

# UNITEM NEWSLETTER

## Official Launch Ceremony of Open University Malaysia

by YAB Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia

The effectiveness of distance and online learning has always been a highly questionable subject through the perception of the general public who often regard off-campus learning as a less efficient method of learning compared to the conventional idea of spending countless hours in classrooms with full-time assistance from lecturers.

Some regarded the idea of compressing a textbook into a 4.5-inch diameter CD ROM to be ludicrous, while some admitted openly their preferences to reading a hardcover than locking eyes with a monitor screen despite the convenience we benefit from E-Books.

However, 26 August 2002 marked the dawn of a new era for distance learning and the "renaissance of higher education" in Malaysia with the official launch ceremony of Open University Malaysia by Prime Minister YAB Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

Joined by YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Hj. Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad, President of OU Malaysia, the Prime Minister arrived at the ceremony to rousing beats of the resonant *kompang*.

Speaking at the epoch-making ceremony, YAB Dato Seri said, "Clearly there is a big role for off-campus distance learning education. It will probably become bigger than on-campus university education. It will help produce the knowledgeable workers so essential for our knowledge- and IT-based industries. It will make our country proficient and capable of competing in a world that is being propelled by knowledge through the new communications technologies."



● YAB Prime Minister pressing the launch button as the President looks on



● Keynote address by YAB Prime Minister



● Senior Vice President, Prof. Dr. Ansary Ahmed, showing YAB Prime Minister and the Minister of Education, YB Tan Sri Dato' Seri Musa Mohamad the advanced digital library facility provided to students by the University



● In commemoration to the significant event, YAB Prime Minister planted a *Michelia champaca* (Magnoliaceae) tree during the tree planting ceremony





● YAB Prime Minister escorted by the President and the Minister of Education after the tree planting ceremony

As such, the establishment of OU Malaysia couldn't had come at a better time. As noted by YAB Dato Seri, "OU Malaysia is responding to the society's needs by providing opportunities to cross sections of the Malaysian society, especially working people."



● The President greeting YAB Prime Minister upon his arrival

YAB Dato Seri also emphasized on the importance of part-time distance learning education as it accommodates working adults who can now obtain higher education and qualification at anytime and anywhere while working. As the country shifts steadily from a labour-intensive to a knowledge-intensive society, the nation's need to acquire new knowledge and develop new ideas has become even more critical.

In less than a year's time, OU Malaysia has enrolled more than 6,500 students nationwide, an astonishing figure that goes far beyond our expectations. Under the visionary leadership of YBhg Tan Sri, the University has developed a solid foundation in distance and online learning, highlighting on Information Technology and Business & Management education – two of the most demanded categories in today's emerging technology- and knowledge-based society.



● YAB Prime Minister accepting a souvenir – a crystal book engraved with gold wordings quoted from one of his speeches in 1996



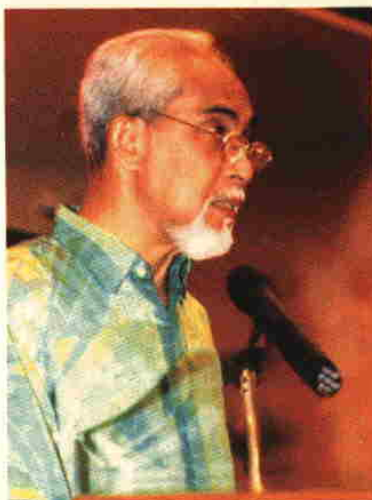
● The President and the Minister of Education witnessing the plaque signing ceremony as YAB Prime Minister signed the bronze plate



● A moment to be cherished forever – OU Malaysia's top management staff at a photo shoot with YAB Prime Minister and the Minister of Education



# An Evening of Appreciation



● The speech that generated thunderous applause across the ballroom when the President announced a holiday for the following day



● Strike a pose

Gone were the modest and conservative pants and suits, the neatly gelled hair to tame all the frizz and flyaways, the decent earth tone make-up that doesn't stand out and shout, "look at me!" and in were the chic and classy *kebayas* and *batiks*, the extravagant hairdos' adorned with elaborated ornaments, mesmerizing smoky eyes with black liners and metallic eyeshadows in shades of grey and bronze.

With its grand chandeliers, tables and chairs lined with matching pastel linen and subtle lighting, the ballroom at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur created an atmosphere of modern glamour and elegance – the perfect ambiance for the first annual dinner of OU Malaysia.

Held on the same evening of the launch, the dinner was filled with great performances by members of the Cultural Centre, Universiti Malaya as we sat back and relaxed while enjoying a variety of tempting western dishes. The rest of the evening was filled with great performances from 2001 *Muzik-Muzik* award-winning artist, Yasin, and the ever lovely Francisca Peter who serenaded us with nostalgic tunes. With the appearance of these celebrated artists, a few of us could not resist a chance to have photographs taken with them.

The Organising Committee would like to thank all staff, guests from Open University Thailand, UK, Korea and India, the Board of Directors and the Academic Board for making the dinner a success.



● It takes a pretty smooth guy like the Senior Vice President to be able to blend in with various age groups



● It took only seconds for these two amazing artists to stir up the crowd....tough crowd I would say





● Thumbs up for the winning group of the tallest tower built

# Management Retreat 2002



● Alright, enough of games. Let's get serious



● We said "toss one ring at a time, not three in a row"



● Cowboy scarves around the necks can only mean one thing - It's a rodeo show!

That Saturday morning of 8 June 2002 at Corus Paradise Resort, Port Dickson was just your typical, everyday weekend. A quiet and serene paradise with lush verdant surroundings. It took only a matter of seconds for the 40 boisterous senior management staff to shatter the tranquility.

The objectives of organizing the Senior Management Retreat were to understand individual and organisational values and motives, examine the dynamics of achievements as well as identify and exploit managerial skills.

