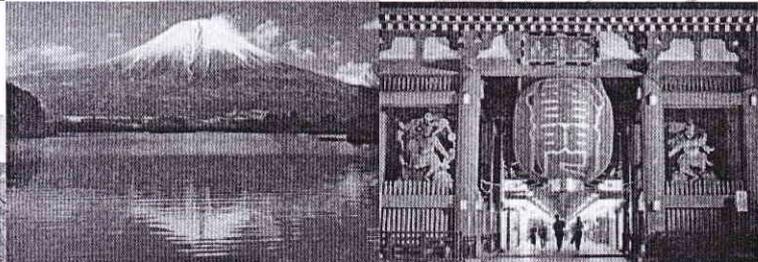
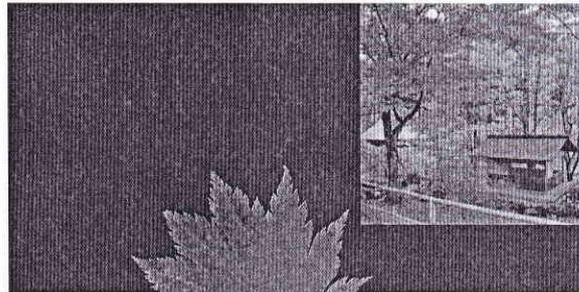




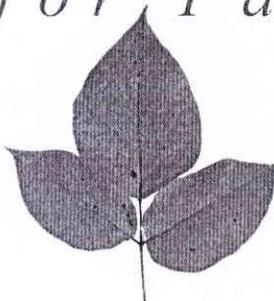
16-18 October 2012
Chiba, Japan



Expanding the Frontiers of Knowledge
through Open and Distance Learning in
Changing Societies



Call for Papers



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AAOU 2012

The 26th Annual Conference of Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU)

Date: 16-18 October 2012

Venue: Makuhari Messe, Chiba, Japan (<http://www.m-messe.co.jp/en/index.html>)

Main Theme Expanding the Frontiers of Knowledge through Open and Distance Learning in Changing Societies

The world has been going through drastic changes owing to technological innovations and globalization at an unprecedented speed. In addition, demographic changes in many countries, such as explosive population growth in many developing countries and graying of the population in the advanced industrial societies, have been fundamental sources of change, shaping the new reality of the world.

There is no escape from this new reality. These factors of changes have had an enormous impact on the educational contents offered and methods utilized by open universities. The new reality, however, is at the same time offering opportunities for open universities to influence the societies in which they operate. Now thanks to new

technologies, *open and distance learning* (ODL) can reach a larger number of people more effectively beyond the limitations of time and space. ODL has and will become more diverse corresponding to the needs of learners. In other words, by expanding the frontier of new knowledge, open universities can and should influence the nature and the direction of change in their societies. The main theme of this conference will challenge all of us concerned with the role of ODL in the changing societies, in terms of how best ODL should cope with the changes and how best open universities should shape the future of the changing societies by expanding the frontier of knowledge in education.

Sub-themes 1. New trends of ODL studies and practices

In the changing societies, the circumstances in which ODL operates, as well as its roles, have been diversified and changed. In order to accommodate and lead the new trends in education, ODL as an academic discipline should reevaluate its philosophies, principles, thoughts, research paradigm and methodologies, thereby returning the outcomes to its stakeholders and societies. The current practices and future perspectives of ODL, espe-

cially in the Asian region, should be also discussed for policy making in light of the regional needs.

Topic Examples: educational and ICT policies, cultural diversity, private-public partnership, multi-culturalism and/or pluralism, knowledge-based society, aging society and life-long learning, development stage and ODL

2. Organizational management and institutional leadership

In Asia, open universities have evolved in various national/regional contexts, establishing specific frameworks for their governance, policy and finance. However, in the midst of rapid globalization and internationalization, they now share several fundamental issues and challenges. With limited resources, open universities need

efficient management and effective leadership for their sustainability and quality enhancement.

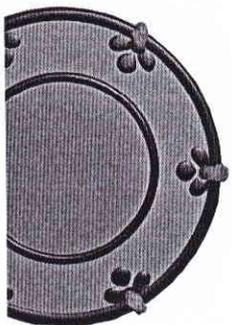
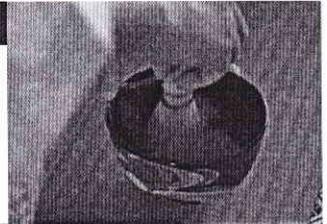
Topic Examples: governance, finance, business model, leadership, compliance

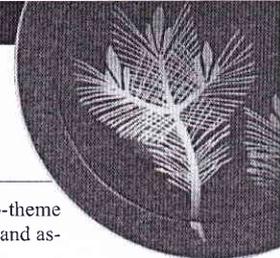
3. Technology-enhanced teaching and learning

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are some of the strongest drivers in improving ODL. The knowledge and experiences gained in the field of "technology-enhanced teaching and learning," such as good practices in the development and implementation as well as evaluation of new learning technologies should be shared among members in the AAOU community. The design and creation of digital learning space and

resources are included in this sub-theme.

