I am pleased to inform you that in the 8th year of TOJDE are appeared on your screen now as Volume 8, Number: 2.

In this issue we published one notes for Editor, 14 articles, two reviews, news and announcements for our readers. 27 authors from ten different countries are placed in this issue. These published articles are from Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh; Canada Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey, UK and USA.

In the "Notes for Editor" section, Abdurazzag Ali AURAS and Othman O KHALIFA survey is thoughts are placed via title "PDA Mobile Learning Using Indoor Intelligent Wireless Whiteboard", from International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, MALASIA)" In their note reports on the designing the interface of a mobile learning PDA based on wireless whiteboard classroom architecture. Developing an adaptive and context aware mobile learning system is presented. Therein, the proposed technique would definitely enhance the lecturer's hand written notes to integrate PDAs in classroom. Future development approaches for systems supporting learning environments is considered.

The first article of this issue is coming from Abant Izzet Baysal University, Bolu, Turkey. Article is entitled as "Investigating University Students' Opinions In Relation To Open University Students" and written by Assist. Prof. Dr. Rasit OZEN, Department of Educational Science. His paper aims to investigate university students' opinions in relation to Open University students. The subjects (n=69) of this study were students of Abant Izzet Baysal University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, in Bolu-Turkey. The data concerning the university students' opinions in relation to Open University students were collected through interviews held by the researcher during the spring semester of 2005-2006 academic years. The results of this study indicated that they believed Open University to be a good opportunity for people who work and who have no chance to receive university education, they believed there to be no difference between them and the Open University students and graduates in terms of the subject knowledge as they took mostly the same courses during instruction.

Second article is from Canada and it is dealt with The Development Of Virtual Educational Environments To Support Inter-School Collaboration, written by Ken STEVENS, Faculty of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland. This paper examines Inter-school collaboration in rural Canada and the extension of curriculum options for senior students has, in turn, provided a basis for the integration of virtual classes and traditional face to face instruction. Instruction in classes that are electronically-linked to other classes requires different skills from traditional face to face teaching and the development of new strategies and protocols. The implications of open and flexible teaching and learning for the future organization of classes, the preparation of teachers, articulation with higher education and in particular, regional economic development are now significant educational policy issues. The linking of virtual and face to face classes through cybercells is a possible next step in the development of virtual educational environments.

In the third article is about "Distance Learning For Mobile Internet Users", Written by Dr Beran NECAT, Academy Department, Havering College of Further and Higher Education, Essex, THE UNITED KINGDOM His paper provides an overview on the current state of art in the field of Distance learning for mobile users. It mentions a large range of technologies, services and approaches that may be used to bring distance learning to mobile internet users. These technologies are supposed to considerably increase innovative e-learning solutions for the next generation. While this definitely appears to be true, I think what is not so clear are the implications for

students, and lecturers etc. In this article I first evaluate distributed e-learning technologies. With some of the most vital topics, focusing on adaptive distributed e-learning for Mobile Internet Users (MIUs). I also provide a brief analysis of Broadband Network Services, Collaborative e-Learning Tools and Distributed Virtual Environments, Internet-Based Adaptive Learning Technologies and Personalised Distance Learning. He continous his discussion on the Internet Development Tools (IDTs) for Distance Learning Solutions, Learning Technologies for MIUs, Semantic and Web-Based Services for Enriching Learning Interactivity, and Evaluations of Distributed Learning Technologies (DLTs).

The 4th articles arrived from Bangladesh Open University Bangladesh on "Analytical Views of Student Enrolment Trend of Different Programs of Bangladesh Open University And Its Projection", which is written by Sharker Md. NUMAN, Md. Anwarul ISLAM and Anwar SADAT. The study reveals that some programs already have touched the border line of zero students' enrolment. At the same time, projection shows that if these trends continue at these rates, then students' enrollment of six of these programs would reach to nil in next few years. So, it is the time for the policy makers and the academics to rethink about those programs and take effective strategies to revive those programs. In the end, authors also pointed out some measures to be considered in offering effective and more popular educational program through BOU.

The fifth article came from Anadolu University, Faculty of Education, written by Yavuz AKBULUT on "Implications Of Two Well-Known Models For Instructional Designers In Distance Education: Dick-Carey Versus Morrison-Ross-Kemp". This paper first summarizes, and then compares and contrasts two well-known instructional design models: Dick and Carey Model (DC) and Morrison, Ross and Kemp model (MRK). The target audiences of both models are basically instructional designers. Both models have applications for different instructional design settings. They both see the instructional design as a means to problem-solving. However, there are also differences between the two models. Applications of each model for instructional design and technology are discussed, and a reference to instructional designers in distance education was made.

