

ASAIHL 2008: Borderless Education: Challenges and Opportunities for Southeast Asian Universities

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BORDERLESS EDUCATION: BREAKING DOWN BOUNDARIES THROUGH EFFECTIVE NETWORKING AND EXCHANGE OF INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCES

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OPEN UNIVERSITY
MALAYSIA

CONTENT

- What is Borderless Education?
- Impacts and Driving Factors
- Technology and Education
- Globalisation and Emerging Trends in Education
- OUM's Experience
- Networking and Collaboration
- Closing Remarks

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EDUCATION

- It is the rightful property of everyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity and place of living
- However, due to many factors, it is not a reality in many countries
- Millions of the world population do not enjoy basic education, what more higher education



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BORDERLESS EDUCATION

- “Borderless education” refers to the developments outside the traditional borders of higher education
- Access to education without having to physically leave their homes or places of work
- A new way of provision of knowledge: online learning, distance learning, corporate education and specialised courses held on weekends



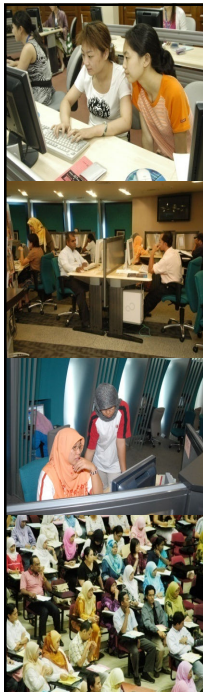
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THE IMPACT

- In the United States: 65 virtual universities and colleges under the American Distance Education Consortium
- E.g. Indiana University Online, Michigan Virtual University, Minnesota Virtual University and Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University
- In Asia: Several virtual universities being set up
- E.g. International Cyber University in Korea, Hong Kong Cyber University, ASEAN Virtual Institute of Science and Technology in Thailand and U21 Global in Singapore
- UNESCO listed more than 115 virtual universities in its website

DRIVING FACTORS

- Globalising economy and job market
- Increase needs for skilled workers or “knowledge workers”
- Availability of information and communication technologies
- Rapid technological advancement
- Enhanced interest in lifelong learning
- Increase in the international demand for higher education



TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION



- Our lives have become more technology-oriented
- We depend on electronic gadgets: save time, effort and money
- Rising internet penetration rate in Asian countries: narrowing the digital gap and creating digital opportunities
- Increasing demand for information and knowledge via information superhighway: Borderless education

CHALLENGES



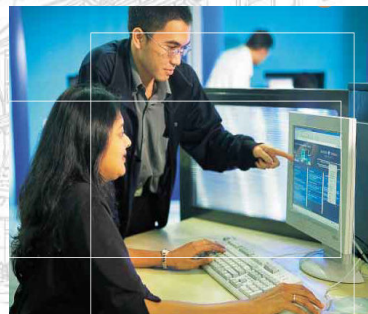
- Technological strides render some of the working population's skills obsolete
- Need to change mindset and be open to knowledge and acquire new skills to cope with the shift towards a more technological competent environment
- Government action-oriented policies setting the lead in promoting new sets of skills, training programmes and industry-university linkage

GLOBALISATION & EMERGING TRENDS IN EDUCATION

- Globalisation caused volatile market place: intense competition for investment flows, export markets, job opportunities and labour transmigration
- Workers across the globe need to improve their education level in order to obtain transferable skills and hence become more marketable
- Borderless education is like insurance against unemployment
- Increase in worldwide demand for higher education

DISTANCE AND ONLINE LEARNING

- Internet has enable fast, easy and efficient delivery channel of knowledge and information
- Cost effective: Providing education to the masses without having the traditional infrastructure
- Changing the nature of learners and learning process: Becomes more learner-centred



ASIA'S ODL

- Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University
- China Central Radio and TV University
- Indra Gandhi National Open University
- Open University of Hong Kong
- Universitas Terbuka Indonesia
- Korean National Open University
- Open University of Sri Lanka
- Bangladesh Open University
- University of Philippines Open University
- Hanoi Open University
- Open University Malaysia (OUM)