Topic Examples: e-Learning, m-learning, technology-enhanced learning (TEL), learning space, instructional design, learning design, learning management systems (LMS), social media, virtual and augmented reality, authentication methods





4. Innovation in curriculum development and pedagogy

With the effective and efficient use of ICT, development and implementation of innovative curriculum, pedagogy and learning strategies become possible. Compared with traditional universities, open and distance universities have a broader spectrum in student characteristics. In adopting new teaching and learning methods, more research needs to be conducted to demonstrate their ef-

fectiveness. Also included in the sub-theme are the aspects of student evaluation and assessment.

Topic Examples: curriculum development, pedagogy, assessment methods, online testing, competency model, adaptive test, e-portfolio



5. Student support and learning communities

In implementing learner-centered approaches and constructivist models of learning, various learner support functions, in face-to-face or at a distance, are considered to be essential. In distance education as well as on-site education, the interactivity between teachers and learners and among learners is regarded as one of the fundamental requirements for quality teaching and learning.

From social learning and constructivist perspectives, interactions in a learner community should be assured.

Topic Examples: study centers, social networking system (SNS), learner communities, learner support, learner-centered teaching and learning, interactivity



6. Quality assurance

The quality has been discussed in various contexts and opportunities and it is still one of the priority issues in ODL. This sub-theme focuses on the quality issues at different levels: accreditation of programs and institutions, the quality assurance/enhancement of learning content and courses in addition to overall educational practices. As we begin to witness cross-border education

in Asia, the international standards for such education should be discussed.

Topic Examples: quality assurance, accreditation, recognition, quality framework, faculty and staff development, cross-border education



7. Open educational resources (OER) and ODL

Although open universities are the primary organizations for providing open education in many countries, they do not seem to have been committed to OER movements yet. However, owing to international organizations such as UNESCO and OECD, some AAOU member institutions have launched pilot studies to share information and resources of their OER activities. In this sub-theme, several empirical studies and case studies will be introduced, and issues such as the meaning of "openness" in

open universities, sustainability of OER movements, and the roles of open universities in OER movements, will be discussed.

Topic Examples: OER, Open CourseWare (OCW), open content, institutional repository, federation of repositories, metadata, open standards, federated search, harvesting, intellectual property rights, creative commons licensing

8. Crisis and risk management

In 11 March 2011, East Japan was hit by a series of unprecedented disasters that originated in earthquakes and tsunami. On this occasion, universities and colleges in Japan recognized the importance of both risk management and robust technological and organizational infrastructure. In coping with such disasters, open universities should collaborate with other institutions domestically and internationally. In this sub-theme, case studies from Asian countries will be presented and discussed with a

view to creating new framework for international collaborations in crisis and risk management.

Topic Examples: risk management, crisis management, robust ICT system, safety measures to protect students and staffs, supports and assistances to affected students, volunteer activities and social responsibility, development of learning materials for safety and security education

Conference Format

The conference comprises:

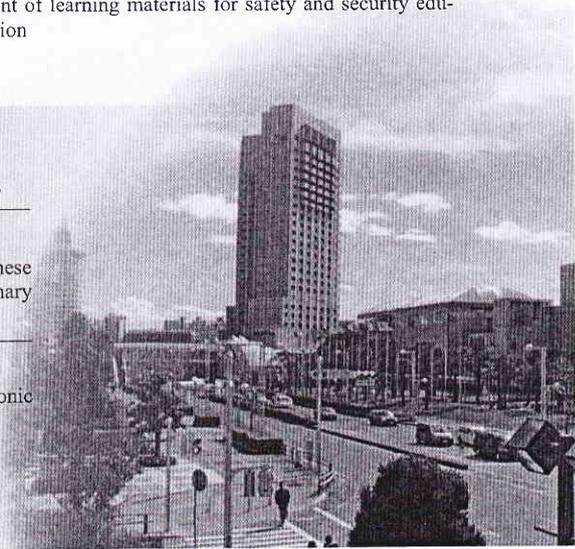
Keynote address, panel discussion, plenary sessions, parallel sessions, poster presentations

Conference Language

English is the official language of the Conference. For Japanese audience, English-Japanese simultaneous translation will be provided on the keynote address, panel discussion and plenary sessions.

