

## **Demiray's Report on The First International Symposium for In its 20th anniversary celebrations, Open Education Faculty (OEF)**

**"New Horizons in Educational Communication and Technology"  
MAY 23-25, 2002 Held by Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey.**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

In its 20th anniversary celebrations week, Open Education Faculty (OEF) held its First International Symposium on "New Horizons in Educational Communication and Technology", in Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey bçetween MAY 23 and 25, 2002.

This was Anadolu's first attempt to celebrate the 20th anniversary including an International Symposium on the theme "New Horizons in Educational Communication and Technology", on May 23-25, 2002. It was achieved by including many national and more than nine international presenters came from Greece, Israel, Kazakhstan, Northern Cyprus Turkish Republic and the United States on the program, as they provide different experiences. It was also enlightening to hear their views and successes, as well as the problems they are still facing. And 6 of foreign were keynote speakers.

Apart from opening and closing sessions and receptions; 8 pre-symposium workshops, 4 panels and 23 parallel sessions were realized during this celebration week. This celebration week started with workshops on 20th of May and continued to 22nd of May 2002. And then three-day symposium was realized between, May 23-25, 2002. Afternoons of 25th and 26th of May were spared for tour for sight seeing places around Eskisehir where based on Phrygian civilization at Phrygia Walley.

The following executive summary is based on my notes during symposium, symposium program, the abstract booklet which is distributed at the symposium, and available on the symposium CD including full text of the symposium papers'. Publishing of proceedings book is guaranteed by Anadolu University, including discussions and panels' texts too as soon as possible. This is an attempt to present a summary based on the sessions and workshops, and general evaluation of the symposium.

### **WHO PARTICIPATED TO THIS SYMPOSIUM?**

- Distance Education and Open Learning practitioners,
- Lifelong adult education and learning professionals,
- Distance Education and Open Learning academic faculty,
- Technical experts,
- Policy experts,
- Government, university, and college officials of all ranks,
- Trainers in private and public institutions and companies and
- Administrators, managers, and purchasers of equipment and software related to this field

### **AIMS OF SYMPOSIUM**

**To evaluate the developments in the world with the help of plenary sessions in which the international participants present their academic studies and experiences.**

**To evaluate distance education, which provides a lifelong and unlimited opportunity for education, and its applications in Turkey; to offer new designs, new suggestions and to discuss the problems in this field with all academicians and practitioners; to share and exchange ideas and experiences.**

**To evaluate different distance education applications in Turkey with the help of paper presentations, panel discussions, and workshops (See: <http://www.anadolu.edu.tr>, Duyurular [Announcements] button).**

## **FOCUS AREAS OF SYMPOSIUM**

**The main theme of the symposium is "New Horizons in Educational Communication and Technology". The main theme, the six sub topics and related issues mentioned were discussed. But the symposium was not restricted with topics stated below. Applications on related subjects were also welcomed.**

### **Distance/Open Education**

- **Management Approaches**
- **Economic Problems**
- **Theoretical Perspective**
- **Providing Quality**
- **Legal Arrangements**

### **Online Education**

- **Interaction Strategies**
- **Virtual Communities/Cultures**
- **Evaluation Approaches**

### **Learning and Teaching**

- **Constructivist Approaches**
- **Learning Styles**
- **Collaboration Based Teams**

### **Instructional Designs and Improvements of Teaching Systems**

- **Learning Needs**
- **Feedbacks Systems**
- **Innovative Learning/Teaching Strategies**
- **Assessment-Evaluation**

### **Teaching Environments**

- **Authoring Systems**
- **Visual Literacy**
- **Multimedia Environment Application**
- **Interface-learner Interaction**
- **Integrated Learning Perspective**

### **Tendencies in the Field of Education Communication and its Technology**

- **Job Possibilities**
- **Technological Equipment**
- **Changing Qualification**
- **New roles for learners and teachers**

## **SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS ON MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY**

The first workshop started on Monday by Prof. Dr. Marina S. McIsaac which is entitled "Creating Virtual Communities" from Arizona State University, USA. And afternoon session Assist. Prof. Dr. Antonis Linarakis's, presentation was on "Comparative Study of Open, Distance and Conventional Education", from Hellenic Open University, Greece.

Tuesday workshops started with Prof. Dr. Charlotte L. Gunawardena on "Evaluating Online Learning: Models and methods", from University of New Mexico. Assist. Prof. Dr. Mediha Saglik and her team (Assist. Prof. Dr. Nedim Gurses, Assist. Prof. Dr. Emine Demiray, Assist. Prof. Dr. Senu Curabay and Assist. Prof. Dr. Serap Ozturk) from Anadolu University, discussed on 'Visual Telling for Television Course Productions' by making live TV broadcast in OEF's Studio 3. This workshop was in Turkish. The team showed us the ideal condition and process of TV course materials production and its problems, which meet in the running of OEF system. Prof. Dr. William Winn from University of Washington gave a workshop on "How to Use Virtual Reality to Support Learning". He shared experiences of University of Washington with his participants.

