Editorial

Preface

On behalf of the editorial team, I would like to present, with great pleasure, this new issue of the *AAOU Journal*. To reach a wider readership and enhance the journal quality, the *AAOU Journal* is published from this year by an established international publisher – Emerald – through its platform for open access. We hope that the Journal will provide a better opportunity for researchers and academics to make an impact in the field of open and distance education (ODE).

In addition, more distinguished scholars in the field of ODE have recently joined our Editorial Board as members. The current composition of the Board is listed in our relevant webpage. We wish to extend our sincere gratitude and warm welcome to them.

This issue includes nine papers which were winners and finalists in the paper awards of the 29th Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities last year (AAOU 2015). They cover a broad range of key ODE areas. Jayatilleke and Gunawardena investigate different cultural perceptions of academics and relevant influences on online learning. Latif, Bahroom, and Khalil present an importance-satisfaction survey to identify services and facilities of an institution that can be marketed and those that need to be improved to better meet its students' expectations. Sembiring introduces an OER impact study carried out in an open university. Karunanayaka, Rajendra, Ratnayake and Naidu's paper illustrates a case study on how peer-facilitated discussions enhance OER-based e-learning. The paper by Wong examines factors which facilitate effective teaching through MOOCs. Chew, Ali and Ch'ng present an open access repository of their institutional library. Ibrahim, Arshad, Zulkifly and Woo discuss the development of iRadio, an educational internet radio of their institution. Nandana and de Mel's paper introduces a case of an integrated laboratory experiment setup which overcomes problems of offering engineering degree programmes in the ODE context. Hashim shares an ontological structure approach to reuse learning resources in ODE.

We would like to thank all the authors in this issue who share their insights and experiences. Our grateful thanks go to our reviewers for their expert comments on these papers. We also wish to express our thanks to Emerald and its team members involved in the production of this issue. I am also grateful to the staff of the AAOU Secretariat for their assistance and support in handling papers in the production process.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the *AAOU Journal*, and find this collection of papers useful references for improving our ODE practices and stimulating further research in ODE. This Journal welcomes quality papers in all areas relevant to ODE. Please click here for details if you wish to submit a manuscript to us.

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