The morning started with an opening address by YBhg Tan Sri, President of OU Malaysia. This was followed by a motivational talk where the President reviewed the importance of recognizing the co-dependency that exists in the relationship between OU Malaysia and the University's holding company, METEOR Sdn Bhd. Participants were made aware that the establishment of harmonious rapport among all staff is the fundamental element to enable the two organisations to ascend the ladder of education and technology.

"What will the future hold for OU Malaysia in year 2002 and beyond? To help draw up a strategic mission that will take the University well into the next decade or two, a series of retreat programmes will be held," said the President.

Prof. Dr. Zainal Ahmad, Chief Operating Officer and Mr. R. Masilamani, General Manager (Corporate Finance & Services) of METEOR Group then took over the session after the morning tea break as participants broke into discussion groups.

A series of outdoor and indoor games were conducted to instill the sense of leadership, cooperation, communication and trust in the staff. Some of the most popular games that had everyone bursting into laughter were running in rice sacks (and you thought this was meant only for pre-schoolers), ring tossing and tower building.

Any ladies attending the session would have complained on how much weight they were gaining during the retreat session for there wasn't a minute when they weren't indulging themselves with snacks. Breakfast, morning tea, lunch, evening tea, dinner and supper were served daily with a variety of local delicacies.

"The seminar featured numerous interactive and dynamic elements," said Senior Vice President Prof. Dr. Ansary Ahmed. "Participants learned through active participation. The experiential activities and group presentations gave them the chance to apply leadership skills in solving problems and making decisions."



## Executive Retreat

# The Saga Continues

**W**ho says the wild days are over once you step out of university, join a group of intellectuals trying their brains trying to write a 2-inch thick textbook on the chemical reaction between hydrogen peroxide and 2,3-dihydroxybutanedioate ions and God knows how many hours you've spent gawking through the microscope with those safety goggles on.



● Vote for the best looking person here!



● Will this torment ever end?!



● Where will I hide my face if my students see this?

**T**he 3-day Executive Retreat, held from 28-30 June 2002 at the Guoman Resort, Port Dickson proved that academicians can be just as laid back as our fellow students.

The retreat was organised and arranged by METEOR Sdn Bhd and approximately 100 staff, ranging from academicians to non-executives, attended sessions held there. The sessions were structured to promote mutual understanding among staff of the mission, vision and shared values of METEOR and to instill a spirit of teamwork and responsibility among all staff.

The course sessions dealt with a comprehensive array of ethical issues – understanding one's motivation, setting goals

and planning action, knowing the criteria for effective goal-setting, distinguishing between values and motives, etc. These were intended to get inputs from participants while brainstorming sessions were held to generate new ideas for group presentations.

Aside from the usual sit-in-the-room-and-pay-close-attention-to-your-colleague's-presentation scenario, participants were introduced to a number of games which helped to stimulate their minds, identify

their personal goals and motives, and meet their targets. Some of the activities included ring tossing, picture story writing and tower building. This was probably the first time we witnessed all staff gathered together while engaging in the same activity and laughing hysterically at each other.



● Your guess is just as good as ours. We still can't figure out if those grins were out of embarrassment or enjoyment



● Let's make it all for one and all for love



## Quality Assurance Workshop Towards a Quality Culture



● Participants at the workshop

At OU Malaysia, we recognize the importance of quality assurance and the need to retain and improve that excellent standard in our academic programmes to ensure that students get the best of education from our abilities. As such, a quality assurance workshop was held on 23rd and 24th August 2002 as a pre-launch activity at OU Malaysia's main campus with the following objectives:-

- i to create awareness on quality and to expose to best practices in online learning and learners support services
- ii to develop a framework for evaluating the quality of online learning and learner support services
- iii to bring together practitioners and experts of open and distance learning to create networking

To instill awareness and a better understanding of the workshop, the University invited 2 lead facilitators from Open University Hong Kong – Prof. Wong Tat Meng and Assoc. Prof. Dr. David Murphy. The workshop was attended by 70 participants, 60 of which were from OU Malaysia, while the rest were from Multimedia University,

Universiti Malaya, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris.

Participants were introduced to a series of activities including identifying the features that are desirable for effective online courses, identifying the processes and procedures that can help ensure the performance of tutors are of high quality, developing a framework for evaluating the quality of support services required by students, and evaluating the quality of support services by:

- i examining academic brochures of other universities
- ii visiting websites of several institutions and
- iii making telephone calls to various universities' hotlines

The workshop had not only succeeded in educating participants on the concerned issue but also helped to foster critical thinking, exploration and discovery among themselves. We believe that such workshops should be continued in future to make the maintenance of standards in our programmes part of the "culture" of OU Malaysia.



● Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abd. Malek Abd. Karim (UUM), one of the group facilitators and OU Malaysia's Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor Fadzil, Vice President (Academic) at the registration booth



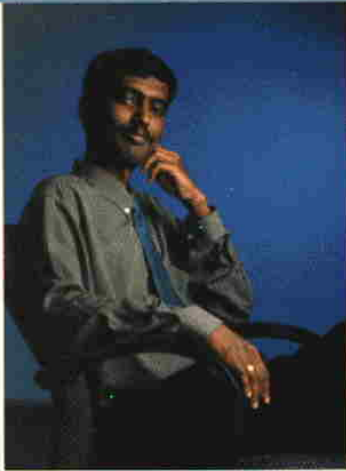
● Assoc. Prof. Dr. David Murphy, Acting Director of CRIDIAL/Senior Course Designer of Open University Hong Kong



● Engrossed in conversation: Left-right: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor Fadzil, Senior Vice President Prof. Dr. Ansary Ahmed and Prof. Dr. Wong Tat Meng (OUHK)



# Emerging e-learning Standards



By **Nantha Kumar Subramaniam**  
*Asst. Lecturer*  
*School of Information Technology*  
*& Multimedia Communication*

## INTRODUCTION

A simple working definition of the term e-Learning is "learning or training that is prepared, delivered or managed using a variety of learning technologies that can be deployed either locally or

globally". The promise of e-Learning is that it provides organisations with powerful new tools for improving capability development, speed and performance whether they operate in one geography or many. Just as the rise of information technology fundamentally changed the nature of how work gets done in organisations, the emergence of learning technologies is fundamentally changing the nature of how people learn to do that work.

