

AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE NEW VISTA EDUCATION SYSTEM OF OPEN, DISTANCE AND E-LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

International Symposium on Open, Distance and E-Learning held at Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel at Bali, Indonesia by hosted by ICT Centre for Education, Ministry of National Education of the Republic Indonesia was a unique forum for scientific expositions on the progress of development and implementation on the fast-growing ICT global network, especially in the field of open, distance and e-learning. It was an excellent engagement of distinguished researchers, academicians, practitioners and policy makers from across the globe for the exchange of views and for sharing and acknowledging the contributions towards solving multinational problems with mutual synergy and collaboration.

The theme of the symposium - **The Emerging Technology for Teaching and Learning: A new paradigm of learning** was followed by the sub themes **1. ICT in Education 2. New Technologies and New Learning 3. Quality Assurance in ODEL and 4. ODEL Sustainability-Implementation**. The symposium objective was to acquire, share and distribute the ideas, inputs, results and recommendations of the development on implementation of ICT for Open, Distance and E-Learning with the expectations of the presence and contribution to the deliberation and hence adding value to the quality of the symposium and enriching the experiences of the participants.

The entire programme was well designed for presentations of 4 keynote speakers, 4 – 5 speakers in each of 4 plenary sessions and 40 parallel speakers of the technical sessions. It was important that the overall quality of each of the presentations and participations in all through the symposium was assessed by taking feedback reports from the participants through questionnaires in a prescribed evaluation form. The distinguished speakers were from different countries home and abroad e.g. Australia, Bangladesh, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, U.S.A. etc.

The speakers from different countries and institutions had the opportunity to interact with each other, share knowledge, views, expertise and experiences with participants from all around the world, encouraging effort towards building society's ICT-awareness for a better life. The proposed summary of the recommendations in four areas of Open, Distance, and E-learning, i.e., policy, implementation, technology, and quality assurance are enclosed. The relevant figures and photographs are also included along with the list of the presented papers.

INTRODUCTION

Any noble deed can not be received and perceived well in the modern age unless it has been exposed and evaluated in the relevant forum.

The International Symposium on Open, Distance and E-Learning (ISODEL 2007) was such a unique contextual forum of scientific expositions on the progress of research, development and implementation of fast-growing and net-working Information and Communication Technology (ICT) especially in the field of open, distance and e-learning. The ISODEL 2007 was held at the Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel, Bali, Indonesia during 13-15 November 2007 hosted by the ICT Centre for education, Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Indonesia.



Figure: 1
Presentation of paper in the ISODEL-2007

The ISODEL 2007 was so unique forum for scientific expositions on the progress on development and implementation of the fast-growing ICT net-work especially in open, distance and e-learning (Fig. 1). It was an excellent engagement of the distinguished researchers, academicians, practitioners and the policy makers from across the globe for exchange of views and interactions among themselves with a view to sharing and acknowledging the contributions, ideas, facts and recommendations in solving the multinational problems with current strategy and tactics within the mutual synergy and collaboration. Therefore, the symposium was the global memorable event of the treasury of knowledge on contemporary ICT exposition and valuable inspirations to the upcoming generations. The theme, sub-themes, objectives and expectations of the symposium were as follows.

THEME

The Emerging Technology for Teaching and Learning: A new paradigm of learning.

Sub Themes

1. ICT in Education

- The policy in ODEL implementation in basic and secondary, higher and non formal education.
- Policy in facing globalization trends in education areas

2. New Technologies and New Learning

- Latest instructional technology (TV, radio, computer, internet, mobile, virtual reality)

- Learning model innovation (blended learning, etc)
 - Technology support in education (e-learning, open resources, open source)
- 3. Quality Assurance in ODEL**
- ODEL Quality standard
 - Quality management system and ODEL framework
 - Methodology and approach in ODEL assessment and benchmark
 - Issues in standardization, assessment, accreditation and certification
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- 4. ODEL Sustainability-Implementation**
- Management of ODEL in Indonesia (Open University, State University, Local University, Teacher's accessibility)
 - Best practices in ODEL Management (ODEL for teacher training, compulsory education)

VENUE

The symposium was arranged in an excellent and well decorated venue of the Discovery Kartika Plaza Hotel of Kuta, Bali. The venue was subdivided into the venues for inaugural, plenary and parallel sessions. The venues were as follows.

