools of external or off-campus studies.

Supporting Membership

Donor supporting members: individuals and organisations wishing to make significant financial contributions in support of the Association's objectives.

Corporate supporting members: business corporations wishing to be linked to the Association in a mutually beneficial way.

Individual supporting members: individuals wishing to contribute to the Association's activities.

Activities & Services

AAOU Annual Conference

The Annual Conference is the main activity of the Association. It is hosted in turn by member institutions from different countries. Each year, hundreds of academics, administrators and students from different parts of the world gather in this forum to discuss the latest issues and exchange research findings. The Conference takes the form of keynote and plenary addresses and parallel sessions for paper and poster presentations. Satellite workshops are also held.

Publications

Papers presented at the Annual Conference are normally published as Proceedings or edited books. Members may purchase these from the Conference Organisers at special discounts.

Inter-University Staff Exchange Scheme

The Inter-University Staff Exchange Scheme was introduced in 1997 to facilitate staff training and development amongst member institutions. In 1999, Indira Gandhi NOU and OU Hong Kong provided six fellowships to enable visiting fellows from member institutions in Bangladesh, India, Iran, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka to undertake training and research visits. All awardees were extremely satisfied with their experience and considered it very beneficial to their career development. For the year 2000/2001 another four to six fellowships have been provided by IGNOU and the OUHK. More can be expected as the scheme gains further support.

AAOU News

A newsletter of the AAOU, *AAOU News*, keeps members informed of the Association's activities and provides a forum for regular information exchange.

AAOU Net [<http://www.ouhk.edu.hk/~AAOUNet>]

The AAOU Net connects member institutions and provides an additional electronic communication channel on a formal and informal basis. Features such as discussion groups, Members' Corner and hyperlinks to Asian journals and institutions on open and distance education are most useful for exchanging views, disseminating information and keeping up-to-date with activities in AAOU member institutions.

International Linkages

The AAOU enjoys a close collaborative relationship with international and regional agencies and organisations such as

- The UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (PROAP)
- The Commonwealth of Learning (COL)
- The International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE)
- The World Bank
- The Asian Development Bank

Executive Board (1999 - 2001)

President:	Prof. Tam Sheung-wai, The Open University of Hong Kong
Secretary General:	Prof. Wong Tat-meng, The Open University of Hong Kong
Immediate Past President:	Prof. V S Prasad, Indira Gandhi National Open University
Members:	
China & Far East:	Prof. Sun Lu-yi, China Central Radio and Television University
South East Asia:	Prof. MA Cristina D Padolina, University of the Philippines Open University Prof. Tong-in Wongsothorn, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University
South Asia:	Prof. M Aminul Islam, Bangladesh Open University Prof. N R Arthenayake, The Open University of Sri Lanka
West Asia:	Prof. Hassan Zohoor, Payame Noor University
Co-opted:	Prof. Dr Thiab Ayyoush, Al-Quds Open University Prof. Huang Sheng-shiung, National Open University, Chinese Taipei

Full Members

Bangladesh	Bangladesh Open University
China	Beijing Radio and TV University China Central Radio & TV University Jiangsu Radio and TV University Jiangxi Radio & TV University Shanghai TV University Sichuan Radio & TV University Tianjin TV University Yunnan Radio and TV University
Chinese Taipei	National Open University
Hong Kong SAR	The Open University of Hong Kong
India	Dr B R Ambedkar Open University Indira Gandhi National Open University Karnataka State Open University Kota Open University Nalanda Open University Netaji Subhas Open University Yashwantrao Chawan Maharashtra Open University
Indonesia	Universitas Terbuka
Iran	Payame Noor University
Japan	University of the Air
Korea	Korea National Open University
Pakistan	Allama Iqbal Open University
Palestine	Al-Quds Open University
The Philippines	The University of the Philippines Open University
Sri Lanka	The Open University of Sri Lanka
Thailand	Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University
Vietnam	Hanoi Open University

Associate Members

Australia	Open Learning Agency of Australia Pty. Ltd The University of New England
Canada	Acadia University Simon Fraser University
Hong Kong SAR	SPACE, University of Hong Kong
India	Madurai Kamaraj University Maulana Azad National Urdu University Mother Teresa Women's University Osmania University SNDT Women's University The Institute of Company Secretaries of India University of Jammu University of Mumbai
Malaysia	Universiti Teknologi Mara Universiti Sains Malaysia
New Zealand	The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand
The Philippines	Polytechnic University of the Philippines Open University
South Africa	Technikon SA University of South Africa
Turkey	Anadolu University
United Kingdom	The Open University



Host Institutions and Themes of AAOU Annual Conferences

1987	Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University / University of the Air Bangkok / Tokyo <i>AAOU Inaugural Meeting and Research Conference</i>
1989	Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad <i>Open Universities of Asia: Problems and Prospects</i>
1990	Universitas Terbuka, Jakarta <i>Interactive Communication in Distance Education</i>
1991	Open University of Sri Lanka, Colombo <i>Face-to-face Components in Distance Education</i>
1992	Korea Air and Correspondence University, Seoul <i>Role of Open Universities in Promoting Education for All</i>
1993	Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong, Hong Kong <i>Economics of Distance Education</i>
1994	Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi <i>Structure and Management of Open Learning Systems</i>
1995	National Open University, Chinese Taipei <i>Globalised and Cooperative Distance Learning</i>
1996	Payame Noor University, Tehran <i>Innovations in Distance and Open Learning</i>
1997	Institut Teknologi Mara, Kuala Lumpur <i>Quality Assurance in Distance and Open Learning</i>
1998	The Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR <i>The Asian Distance Learner</i>
1999	China Central Radio and TV University, Beijing <i>Open and Distance Education Systems and Models Facing 21st Century's Information and Learning Societies</i>
2000	The University of Philippines Open University, Manila <i>Open and Distance Learning: Ideology, Pedagogy and Technology</i>

Join the family of the AAOU now!

Application procedures are easy. Simply fill in the application form below and return it to the AAOU Secretariat together with any relevant publications / pamphlets that can demonstrate the fulfillment of membership category criteria.

Application Form for AAOU Membership

I wish to apply for (please tick)

Institutional membership

on behalf of _____
(name of institution)

Full membership

Associate membership

Supporting membership

on behalf of _____
(name of organisation, if applicable)

Donor supporting membership

Corporate supporting membership

Individual supporting membership

Title and name: _____

Position: _____

Mailing address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature Date: _____

For membership application, establishing collaborative relationships or further information, please contact:

Prof. T M Wong

Secretary-General

Asian Association of Open Universities

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