The e-Learning industry continues to expand and evolve every day, as well as their standards. Why should an organisation care about the emergence and convergence of e-Learning standards? Well, if all companies and organisations work with the same specifications or standards, each system from these organisations would be able to work together. Furthermore, standards are important to the success of e-Learning from the point of business and learning effectiveness because standards address the ability to:

- Mix and match content from multiple sources
- Develop interchangeable content that can be assembled, disassembled and re-used quickly and easily
- Ensure that buyers are not "trapped" by a particular vendor's proprietary learning technology
- Ensure that our learning technology investments are wise and risk adverse
- Increase the effectiveness of learning by enabling greater personalization and targeting of the right content to the right person at the right time
- Increase the quantity and quality of learning content
- Provide immediate feedback so students and instructors can take action as needed
- Provide a comprehensive library of training materials in one repository
- Access to reports that allow for better measurements of usage and results

In the learning world and long before the phrase "e-Learning" appeared, many organisations around the world worked to create specifications for learning related technologies and needs such as meta-data, learner profiling, content sequencing, web-based courseware and computer-managed instruction. This early work was done by groups such as Ariadne in Europe, the Dublin Core, IEEE, the Aviation Industry CBT Committee or AICC and the EDUCAUSE IMS Consortium. At first, these groups focused on different areas of standards, working simultaneously but not in coordination. The U.S. Department of Defence has taken a leadership role in bringing all the work from the disparate standards organisations together into a common and usable standard model. As the e-Learning market will exceed US\$23 billion by 2004, more organisations involved in the e-Learning standards are working for a more coordinated and common standards among them.

Currently there are four (4) organisations that are actively involved in developing, coordinating and promoting the e-Learning specifications. These organisations which have contributed to valuable e-Learning standards are:

- Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL)
- Aviation Industry CBT Committee (AICC)
- Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers Learning Technology Standards Committee (IEEE LTSC)
- IMS Global Consortium (IMS)

## (A) ADVANCED DISTRIBUTED LEARNING (ADL)

The ADL is a US government-sponsored organisation that researches and develops specifications to encourage the adoption and advancement of e-Learning. The purpose of the ADL is to ensure easy access to high-quality education and training materials that can be tailored to fit individual needs. The ADL's combination of research and recommendations helps turn the specifications into standards.

The most widely accepted ADL publication is the ADL Shareable Content Object Reference Model or better known as SCORM. The SCORM specifications combine elements of IEEE, AICC and IMS specifications into a consolidated document that can be easily implemented. SCORM defines a Web-based learning "Content Aggregation Model" and "Run-Time Environment" for learning objects. Learning objects are a reusable, media-independent chunk of information used as a modular building block for e-Learning content. Learning objects are most effective when organized by a meta-data classification system and stored in a data repository such as Learning Content Management System (LCMS). The SCORM is



a collection of specifications adapted from multiple sources to provide a comprehensive suite of e-Learning capabilities that enable interoperability, accessibility and reusability of Web-based learning content. The reference model aims to coordinate emerging-technologies and commercial and/or public implementations.

First released in January 2000, the SCORM continues to update and expand the scope of the specifications through cooperation with industry, government and academic participants. Future versions are expected to expand the initial scope of the SCORM as technology further develops. SCORM and ADL are taking e-Learning to a future in which learning will be adaptive and dynamic and where we will be able to integrate intelligent tutoring systems, simulations, and job-performance technologies into a global knowledge environment.

#### **(B) AVIATION INDUSTRY CBT COMMITTEE (AICC)**

Created in 1988, the AICC is an international group of technology-based training professionals. They create CBT-related guidelines for the aviation industry. Their goal is to provide a more cost-effective, efficient and sustainable training system. Though they publish a variety of recommendations – including hardware and software configurations, their computer-managed instruction (CMI) guidelines have the greatest impact. For instance, the AICC CM1001 Guidelines for CMI Interoperability provide guidelines to help developers create content that will communicate with the broadest base of CMI and learning management systems. This group also encourages sustained training in the aviation industry presently and in the future. The AICC has developed a sample piece of Web-based learning content (a sample lesson) as a reference implementation for any CBT/WBT developers wanting to create web-based content that complies with AGR-010 (AICC/Web-Based CMI guidelines).

#### **(C) INSTITUTE FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS LEARNING TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS COMMITTEE (IEEE LTSC)**

The IEEE is an international organisation that develops technical standards and recommendations for electrical, electronic, computer and communications systems. The IEEE specifications are already widely adopted and becoming international standards. Within the IEEE, the Learning Technology Standards Committee (LTSC) provides specifications that address best practices. This committee develop technical standards, recommended practices, and guides for computer implementations of education and training components and systems that will facilitate their development, deployment, maintenance and interoperation.

The most widely acknowledged IEEE LTSC specification is the Learning Object Meta-data (LOM) specification, which defines element groups and elements that describe learning resources. Both the IMS and ADL use the LOM elements and structures in their specifications.

#### **(D) IMS GLOBAL CONSORTIUM (IMS)**

IMS defines and delivers interoperable, XML-based specifications for exchanging learning content and information about learners among learning system components. IMS members are implementing and adopting these specifications to make learning easier to deliver anywhere and anytime at a lower cost. IMS specifications already are becoming world wide de facto standards for defining acquisition requirements and for delivering products and services.