1. Kharisma Ballroom
2. Rama room
3. Shinta room
4. Arjuna room
5. Discovery room

The Kharisma Ballroom is a big hall room where all the common or combined programmes like inaugural ceremony and the plenary sessions were arranged. Each room was so nicely equipped with the necessary facilities such single/double screens at side, single seats with drinking water in bottle along with drinking glass, laptop and LCD for presentation, portable microphone for the participants etc.

There were other rooms as well such as Foyer Ballrooms and The Pond Restaurant etc. for coffee/tea, lunch etc. In between the lecture venues there were about 15 stalls displaying the poster sessions. It may be mentioned that almost all the features of the symposium were maintained as systematically as designed up to the last minute of the schedule. A symposium bag consisting of a copy of the programme, abstracts, badge, pen, pad etc. was provided to each of the participants.

The rooms 2-5 were designated for the schedules of parallel sessions. All the rooms were well decorated with necessary devices facilitating deliberations of the distinguished speakers and their intellectual interactions. Each of the rooms was also designated for the presentations of the specified group of papers such as - the room no. 2-5 were designated for the presentation of the paper related to Policy, Technology, Implementation and Quality assurance respectively. It was a noteworthy that the ISODEL 2007 authority maintained the privacy of the participants from the outsiders and intruders. For easy identification during the entire period of the conference and its social events all the participants, speakers, exhibitors, committee and supporting staff were provided with their respective security name badges each with distinguishing colour codes such as :

- a) Speaker : Green
- b) Exhibitor : Orange
- c) Participant : Blue
- d) Committee : Red
- e) Supporting staff: Black

PROGRAMMES

The entire programme was designed for the distinguished speakers in the following groups. Keynote speaker: There were 4 keynote speakers.

- a) Bambang Sudibyo, Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Indonesia and President of SEAMEO Council.
 - b) Mohammad NUH, Minister of Information and Communication of the Republic of Indonesia.
 - c) Mae Chu Chung, The World Bank Representative.
 - d) Insung Jung, International Christian University Tokyo.
2. Plenary speaker: There were 4 plenary sessions each comprising 4-5 speeches under different heads such as –
- a) Plenary-1. Quality Assurance and Technology - 5 speakers.
 - b) Plenary-2. Technology and Implementation - 4 speakers.
 - c) Plenary-3. Policy and Technology - 5 speakers.
 - d) Plenary-4. Implementation - 4 speakers.

Parallel speaker: There were 40 distinguished parallel speakers from different countries eg. Australia, Bangladesh, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand, U.S.A. etc.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT OF SPEECHES AND PARTICIPATIONS

It was very significant that assessment was considered as an important and integral part of the whole programme of the symposium. The overall quality of each of the presentation and participations in all through the symposium programme was assessed by collecting feedback from the participants through supplied questionnaire as below.

EVALUATION FORM

The following questions are meant for recording information from the participants of this symposium. Please, feel free to give inputs for the sake of our future training. Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

Please, circle the correct answer and you may give comments, suggestions and critics.
Session:.....

