

Preface

This issue of the *AAOU Journal* includes six papers. Three papers are from winners and finalists in the paper awards of the 28th Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities last year (AAOU 2014), and the other three come from outstanding papers selected from open submissions.

In this issue, two papers discuss blended learning with different foci. Xiangyang Zhang and Jie Xu focus on the integration of micro lectures into blended learning discourse in an open university; and Jeanne Lam examines the students' experience of blended learning from the perspective of the 'Community of Inquiry (CoI)' framework. Ean Teng Khor explores the effectiveness of virtual collaborative learning using Moodle-wiki. Yanhui Han, Shunping Wei and Shaogang Zhang analyse students' online learning behaviour and reflect on interactive teaching and learning in the big data era. Billy Wong explores the influence of the pedagogic orientations of MOOC platforms on their courses. Finally, Jean Saludadez illustrates how digital media act as agents to accomplish teaching and learning research online.

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

This Journal welcomes quality papers in all areas relevant to open and distance education. You are welcome to submit a manuscript to us at aaou@ouhk.edu.hk. We hope that this issue of the Journal will stimulate scholars and act as a catalyst for them to carry out high-quality research. Please enjoy the articles.

Kam Cheong LI
Executive Editor