IMS gathers functional requirements, technical capabilities and deployment priorities from end users, vendors, purchasers and managers. These requirements are consolidated into one or more specifications as the active groups within IMS follow a proven and open process to develop a specification package consisting of an information model, XML binding and best practices guide. The most widely acknowledged IMS specifications are IMS Meta-data, IMS Content Packaging and IMS QTI (Question and Test Interchange).

#### **CORE TOPICS ADDRESSED BY STANDARDS**

There are many area of concerns that are addressed by all the standards discussed above. Three (3) main areas that are given priority are:

- **Communication Interface or API**

The communication interface is the way learning resources exchange information dynamically, such as while students are taking a lesson.

- **Meta-data**

Meta-data is helpful because it provides standard "buckets" for keeping data on almost any e-Learning resource. In other words, Meta-data describes e-Learning resources in a consistent manner. For example, you can discover the amount of student contact time in a lesson, a brief description of the content, the language it was written in, the person who wrote it, and so on. This information is useful to others who may want to use this resource, and the information can be consistent and sustainable for tracking throughout the design, development, delivery and maintenance life cycle.

- **Packaging**

Packaging describes ways to gather resources into useful bundles. It provides the functionality to describe and package learning materials such as an individual course or a collection of courses, into interoperable and distributable packages. Content Packaging addresses the description, structure and location of online learning materials and the definition of some particular content types.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The standards for e-Learning have arrived. Because they are overwhelming, it is recommended that organisations that are involved in e-Learning to focus on three (3) main capabilities they address – content communication, meta-data and packaging. Both project managers and developers will benefit from understanding how these capabilities support their needs. The specifications and standards become the foundation of a project because they provide consistent representation and communication of data used throughout the software development cycle such as design, delivery and maintenance phases.



## The Word is Out

Polishing up your English skills is no longer a brain-wrecking experience



In partnership with Dr. Alageswary Muniandy, an associate consultant of the Institute of Professional Development of OU Malaysia, the Institute is presently offering the public several writing courses

- Professional Report Writing, a 3-day course where learners are introduced to the basic skills and strategies needed to write reports effectively and efficiently
- Technical Writing, a 3-day course that exposes learners to the essential skills of technical writing

- Sales English, a 3-day course that is designed to increase the learners' level of English language proficiency

The applied interactive teaching methods which involve the heavy usage of notebooks and LCD projectors, have certainly made learning English an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for those who haven't got a good grasp of the language. Dr. Alageswary said that she has adopted a unique practice of blending myriads of colors with different typefaces in presentation slides to capture the attention

of students. These courses are particularly beneficial to young scholars in their pursuit of tertiary education and working professionals who feel the need to improve their language skills that are needed to enhance their career development.

Student Registration for August 2002 Intake

# Largest intake to date



• A shocking number of students showed up at the registration



• Students at a presentation



• Staff of OU Malaysia assisting students in their registration for classes

A record breaking of 2,334 students were registered for various undergraduate programmes at OU Malaysia on 2 and 3 August 2002. Statistics showed that 1,264 students registered in the mainstream category while the rest registered for the Bachelor Degree Programmes for Non-Graduate Teachers. A variety of activities were conducted to provide these freshmen with information on tertiary education and a demonstration on a range of practical learning skills. This was arranged to ensure the smoothness of one's transition to the learning environment of OU Malaysia.



# Highlights

# DIARY



● Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor Fadzil, Academic Vice President, with representatives from the National Accreditation Board (LAN)



● Students of Jaya Jusco Apprentice Scheme sitting for an examination



● Prof. Dr. Ansary Ahmed presenting a token of appreciation to representatives from the Ministry of Education, New Zealand

- January 5 – OU Malaysia invites journalists for a Hari Raya feast
- January 5&6 – Preview sessions for the Bachelor Degree Programmes for Non-Graduate Teachers
- January 14 – All staff get together for a second Hari Raya feast
- January 17 – Meeting of OU Malaysia's Board of Directors
- January 19&20 – OU Malaysia registers second intake of students
- January 25 – Certificate presentation ceremony to Sri Lankan teachers who completed a 3-week Short Term Development Programme
- February 2 – The first tutorial session ever conducted at Learning Centres
- February 2&3 – OU Malaysia takes part in the Star Education Fair at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC)
- February 19 – Prof. Bjorn Fangli and Dr. Abtar Kaur deliver a talk at Auditorium Asia Europe Centre
- February 21-24 – Education fair at PWTC
- February 27&28 – Education fair in Penang
- March 2&3 – Education fair in Johor Bahru
- March 11 – Presentation ceremony of Tun Abdul Razak Award at Mandarin Oriental Hotel
- March 29 – The official launch ceremony of the Bachelor Degree Programmes for Non-Graduate Teachers at OU Malaysia main campus
- April 2-5 – Exhibition at the Ministry of Defence
- April 6 – Preview session at Rumah Universiti, Universiti Malaya
- April 6&7 – Orientation sessions for students of Non-Graduate Teachers Programme
- April 9 – Meeting of OU Malaysia's Board of Directors
- April 10 – OU Malaysia and Jaya Jusco Stores Bhd. agree on developing courses in retailing for the public and employees of Jaya Jusco
- April 11-13 – Exhibition at the Ministry of Defence
- April 13&14 – OU Malaysia promotes the Apprentice Scheme, a collaborative programme with Jaya Jusco Stores Bhd., at an exhibition in Alpha Angle, Kuala Lumpur
- April 19-21 – OU Malaysia's staff meet up with academicians and practitioners from various industries to discuss on module writing at the Learners Guide Writing Workshop
- April 22 – OU Malaysia vs. Royal Malaysian Air Force in a football game
- May 7 – An in-house Tea Talk by YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Hj. Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad



● Playing host to visitors from the Central Agriculture Broadcasting Television School, China



● OU Malaysia and Jaya Jusco Stores Bhd. at an MoA signing ceremony



● Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor Fadzil (OU Malaysia), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abd. Malek Abd. Karim (UUM), Prof. Wong Tat Meng (OUHK) at the Quality Assurance Workshop



# OF EVENTS

# 2002



● Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor Fadzil, Academic Vice President, at an MoA signing ceremony with the Ministry of Defence



● The President awarding certificates to Sri Lankan teachers upon the completion of a 3-week Short Term Development Programme



● YB Tan Sri Dato' Seri Musa Mohamad, Minister of Education, witnessing the signing ceremony between the President and Y Bhg Dato' Haji Ambrin bin Buang, Secretary-General, Ministry of Education

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| <p>May 17&amp;18<br/>May 23<br/>May 25-26<br/>May 30<br/>June 1<br/>June 8<br/>June 13<br/>June 28-30<br/>August 2&amp;3<br/>August 23&amp;24<br/>August 8<br/>August 24<br/>August 25<br/>August 26<br/>September 16<br/>September 16<br/>September 17<br/>September 30<br/>October 1<br/>October 2<br/>October 2<br/>October 2<br/>October 3<br/>October 10<br/>October 16<br/>October 16<br/>October 22</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OU Malaysia registers 3rd intake of students</li> <li>- OU Malaysia plays host to Central Agricultural Broadcasting Television School, China</li> <li>- Preview sessions for the August intake</li> <li>- The first registration session for the Apprentice Scheme</li> <li>- Preview session for the August intake</li> <li>- Management Retreat</li> <li>- Meeting of OU Malaysia's Board of Directors</li> <li>- Executive Retreat</li> <li>- OU Malaysia registers 4th intake of students</li> <li>- Quality Assurance Workshop with Prof. Dr. Wong Tat Meng and Prof. David Murphy from Open University Hong Kong</li> <li>- Meeting of OU Malaysia's Board of Directors</li> <li>- First rehearsal of OU Malaysia's official launch ceremony</li> <li>- Full rehearsal of the launch ceremony</li> <li>- OU Malaysia's official launch ceremony and first annual dinner</li> <li>- Visit by the Ministry of Education, New Zealand</li> <li>- Strategies Formulation and Objectives Setting Workshop for Year 2003-2007</li> <li>- In-house Orientation and Study Skills Programme</li> <li>- Meeting with the National Accreditation Board (LAN)</li> <li>- Visit by University for Industry, UK</li> <li>- Visit by YBhg Dato' Razak Hussein, CEO of UDA Holdings</li> <li>- In-house Customer Care training</li> <li>- The second registration session for the Apprentice Scheme</li> <li>- Visit by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia</li> <li>- Meeting of OU Malaysia's Board of Directors</li> <li>- Visit by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia</li> <li>- Visit by Universiti Malaya</li> <li>- Corporate Organisation's visit to CiDT</li> </ul> |
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● Meeting of OU Malaysia's Board of Directors



● Participants in hot discussion at the Module Writing workshop



● Oath-taking ceremony at the 3rd student registration session



# Gallery



Mastering a tune on the Cak Lampong – a traditional Malay musical instrument



Usherette #1: What was that noise?  
Usherette #2: I think the butterflies in my stomach are evolving into another species



VIPs who witnessed the auspicious ceremony



Seated from left to right: the President of OU Malaysia, YAB Prime Minister of Malaysia and the Minister of Education, Malaysia



The President, joined by YAB Prime Minister and other ministers, during the corporate video presentation



Getting a hand shake from YAB Prime Minister, that's not an opportunity to be missed



Prof. Zainal, COO of METEOR Sdn Bhd (third from the left) along with some of the international corporate partners



Staff of OU Malaysia posing as a group after the big success of the launch



Now, how often do you get armies swarming around you?



Sigh, the memories of the dinner never failed to get us misty-eyed



These are the ladies you want to suck up to – the secretaries of the University's top management staff



It was a night full of beautiful people parading around in glamorous gowns and suits



Some of the VIPs who attended the dinner



Oh Francisca, how you've captured our hearts





*Doesn't this remind you of a toothpaste commercial?*



*Seen here is Puan Sri Hashimah serenading the crowd accompanied by Encik Mohd Sahimi from the Cultural Centre, Universiti Malaya*



*Oh yes, ladies! Get as jealous as you want to but that really was Norman KRU sharing a table with us!*



*from left to right: Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Syed Jalaludin bin Syed Salim (ex-Vice Chancellor of UPM), Prof. Dato' Dr. Anuar Zaini Mohd Zain (Vice Chancellor of UM) & Prof. Datuk Dr. Anwar Ali (Vice Chancellor of UKM)*



*There's something about the way you, Encik Ramli, sing tonight that takes our breath away*



*Hey, it's not as easy as you think it is!*



*Yasin and his diehard fans*



*For those who suffer from calcium deficiency, it is strongly advised that you stay out of this game*



*Yo, my man! What's taking you so long?! The other group's winning already!*



*Did you honestly think we adults can't beat you in a game like this?*



*Hmm...*



*Round and round you go*



*Darn, there goes the ball*



*It's going down, put put it up*



*Scenario: Sweaty men after a game of tug of war  
A man's view - Resembling those muscular hunks in Baywatch  
A woman's view - resembling a bunch of 10-year olds*



# President's List

## Heartiest

# Congratulations!

OU Malaysia would like to congratulate the following outstanding students who have made it to the January and May 2002 President's List.