A. Topic

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
1. It meets my need	1	2	3	4
2. It is understandable	1	2	3	4
3. It has good correlation with the objective of the training	1	2	3	4
4. It can improve my knowledge	1.	2.	3.	4.
5. It is interesting	1	2	3	4
6. Comments/suggestions/critics:				

B. Presentation

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
1. The technique of presenting the material	1	2	3	4
2. Examples and illustration given in the presentation	1	2	3	4
3. Discussion/practices to reach the objectives	1	2	3	4
4. The use of media	1	2	3	4
5. Duration	1	2	3	4
6. Comments/suggestions/critics:				

C. Speakers/Panellists

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
1. Mastery of material	1	2	3	4
2. Knowledge	1	2	3	4
2. Comments/suggestions/critics:				

Speakers from different countries and institutions had had the opportunities to have intellectual interactions to each other, share the knowledge, views, expertise and experiences with the participants from all around the world encouraging the efforts towards building society's ICT-awareness for a better life. The closing ceremony was followed by the speech of recommendations, outcome of the entire ISODEL 2007 activities.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations were summarized by the ISODEL 2007 scientific committee. The deliberation on International Symposium on Open, Distance and E-Learning 2007 has proposed recommendations in four areas of Open, Distance, and E-learning, i.e., policy, implementation, technology, and quality assurance.

Policy

- The use of ICT in education must be continuously promoted and implemented in line with the advancement of ICT in each context.
- ODEL implementation must be enhanced in both quality and quantity, especially in higher education level.
- Macro information indicators, such as infrastructure, content, and context are needed to monitor progress and determine the success of the transformation of learning paradigm
- Clear policy, high support and commitment from the government are needed for harnessing ICT implementation for education
- It is necessary for the government to make a concerted effort (i.e., enhancement of public and private partnership) in increasing accessibility and affordability of general public to ICT

Implementation

- The use of ICT must be put in context, not focusing only on hardware and infrastructure, but also in content and human ware (capacity building)
- Implementation of ICT must be based on national strategic plan to assure its quality and sustainability.
- Implementation of ICT should be done collaboratively through a strong networking to ensure the shared and exchanged contributions among various different parties at local, regional, as well as global level
- The use of open educational resources/ open courseware/ open content will enhance resources sharing among ODEL communities and increase the quality of educational content
- ODEL implementation must be designed based on sound pedagogical principles.

Quality Assurance

- ODEL QA mechanism must be built-in in the ODEL development and implementation
- At national level, QA mechanism has to measure the same quality standard as that of conventional education, allowing different indicators
- QA mechanism can be contextualized into different ODEL settings.
- Consistent implementation of QA will lead ODEL providers to being a part of global learning system (borderless or transborder learning) which provides people empowerment toward prosperity.

Technology

- At present, technology is still high cost. Thus, there is a need for exploring and developing affordable technology for education
- It is needed for a country to invent and innovate its appropriate technology while maintaining compatibility and interoperability to the standardized technology
- Accelerating the shared responsibility of technology development and penetration through public private partnership.
- The use of open source software for educational institutions to adopt, modify, and experiment the development of ICT based education, to reach affordable ODEL practices.

Papers presented in the ISODEL 2007 by different distinguished speakers

Keynote speeches

Title	Speaker
1. Policy in Open, Distance and E-learning	Bambang Sudibyo, Minister of National Education of the Republic Indonesia.
2. Implementation of ICT and e-learning in Teachers Education	Mae Chu Chang. The World Bank Representative.
3. Policy and Technology for Education	Muhammad NUH, Minister of Information and Communication, Republic of Indonesia.
4. Quality Assurance in Open, Distance and E-Learning	Insung Jung, International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan.

Plenary-1 Speeches (Quality Assurance and Technology)

1. Improving the Quality of Teachers in Indonesia through the use of ICT.	Fasli Jalal, Director General, Quality Improvement for Teachers and Educational Personnel, MONE-RI.
2. Enhancing quality in ODL	Cheong Hee Kiat, President, Singapore Inst. of Management.
3. TELKOM e-Learning Implementations.	Indra Utoyo, IT Director and Supply PT,TELKOM.
4. e-Learning: Best Practice, Some Cases Implementagtion.	Firmansyah, Director Public Sector, Technology Solution Group.