The sixth article which is entitled as "A Study of Student's Attitude Towards Virtual Education In Pakistan", written by Dr. Irshad HUSSAIN, Lecturer, Department of Education, The Islamia University of PAKISTAN. The main objective of the study was to evaluate the students' attitudes towards virtual education in Pakistan. The data were collected from BCS final semester students of the virtual university through questionnaire. The study revealed that virtual education is an alternate to the formal system of education. It can cater large students' body at all academic levels. It is flexible and convenient to the learners providing them exposure with emerging technologies. It integrates the nation extending the opportunities of higher education, uniform curricula; technology based instructional methodology and equal opportunities of higher education. However, students do face some problems as well. These include problems of password, computer vision syndrome (CVS), fingers' joint pain, backache, dizziness & headache and electricity failure. From the findings of the study it can be projected that in future formal universities may be adopting the virtual mode in some way.

The seventh article is came from again Abant Izzet Baysal University, Facult of Education Bolu, Turkey related with Rasit's research which is written by Assist. Prof. Dr. Senay NARTGUN. Her paper is entitled as "A Diagnostic Study of Open University Students ' Perceptions about the Problem of Distance Education Application" The aim of this study, within this framework, is to examine the perceptions of Open University students in relation to the problems of distance education applications.

The subjects of this study are the Open Faculty students (n=45) who attend to Open Faculty courses provided by Abant Izzet Baysal University. The data were collected through interviews. The results indicated that i) they preferred mostly the open learning as they worked at different offices, ii) they pointed out that most of the university and faculty students had positive attitudes towards them. However, they reported that i) they had difficulty in studying by themselves, ii) had some problems as open learning faculty students and iii) they believed they would have problems in finding a job in the future. Both of them result ar similar with each other

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The 8th article is arrived to us Inodesia. The article which is entitled Designing, Developing, Producing and Assuring the Quality of Multi-Media Learning Materials for Distance Learners: Lessons Learnt From Indonesia's Universitas Terbuka" Written Dewi MUTIARA, Aminudin ZUHAIRI and Sri KURNIATI from Universitas Terbuka. Their paper addresses comprehensive aspects of design, development, production, and quality assurance of multi-media learning materials, based on the experience of Indonesia's Universitas Terbuka (UT). A course team approach is used to design and develop UT learning materials, involving content experts from partner universities, UT's own academic staff, and instructional designers and media specialists. Preparation for production of printed learning materials are done internally, while the large-scale reproduction is outsourced externally, and for the non-printed materials all production and reproduction processes are done internally. The learning materials go through a systematic quality assurance mechanism in each stage of design, development and production, in order to ensure that distance students have high quality learning materials for use in their autonomous and independent as well as structured and guided learning activities throughout the course of their learning endeavor at a distance.

Next and the ninth article were sent to TOJDE by Ismail SAHIN, Selcuk University, TURKEY. Title of paper is "Predicting Student Satisfaction In Distance Education and Learning Environments". The purpose of his study was to analyze characteristics of online learning environments. Data collected using the Distance Education Learning Environments Survey (DELES) were used to explore the relationship between student satisfaction and the following predictor variables: instructor support, student interaction and collaboration, personal relevance, authentic learning, active learning, and student autonomy. The participants of this study were 917 undergraduate students at an Anatolian university in Turkey. Results of the regression analysis show that four of the six DELES scales, namely, personal relevance, instructor support, active learning, and authentic learning, were significantly and positively related to student satisfaction. These results provide valuable feedback to institutions offering online classes and to educators evaluating satisfaction of their students

The tenth article is written by again Pakistanish academics from The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, PAKISTAN. Paper is titled as "Correlation Between Marks Obtained By Students In Assignments And Final Examination of Master Of Education Conducted By Allama Iqbal Open University" and written by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam ADEEB, Dr. Aijaz Ahmed GUJJAR & Dr. Muhammad Ashraf MALIK. The main objective of the research was to find out the correlation between the marks obtained by the students of Allama Iqbal Open University in assignments and final examination of M.A (Education) M.Ed in Autumn 2006.For this purpose, the result gazette of M.A (Education) M.Ed was got from regional campus Allama Iqbal Open University, Bahawalpur. All the students who appeared from this region were taken as sample. The value of correlation in the subject, Elementary Education was 0.228, in Secondary Education -0.033, in Higher Education was 0.069 and in Teacher Education in Pakistan was 0.154.There were 16 students who got more than 80 marks in assignments but they were fail in the final examination because they did not get at least 40 marks in the final examination.