### JANUARY 2002

#### **School of Information Technology and Multimedia Communication**

Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Latip	Masliza binti Mohamad
Chong Swee Ling	Nor Husaina bt Md Hussain
Christina Chong	Rosdzi bin Kamaruddin
Effendy bin Noordin	Saifuddin bin Mohd
Lim Chong Sing	Venugopal a/l
Lim Hong Shin	Rukumangatharaja
Lu Cheng Soon	Zuriah binti Yaacob

#### **School of Business and Management**

Abdul Aziz bin Md Isa	Mohd Nizam bin Hashim
Ahmad Mukrizani bin Ahmad Zaki	Mohamad Shafariz bin Mohamad Sharif
Ahmad Kamal bin Su'ut	Mohd Fazna Hisyam Mohd Fauzi
Amran bin Hj Awang	Noor Azizah binti Shamsudin
Aki @ Zaki bin Aman	Nor Azian binti Mujtabar
Anita binti Masiron	Nor Pazilanaton binti Mohd Noor
Azrinah binti Michael	Noranita bt Zawa Udi @ Mohamad
Chan Fook Hong	Nooraini binti Ismail
Chuei Wei Chuan	Nurul Hameza binti Medon
Daniel Samudin @ Danny	Nur Atiqah binti Abdullah
Edhan bin Abdul Rasid	Ooi Ee Leng
Farid Suhaimi bin Mohd Sikon	Rosli bin Sidek
Geraldine Liew	S Farid Sanushi bin S Abdullh
Haniza binti Ali	Siti Nooredah binti Paiman
Hayati bt Basri	Subashini a/p Ehambaram
Harnot bin Rudih	Suhaidi bin Mat Yassim
Idawati bt Samat	Sumed bin Abg Sernan
Iskandar bin Turkee	Tong Chong Wei
Jemat Itu bin Bujang	Thong Weng Sang
Kang Phoi Lin	Wang Kim Suan
Karen Lau Hwee Ling	Wee Siew Kean
Karunanithi a/l Joseph	Wong Chi Pin @ Pin Pin
Khoo Sea Ying	Winnie Sinsang
Lee Yeong Chin	Yeoh Seok Choo
Lim Tuan Dim	Zamani bin Yusoff
Loo Soon Tong	Zurinawati binti Usman
Lye Sook Leng	Zuraidah binti Ahmad
Mohd Fauzi bin Abdul	
Mohamad Heirull Wizam	
Mohamad bin Samsul Hak	

### MAY 2002

#### **School of Information Technology and Multimedia Communication**

Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Latip	Ishak bin Yaakob
Ahmad Supian bin Nordin	Jimmy Anak David
Aminuddin bin Khwaja	Mohd Amdan
Kamaluddin	bin Mohamed Rabin
Cynthia Lauren a/p Arallanthu	Mohammed Irfan bin Salleh
Chong Jee Fah	Suresh a/l Wasu
Henry Anak Nobor	

#### **School of Business and Management**

Affandy bin Narani	Mohamed bin Samsul Hak
Alwi bin Zamahari	Nur Amira Tang bt Abdullah
Chong Ted Min	Paramalatha a/p Paramasivam
Draman bin Hj Golong	S Farid Sanushi bin S Abdullah
Edhan bin Abdul Rasid	Thong Weng Sang
Harnot bin Rudih	Wang Kim Suan
Joseph bin Kajangan	Wong Hie Ching
Karunanithi a/l Joseph	Zaidarizuar binti Idris
Md. Aljuffari bin Asri	Zamani bin Yusoff
Mohd Azahari bin Rashid	



## Take a look inside some of the students and listen to the stories behind their success.

**Venugopal a/l Rukumangatharaja, Bachelor in Information Technology, CGPA 3.54**

**Lye Sook Leng, Bachelor in Management, CGPA 3.67**

**Haniza binti Ali, Diploma in Management, CGPA 3.67**

**Lim Chong Sing, Bachelor in Information Technology and Management, CGPA 3.84**

**Chui Wei Chuan, Bachelor in Management, CGPA 4.0**

### **OU Malaysia: Tell us, what does it take to excel in studies?**

**Venugopal a/l Rukumangatharaja:** I'm experienced in Information Technology, therefore, I don't really have any problems with my studies. And I study at least an hour thrice a week.

**Lye Sook Leng:** It has to be the consistency of hard work and completion of all assignments and readings on time.

**Haniza binti Ali:** Reserve at least an hour per night on assignments and revisions.

**Lim Chong Sing:** No doubt one has to be really hard working when it comes to studying. But I guess my being PC savvy also helps a lot in this programme.

**Chui Wei Chuan:** It's all about the allocation of time. In this programme, you have to stay consistent with your revisions, otherwise you won't make it through.

### **OUM : How do you manage to study and work at the same time without jeopardizing either?**

**VR :** I can handle both pretty well. I work from 8.30am-5pm, so there's plenty of time left at night for me to revise.

**LSL :** You have to devote certain hours during the week entirely for revision. As for me, I usually revise on the tutorial notes during weeknights and read through the modules in the weekends.

**HA :** It's not a problem actually to work during the day and spend the night revising. Just make sure you reserve at least an hour a night for your studies.

**LCS :** Like everyone else, the only time when I get to study is at night. I spend a minimum of one hour working on the textbook exercises.

**CWC :** It can be a little difficult at times especially when we get caught up with our work. However, spending 2 hours per night solely on revision shouldn't be any problem.

### **OUM : What study methods are you engaged in?**

**VR :** Modules and internet surfing. You can't just rely on tutorial notes and expect everything to be there.

**LSL :** I rely on the modules and the internet a lot. If I needed some additional information, I would visit the library.

**HA :** I use the mind mapping method, meaning all information rewritten in bullet form. Trust me, this works for those who don't have the luxury of spending 5 hours reading the modules.

**LCS :** Make full use of the library facilities, work on the textbook exercises as most exam questions are based on the modules and do lots of research.