Plenary-2 Speeches (Technology and Implementation)

1. E-Learning in Indonesia: Development and Quality Assurance.	Satryo Soemantri B., Director General of Higher Education, MONE-Republic of Indonesia.
2. Multi-sourced e-learning and Open University 2: Some basic thoughts.	Joseph F.P. Luhukay, National ICT Council
3. Issues and Challenges of Providing ICT-based Teacher Training Ind.	Poulina Pannen, Director, SEAMOLEC
4. ICT and e-learning in ODL: The experience of Open University, Malaysia.	Ramli Bahroom, General Manager/Corporate Planning: Open University, Malaysia.

Plenary-3 (Policy and Technology)

1. The Status and Trends of Global e-learning Technology.	Alexander Romiszowski, Syccuse Univeristy School of Education (IDD & E).
2. Transformation Strategies for Delivering 21 st Century Teaching Today's Multimedia Students.	Kenny NG, Director, Asia Pacific, RSC Network Infrastructure Enterprise ALCATELLOCENT
3. Current Developments in Open and Distance Learning and its Position in Existing Ed. System in Indonesia.	M. Atwi Suparman, Rector, Open University, Indonesia.
4. The Power of Distance Learning: Indonesia Experiences.	Dodi Nandika and Soekartawi, Secretary Gen. and Special duty Officer of MONE-RI.

Plenary-4 (Implementation)

1. The Use of ICT in Primary and Secondary Schools.	Suyanto, Director General, Management Primary and Secondary Scools.
2. Utilization of ICT for Education: Indonesia Case.	Lilik Gani, HA. Director, ICT Centre for MONE, RI.
3. Intellectual Property and Information Security Ethics in Digital Open and Distance Learning.	Akira Ichikawa, Honorary Professor Edogawa University, Japan Educational Media Study Society.
4. Supporting Student Motivation and Volition: A key issue in Implementing and Sustaining ODEL.	John M. Keller, Florida State University, USA.

Parallel-1 (Policy)

1. Hungarian Experiences and Innovations in E-Learning.	Zoltan Butsi, Pannon University, Hungary.
2. Open, Distance and E-Learning (ODEL) in Higher Education: Policy and Implementation.	Tresna Dermawan Kunaefi, Director of Academic, Directorate General of Higher Education, MONE-RI.
3. Open Education Resources (OER) for Indonesia: What? When?	Stephen Anzalone, Director Centre for Multichannel Learning Education. Dev. Centre, Washington, DC, U.S.A
4. E-Learning implementation at Indonesian Universities: Policy Issues and Challenges.	T. Basaruddin, University of Indonesia. (UI).
5. Learning Pattern by using suitable communication technology and Information under violence situation in Thailand.	Ritthiwut Puwapat, Princess of Naradhiwas University, Thailand.
6. Inter-Schools Tele-collaboration through e-dukasi.net: A Field trial report.	Rusjdy S. Arifin, ICT Centre for Education, MONE-RI.

Parallel-2 (Technology)

1. Technology	Bob Spielvogel, Education Development Centre, Inc. U.S.A
2. Strategic Intervention of Open and Distance Learning in Bangladesh Open University. 3. Basic Tech. to Enhance Basic and Early Childhood Education. Exploring the Potential of Interactive Radio Instruction in Indonesia.	A.Q.M. Bazlur Rashid and M. Rokibur Rahman, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh. Andrea Osborne-Smith, DBE 2 Project.
4. The Use of Data Grid Technology to Support E-Learning Environment.	Zaenal Hasibuan, Univeristy of Indonesia.
3. Towards Establishment of Bandung Institute of Technology E-Learning Centre.	Jaka Sembiring, Bandung Technology Institute, Indonesia.
6. Promoting A Web-Based Learning an Innovation Approach in Family Planning Learning System.	Sri Dadi Pudjo Suparto, Jakarta State University.
7. ICT Infrastructure Readiness and Utilization in the Six Inst. Offering Hybrid Learning for Elementary Teacher Program in Indonesia.	Herman, Dina Mustafa, Abu Bakar Alatas, Adie Yusuf (SEAMOLEC)
8. Building the Future on Knowledge.	Tilden Wu, Manager World Ahead, APAC Solution.
9. Toward a new e-learning paradigm through Integrated Technology and Standards.	Abdullah Alkaff, Sepuluh, November Institute.
10. Supporting Technology Use in Schools with A Public-Private Partnership: A Collective Case Study of Five Asian Countries.	Lim Cher Ping, Edith Cowan University, AUS.
11. The Role of Cable Radio in Disseminating Information and Advancing Awareness of Low Level Employees in SIER Industrial Area of Surabaya.	Anang Sujoko and Fitri Hariana Oktaviani, Brawijaya Univeristy, Indonesia.