Conference Proceedings

The full papers which are submitted by the specified deadline will be included in the electronic conference proceedings. The papers should be submitted as camera-ready copies.



Important Dates

Any changes to the dates below will be posted on <http://aaou2012.ouj.ac.jp>

- Deadline for abstract submission: 15 June 2012
- Notification of acceptance of abstracts: 30 June 2012
- Deadline for submission of full papers: 31 July 2012
- Deadline for Early Bird registration: 31 August 2012
- Deadline for registration: 30 September 2012

Registration Fees

	Participation Types	Before 1 Sept. (Early Bird)	After 1 Sept. (Full Payment)
Full Member/ Associate Member	16-18 Oct. (Full Participation)	JPY 24,000	JPY 28,000
	17 or 18 Oct. (One Day Only)	JPY 16,000	JPY 20,000
Non-Member	16-18 Oct. (Full Participation)	JPY 28,000	JPY 32,000
	17 or 18 Oct. (One Day Only)	JPY 20,000	JPY 24,000

This amount is calculated with the exchange rate (USD1 = JPY80, EUR1 = JPY115)

NOTE: The Conference Registration Fee for Full Participation Includes

- Entry to all main events and conference sessions (excluding pre-conference workshops)
- Welcome reception on 16 Oct.
- Morning and afternoon refreshments on 17 and 18 Oct.
- Lunches on 17 and 18 Oct.
- Conference dinner on 17 Oct.
- Conference program and proceedings
- 1 Day Tour

Accommodation

Special conference rates are available for the following hotels. For more information, please visit our website at <http://aaou2012.ouj.ac.jp>

**All rates indicated below are for a single room without breakfast, including taxes and service charges (They may change subject to conditions. Breakfast is available with additional charges.)*

Luxury

- *Hotel New Otani Makuhari*
Connected with the Conference Hall ¥10,500~
- *APA Hotel & Resort Tokyo Bay Makuhari*
Connected with the Conference Hall ¥9,975~

Deluxe

- *Hotel Springs Makuhari*
10 minute walk to the Conference Hall ¥7,500~
- *Hotel Green Tower Makuhari*
5 minute walk to the Conference Hall ¥7,500~
- *Hotel Francs*
5 minute walk to the Conference Hall ¥7,000~

Standard

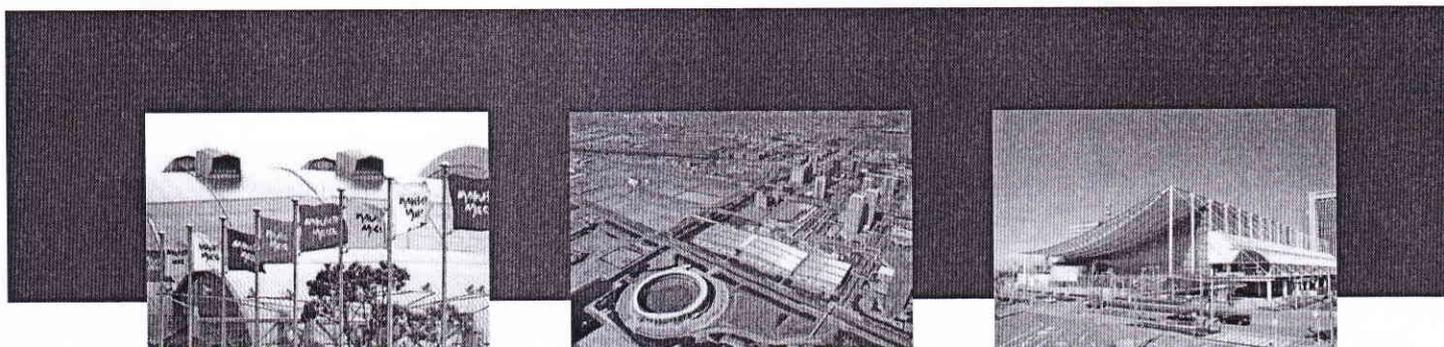
- *Some reasonable hotels*
Not within walking distance to the Conference Hall ¥5,480~

Weather

The normal temperature in Chiba in October is 15-25 degree Celsius.

Visa Information

Please inquire Japanese Embassy or Consulate in/near your country for Visa application.



Further Inquires

For further inquiries about the conference, please contact

AAOU2012 Secretariat

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2-11 Wakaba, Mihama-ku, Chiba 261-8586
Japan

E-mail: aaou2012@ouj.ac.jp
URL: <http://aaou2012.ouj.ac.jp>