**CWC :** I rely a lot on the modules.

### **OUM : Is there any tips you would like to share with your fellow coursemates?**

**VR :** You need to find the time to study even if you have a 9-5 job. Relying entirely on tutorial sessions is insufficient to score in a paper. You need to take some time flipping through the modules and working on the questions. Studying at OU Malaysia is unlike studying at any other universities where you attend classes at a full-time basis. So you really have to work hard to achieve your targeted goals.

**LSL :** Try your best in whatever you do and do not easily give up.

**HA :** Pay full attention in class and always take notes. Call up the lecturers when you're having problems solving the questions. You won't gain anything if you don't learn to ask.

**LCS :** Commit yourself to revision for at least an hour daily. Keep doing the exercises and you'll eventually be good at it.

**CWC :** I strongly suggest students form study groups among themselves. It's not only that we get to learn from each other, but it's good to have an outsider pointing out our mistakes.



# Highlights

## A NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF LEARNING CENTRES

A network of Learning Centres has been established to enable face-to-face interaction between our students and tutors. These centres, located at strategic locations throughout the country, provide students with various teaching, research and library facilities.

**Institut Pengurusan dan Teknologi Utara (IPTURA)**

89-92 Jalan PSK 2,  
Pekan Simpang Kuala,  
05400 Alor Setar, Kedah.  
Tel : 04-771 0525 & 04-772 4000  
Fax : 04-772 4000

**Universiti Islam Antarabangsa (New)**

Jalan Gombak,  
53100 Gombak,  
Selangor.  
Tel : 03-2056 4000  
Fax : 03-2056 4858

**Kolej MARA (New)**

Jalan Junjong  
09000 Kulim, Kedah.  
Tel : 04-490 6422  
Fax : 04-490 6426

**Universiti Malaya**

Pusat Asasi Sains  
50603 Kuala Lumpur.  
Tel : 03-2773 2002  
Fax : 03-2697 8817

**Disted Stamford College**

Kampus Yeap Chor Ee,  
340, Macalister Road,  
10350 Penang.  
Tel : 04-229 6579  
Fax : 04-226 6403

**Universiti Malaya**

Akademi Pengajian Islam  
50603 Kuala Lumpur.  
Tel : 03-2773 2002  
Fax : 03-2697 8817

**Institut Teknologi Perak**

No. 8, Jalan Bakti, Rapat Setia,  
31350 Ipoh, Perak.  
Tel : 05-313 6799  
Fax : 05-313 1659

**Universiti Malaya**

Institut Bio Sains  
Fakulti Sains,  
50603 Kuala Lumpur.  
Tel : 03-2773 2002  
Fax : 03-2697 8817

**Politeknik Shah Alam (New)**

Persiaran Usahawan, Seksyen U1,  
40150 Shah Alam,  
Selangor.  
Tel : 03-5569 1901 ext 1372  
Fax : 03-5569 1904

**Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia**

Fakulti Kejuruteraan,  
43600 Bangi, Selangor.  
Tel : 03-2773 2002  
Fax : 03-2697 8817

**Universiti Putra Malaysia (New)**

43400 Serdang,  
Selangor.  
Tel : 03-8948 6101  
Fax : 03-8942 6469

**Open University Malaysia**

Jalan Tun Ismail,  
50480 Kuala Lumpur.  
Tel : 03-2773 2002  
Fax : 03-2697 8817



**Kolej TAFE**

Lot 5409, Mukim Ampangan,  
Jalan Sikamat,  
74000 Seremban, N. Sembilan.  
Tel : 06-763 2020  
Fax : 06-762 7994

**Stamford College**

148 & 150, Jalan Laksamana Cheng Ho,  
75000 Melaka.  
Tel : 06-282 0820 / 06-282 0305 / 06-281 9049  
Fax : 06-282 1403

**Kolej Universiti Teknologi Tun Hussein Onn**

Beg Berkunci 101, 86400 Parit Raja,  
Batu Pahat, Johor.  
Tel : 07-453 6019  
Fax : 07-453 6010

**Maktab Perguruan Temenggong Ibrahim**

Jalan Datin Halimah,  
80350 Johor Bahru, Johor.  
Tel : 07-236 4788  
Fax : 07-237 9736

**IKIP Kuantan**

Kampus 3, Jalan Dato' Abdullah,  
25050 Kuantan, Pahang.  
Tel : 09-567 8999  
Fax : 09-567 7999

**Kolej Sri Iman**

Jalan Sultan Mahmud,  
20400 Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu.  
Tel : 09-622 5452 / 09-626 1148  
Fax : 09-622 7239

**Kolej Jaipetra**

Lot 539, Bunut Payung,  
15150 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.  
Tel : 09-743 8449  
Fax : 09-743 4006

**Politeknik Kota Bharu (New)**

KM 24 Pangkal Kalong,  
16451 Ketereh, Kelantan.  
Tel : 09-788 9126 / 788 9344  
Fax : 09-788 8739

**Universiti Malaysia Sarawak**

94300 Kota Samarahan,  
Sarawak.  
Tel : 082-671 000 ext 806  
Fax : 082-673 186

**Institut Pengurusan Dinamik**

Lot 11-14, Wisma Yew Ho,  
Jalan Dato' Ajibah Abol,  
93400 Kuching, Sarawak.  
Tel : 082-413 811  
Fax : 082-258 130

**KAS Management & Services**

Lot 1951, Blok A, Sibu Town Landdistrict,  
Jalan Perpaduan, 96000 Sibu,  
Sarawak.  
Tel : 084-313 100  
Fax : 084-330 200

**Institut Pengajian Teknikal dan Pengurusan**

Lot 2088, Blok 4, Jalan Datuk Edward Jell /  
End of Krokop Road, PO Box 2097,  
98000 Miri, Sarawak.  
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Fax : 085-435 297