Parallel-3 (Quality Assurance)

1. How to Assure Quality in Multimedia Approaches?	Abbas Sadri, ISESCO, Iran.
2. Kutahu as an E-Learning Application to Support Learning Process.	Wenwen Ruswendi & Yanthi Susanti, Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology, Indonesia.
3. A Southeast Asian e-Solution for the Continuing Professional Development of School Heads.	Pierangelo B. Alejo, SEAMEO INNOTECH, Philippines.
4.The Design and Implementation of an Adaptive E-Learning System.	Herman Dwi Suryono, Yogyakarta State University.
5. Quality Management for Ubiquitous learning.	Suhono Harso Supangkat, Ministry of Communication and Information.
6. The Best of Both Worlds in Next Generation Distance Learning: How Meditations Improve EQ(Emotion Quotient) and Learning Effectiveness in E-Learning.	Suporn Limaree, Mahasarakam University, Thailand.
7. The E-Learning Implementation Scenarios: Which path do you like to follow?	Rijanto Purbojo, Pelita Harapan University.
8. A Southeast Asian e-Solution for the Continuing Professional Development of School Heads.	Pierangelo B. Alejo, SEAMEO INNOTECH, Philippines.
9. The Design and Implementation of an Adaptive E-Learning System.	Herman Dwi Suryono, Yogyakarta State University.

CONCLUSION

The fast-growing and net-working ICT technology enabled to transform many aspects of human life including display of text and audio-visual information required in day to day life. Similarly, the web-based technology facilitates the new dimension of learning and motivating to the learners at any where at any time, especially in the education system.

This is more useful for the less concentrated and disadvantaged group of students through multi media animation eye-catching lessons and ready made availability of the materials through ICT.

Optimal learning may be taken place when the students are actively engaged and take part in the learning process through problem solving, active discussions, development information management skills, distributed learning, and other forms of student engagement. For the learners learn best when they become actively engaged in their learning. ICT in fact, act as potential access to the rich resources in the internet and can communicate with others through email.

On the other hand, the scenario has brought the disadvantaged group into the fortunated world of learning and qualifying themselves to the higher ranks. However, in many cases it has been reported that higher education is being undergone a paradigm shift as to change the conception of a University, the place of teaching and replace it with a new concept of University as place of learning.

As regards to various dimensional expositions on the use new vista ICT-based education system or in other words the new paradigm of learning it is optimistic that the application of ODEL in all the levels of education may obviously open the knot of all constraints of unaffordability of the learners.

BIODATA and CONTACT ADDRESS OF AUTHOR



Dr. A. Q. M. Bazlur RASHID, graduated in 1976 is a renowned Professor and former Head, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh. He also worked as a Professor and Dean (2004-07), School of Agriculture and Rural Development, Bangladesh Open University. He is a former Visiting Professor, Dept. of Development Policy and Practice, the Open University, Milton Keynes, UK (2007-08). He is an eminent researcher and academician especially in the field of Open, Distance and E-Learning in the field of Agriculture and Rural Development. As a Commonwealth Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr. Bazlur Rashid has studied "Strategic Policy and Practices of ODEL for Postgraduate Agricultural Education in Bangladesh". During his academic life he has attended many workshops, seminars, symposia, conferences etc. in home and abroad, and visited many countries of the world on such occasions. He has more than one hundred publications in national and internationally recognized and reputed journals as well as other outlets.

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