OUM: AN ODL PROVIDER



- Established in 2000, the first university to offer programmes through ODL in Malaysia
- Democratisation of education: Making education affordable, accessible and available for everyone
- Motto: University for All
- Provide Malaysians with lifelong opportunity to pursue higher studies

UNIQUE MODEL

- A private university under a consortium of 11 public universities
- Leaders from public universities and captains of industry contribute their expertise to OUM
- Learners enjoy: flexible entry requirements, learner-friendly flexible academic system and blended learning pedagogy



OUM's PROGRESS

- In August 2001, 753 learners enrolled in 4 programmes
- Current total enrolment of 67,000 (as of Jan Semester 2008)
- 51 programmes – 8 Diploma, 28 Bachelor, 10 Master and 5 PhD
- 95% learners are working adults: teachers, civil servants, homemakers, corporate sector employees, members of the armed forces, nurses, retirees and the disabled



OUM's PROGRESS

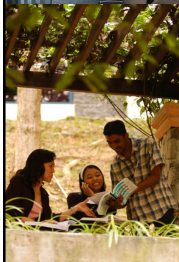
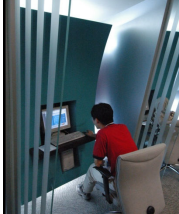
- 10 regional learning centres and 51 local learning centres
- 7,000+ tutors
- Utilises academic expertise from Public Universities as tutors and subject matter experts (SMEs) to develop modules
- 400+ modules
- 8,895 graduates



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OUM: E-LEARNING

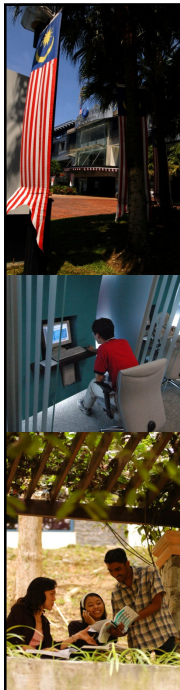
- Comprehensive and flexible e-learning system "myLMS" enables lecturers and learners to interact in a virtual classroom environment
- Allows institution to monitor learning and teaching development
- Enables learners to participate in online discussions and forums with their tutors and peers



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MYLMS: E-LEARNING PLATFORM

- Examples of awards won:
 - Runner-up for the Asia Pacific IT Award from the Asia Pacific ICT Association;
 - E-learning Recognition from Eszerhazy Karoly College of Hungary; and
 - Excellence in Education Management from Technology Business Review.
- Several local public universities also purchased and used myLMS
- Strategic partnership with Ministry of Higher Education, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to establish a National E-Learning Centre



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- Centre for Graduate Studies has International learners in Yemen, Indonesia, Singapore and Bahrain
 - University of Science And Technology, Sana'a, Yemen
 - Universitas Riau, Indonesia
 - Trent Global Education Group, Singapore
 - Arab Open University, Bahrain

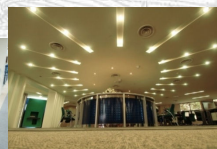
NETWORKING

- OUM's staff attended seminars, conferences and training
- Visits to other ODL institutions to learn from their experiences
- OUM wishes to reach the benchmarking standards of excellent ODL institutions
- AAOU Conference: A platform for networking and sharing of ideas, knowledge and experiences
- Still lacking in term of effective networking and sharing of information and resources and also in research and development

CLOSING REMARKS

We need:

- ✓ To unite under one umbrella
- ✓ To have mechanisms that allows for organised, systematic and regular sharing, networking and exchange of knowledge and skills
- ✓ To embark on long-term and sustainable cooperation
- ✓ To emulate efforts of the European Community in introducing credit transferability



CLOSING REMARKS

We need:

- ✓ To give priority to visiting other open universities in order to share and learn from each other's experience
- ✓ To provide Q-Education: Improve on quality assurance, content development, e-learning delivery system, learning materials, facilities and centres
- ✓ To leverage on the use of English as pivotal instrument to collaborate in the delivery of programmes
- ✓ To make borderless education more acceptable