There were four workshops on Wednesday of the celebration week. In the morning, Prof. Dr. Francis Dwyer from Penn State University, he discussed on "Rapid Instructional Design: A process" with the participants. Unfortunately Prof. Dr. Samuel DiGangi and Dr. Angel Jannasch from Arizona State University could not participate due to their private reasons, instead of placing in the program for to make a workshop on "Instructional Use of Digital Video". The last presenter was Prof. Dr. Toshio Kobayashi from Japan, National Institute of Multimedia Education. His study was on "Educational Reform by Multimedia Technologies in Japan".

Four commercial institutions and Atilim University in their expert area conducted educational activities during workshops days too. These commercial institutions were; TURK TELECOM, COMSAT-TURKEY, EREL-ERSOFT, NORBO

Now, let's get down to it, shall we carry on to summarize presentation in the sessions?

**Thursday's General Sessions (May 23, 2002)**

**Friday's General Sessions (May 24, 2002)**

**Saturday's General Sessions (May 25, 2002)**

### **Thursday's General Sessions (May 23, 2002)**

The first General Session began on Thursday May 23, 2002 with opening ceremony and speeches given by Prof Dr. Ali Ekrem Ozkul-Dean of OEF, Prof. Dr. Engin Atac-Rector of Anadolu University, Prof. Dr. Kemal GURUZ-Director of Turkish Higher Education Council. And than opening speeches are continued speeches of Prof. Dr. Yilmaz Buyukersen who was the former rector of Anadolu University, founder of Open Education Faculty. And now he is the Mayor of Eskisehir City, on "To Open Education from 20th Century to 21st Century", Emeritus Prof. Dr. Marina S. McIsaac on "Global Distance Education: Anadolu University's Rise to Prominence", from Arizona State University. In her address is reflected that on the growth of Anadolu's Open Education System from its early days as the Open Education Faculty. She mentioned that the developments are viewed in light of the upcoming challenges posed by globalization and digital technologies. Emphasis is placed

on connectedness as the defining measure of globalization, and emphasizes teacher training, shifts in pedagogy and instructional design in future distance education projects.

The panel was on, "Open and Distance Education in Turkey: Problems and Its Solving Ways" which moderated by Prof. Dr. Engin Atac-Rector of Anadolu University. Panelists were Prof Dr. Ali Ekrem Ozkul-OEF, Ruhi Esirgen, Director of National Ministry of Education, EđiTEK, Prof Dr. Nese Yalabik-Middle East Technical University, Prof Dr. Asaf Varol-Fırat University, İbrahim Hakki Alpturk-General Director of TURK TELEKOM, Abbas Guclu-Cumhuriyet Daily's education columnist who expert on education news. Dr. Atac began the panel with a series of statements, developments, functions and importance of distance education for Turkey and giving about the panelists' short biography, their position and responsibilities for the Open and Distance Education system in Turkey. As moderator, Dr. Atac limited each speaker to five minutes. This limit had advantages and disadvantages, and as İbrahim Hakki Alpturk-General Director of TURK TELEKOM stated that "successfully avoided any one person dominating the agenda; but it also limited speakers who wished to structure an argument". The last speaker of the panel was Abbas Guclu-Cumhuriyet Daily's columnist who indicates that distance education in Turkey should re-structure itself absolutely an obligation for its running system according to the technological developments.

And then another sessions were held on Thursday. All papers are presented at Anadolu University Atatürk Cultural Center's Hall 1, Hall 2 Hall 3 and Hall 4. Total 12 papers are presented on various subjects, which dealt with distance education.

### Friday's General Sessions (May 24, 2002)

On Friday, there were two keynote speakers and 15 presentations in morning sessions. One of the keynote speakers was Prof. Charlotte Lani Gunawerdena from University of New Mexio. Her speech is on "Social Presence and the Sociocultural Context of Online Education". The other keynote speaker was Prof. William Winn from University of Washington. His subject was on "What Can Students Learn in Artificial Environments That They Can Not Learn in Class?". Friday afternoon sessions are carried on with 50 papers.

In Addition to these, two more panels were realized. One of the panel was on "Printed Materials Design: Anadolu University OEF Case". Prof. Dr. Levend Kilic, Assist. Prof. Dr. Hakan Aydin, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fikret Ucar, Assist. Prof. Dr. Hulya Pilanci and Ins. Aysegul Tokbudak is participated to this panel whom all of participators were from Anadolu University. Second panel of Friday was on "Distance Education Applications of National Ministry of Education". Erol Duzgun, Aynur Uzer, Zehra Adiyaman and Mine Hicyilmaz Arslan from National Ministry of Education were participators of this panel.

### Saturdayday's General Sessions (May 25, 2002)

Saturday was the last day of Symposium. On Saturday morning session there were one panel and 26 presentations, Panel was on "Electronic Scholar Journalism in Distance Education". Prof. Dr. Ugur Demiray From Anadolu University and Editor-in-Chief of TOJDE, Kursad Ozmen Editor of hurriyetim.com, Arif Altun from Izzet Baysal University and editor of Ilkogretim Online and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Kucuk from Hacettepe University were participators of the panel. Symposium was finished with closing speech.

As summary 99 papers were presented at 22 session. 155 researchers prepared these 99 papers. More than 500 persons were participated to the OEF's celebration week activities. Symposium registration fee was \$30USD. This fee was including, symposium abstracts booklet, papers CDs, TOJDE's back issues CD (Turkish Online Journal of Distance Education), symposium bags and symposium cups were given to the presenters as a symposium gifts.

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