The eleventh article is written by Avi CARMEL, and Stuart S. GOLD, from University of Phoenix, USA. His paper topic is on "The Effects of Course Delivery Modality on Student Satisfaction and Retention and GPA in On-Site vs. Hybrid Courses. This research project examines the relationship between modality of course delivery and the level of student GPA, satisfaction and retention achieved for students attending either traditional On-site or Hybrid (partial Online and partial On-site) delivery modality university courses. The research project incorporates data from 110 courses and 164 students. The results, indicate that there is not a statistically significant difference, between the levels of student satisfaction, student retention or grade point average between students taking classes in the traditional on-site modality vs. those attending class via the hybrid modality.

Next article is which numbered as 12, from USA. Article is entitled as "Successful Distance Education Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa", and written by John LEARY and Zane BERGE, UMBC. This paper explains the purposes, delivery methods, and program characteristics of successful distance education (DE) in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). This paper investigates the design and delivery systems of these programs and identifies ways the DE programs are working to improve. There are about 150 formidable distance education programs working in SSA. They aim to increase and improve a variety of existing programs, including primary and high school education, college-level and graduate programs, language training, teacher training, and continuing education for adults. The primary delivery system used by most institutions consists of printed manuals and texts that are distributed to all students. Despite the continued development of information and communication technology (ICT), including videos, online training modules, and web-based training (WBT) systems, traditional DE delivery methods continue to prove as the most reliable, most sustainable, and most widely used.

The thirteenth article is from BAHRAIN which is written by Dr. Ahmad SHAHER MASHHOUR, College of IT, MIS Dept., Bahrain University. His article is entitled as "A Distance Education Model For Jordanian Students Based On An Empirical Study". In his paper, he discusses the findings of an empirical study on a sample of Jordanian distance education students into a requirement model that addresses the need of such education at the national level. The responses of the sample show that distance education is offering a viable and satisfactory alternative to those who cannot enroll in regular residential education. The study also shows that the shortcomings of the regular and the current form of distance education in Jordan can be overcome by the use of modern information technology.

The last article written by me and two colleagues from Australia and Turkey. It is so interesting for me that this is my first attempt for publishing in TOJDE since eight and half years. Its title is "Strategies for The Marketing of Higher Education With Comparative Contextual References Between Australia And Turkey" which completed by Ugur Demure, , Turkey, Judy Nagy, Australia and Ayhan Yilmaz, Turkey. Paper is focus on marketing in higher education and compares Australian and Turkish cases with the continuing rise in the preference for flexible distance learning, educational institutions are finding that when students and faculty have significantly different cultural backgrounds and learning styles that the expectations of the learning experience can be unfulfilled.

The first reviewing is FormaMente is an official journal of GUIDE, the Association of the Global Universities in Distance Education. This is an international review that publishes a collection of international studies and researches in the field of the new Information and Communication Technologies.

The review is dedicated to the research of methodologies and e-learning technologies, collecting articles and case histories about the evolution of didactic processes related with today's educational transformation.

The journal is structured in three sections; a summary of scientific research activities, the technological applications, the analysis of exemplary study cases and the discussion of "good practice". FormaMente is a multilingual journal, published four times a year. Each article includes keywords, English abstracts and short synthesis in Italian, to better help researches. This volume offers important reflection points on bioinformatics, Information Management System Learning Design, mobile learning and flexible information models within the knowledge society.

The second review is a book which was edited by, Charles Juwah, Senior Education Development Officer at Robert Gordon University, where he runs the postgraduate learning and teaching qualification course. It was published by Routledge in 2006. Titled as "Interactions In Online Education Implications For Theory & Practice", and reviewed Adile Aşkım Kurt, Faculy of Education, Anadolu University, TURKEY. This book provides international perspectives on key topics including analyzing and designing e-learning interactions, social and conceptual dimensions of learning, interactions in online discussions, interactions in pair learning, and professional development of online facilitators. In this book a collection of research and innovative case material drawn from practitioners and academicians and it covers the theory and the practical implications of related issues. It is essential reading for all those involved in the design, implementation, management and use of open and flexible learning.

In the other sections are again in the same format as usual as TOJDE's presenting style. News and some announcements are placed in this issue too.

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To receive further information and to send your recommendations and remarks, or to submit articles for consideration, please contact TOJDE Secretariat at the below address or e-mail us to tojde@anadolu.edu.tr

Hope to stay in touch and meeting in our next Issue, in July 2007.

Cordially,
March 31, 2007

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