**Universiti Malaysia Sabah**

Sekolah Sains dan Teknologi,  
Beg Berkunci 2073,  
88999 Kota Kinabalu,  
Sabah.  
Tel : 088-438 440 ext 5862  
Fax : 088-435 324

**Dinamik Seminar**

Lot 10, Ground Floor, Wisma Prudential,  
Kolam Centre, Jalan Lintas Luyang,  
88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.  
Tel : 088-265 087 / 265 089 / 265 092  
Fax : 088-265 088

**Dinamik Seminar**

Tingkat 4, Wisma Sandakan,  
90009, Sandakan Sabah.  
Tel : 089-238 112

**Shane Institute**

TB 8292, Lot 29,  
Perdana Square, Jalan Apas,  
91026 Tawau Sabah.  
Tel : 089-911 085  
Fax : 089-912 372

**Note**

*Additional Learning Centres will be established in the following states:*

- Perlis
- Kedah
- Penang
- Perak



# Highlights

## Let's take a closer look at one of these centres

**S**tamford College Malacca (SCM), having established in January 1996 under the Stamford College Group, is one of the many Learning Centres of OU Malaysia. Located along Jalan Laksamana Cheng Ho, this 5-storey building serves as a focal point for face-to-face tutorial sessions for students in the Southern Region of Peninsular Malaysia.

SCM offers a comprehensive array of student facilities catering to the needs of OU Malaysia's students such as a well-equipped library with wide-ranging selection of reading materials, computer laboratories with up-to-date computer systems, a reading room, just to name a few.

Presently, approximately 234 of our students attend SCM for tutorial sessions, held fortnightly, and about 30 tutors are registered under the college to conduct the classes.

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Low Chiew Geok at:

Tel : 06-282 0820/282 0305/281 9049

Fax : 06-282 1403

E-mail : scm@stamford.edu.my

### FACILITIES AT SCM



- Students' Lounge (3rd Floor)
  - \* Place to relax, discuss and self study
  - \* TV/video
  - \* Games
- Library (2nd Floor)
  - \* Well equipped with books, journals and magazines.
  - \* Internet facilities from 12.30pm to 4.30pm. Strictly for educational purposes.
- Reading Room (2nd Floor)
  - \* Magazines
  - \* Newspapers
- Computer Laboratories (Mezzanine Floor)
  - \* 5 computer laboratories
  - \* Access Lab (for assignment purposes) available from 8.00am to 8.00pm
- Canteen (Ground Floor – rear of the building)
  - \* Halal food
  - \* Hot and cold drinks
- Convenience Store (Ground Floor – back entrance)
  - \* Internet facilities
  - \* Stationeries
  - \* Packet drinks
  - \* Cookies
  - \* Pastries



## University Gallery

I must say what an experience it was from taking part in the initial stage of drafting a plan for the University Gallery, to witnessing its debut to the public. Standing magnificently behind the glass panels are full-blown posters on the University's history, milestones, corporate information and academic programmes. Making up a small portion in the middle of the gallery are three cylindrical cases that display some of our most cherished belongings – the original certificates that approved the appointment of YBhg Tan Sri as the President and the establishment of the University, a replica of the crystal book presented to the Prime Minister as a token of appreciation at the launch of the University, and a guestbook bearing the signature of the Prime Minister.

"The University Gallery is designed with people in mind and it serves the campus and the community through an exhibition of posters on corporate information, academic programmes and facilities," said Repin Ibrahim, General Manager (Planning and Corporate Relations Unit) on the completion of the gallery which is located on the ground floor of the University. "It represents what the University does and what it strives to achieve."

Local or foreign artists who want intimate space for their artworks may find it at the gallery which is reserved for temporary exhibitions. Another purpose of the gallery is to ensure that there is constant change in the exhibition schedule in order to attract multiple visits to OU Malaysia. It is also announced that exhibits displayed in the gallery would change periodically with up to five different exhibitions a year.



*You'll be surprised how much you can learn about the University from these posters*



*This place has become the favourite hangout for most of our staff since the couches were placed here – another reason to have a cuppa joe to go*



*The University's Wall of Fame*



*The cylindrical cases that display the authentic certificates and the replica of the crystal book given to the Prime Minister*



*Some of the full-blown posters displayed in the gallery*



*The extensive collection of posters mounted behind tall, framed glass panels*



## LEARNER'S Domain

Representing all students of BIT and BITM, I am pleased to announce the availability of our webpage. Please visit us at [www.oum-bit.itgo.com](http://www.oum-bit.itgo.com). We hope you will find it a valuable resource for your assignments and revisions.

**Fazrul**

*Ed: We visited the website and found it quite resourceful. We hope you'll continuously update the page for the benefits of all students*

Based on my experience through 3 semesters of study at OU Malaysia, I would like to propose some ideas for your consideration. The Newsletter could provide a vital link to students by providing forums for them to express their views and problems, to find support and motivation in feature/human stories of fellow students who do well and to reassure that they are not alone in this great adventure called "Distance Learning." Expert advices and articles on distance learning methods from established Open Universities like British Open University that has a success rate of 70% of their students graduating are also welcome. I hope my suggestions are viewed in a positive light and that the editorial committee can help to resolve some of our students' problems.

**Concerned**

*Ed: We'll certainly take your suggestions into account. Be prepared to see some articles by experts from other universities in the coming issues.*

I wish you could include more news coverage. I suggest you create a new section in the Newsletter where students can voice their concerns, ideas, comments or even contribute articles relating to current happenings in campus.

**Sarawak student.**

*Ed: As you can see, we have introduced a new section called "Student's Corner" to feature the opinions and ideas our readers have on the Newsletter or the University itself.*

It would be great if you could include a computer know-how column for students who aren't so skillful in computers. I also suggest that you include some IT-related articles to keep us up-to-date with the ICT world.

**Esnan Sayuti**

*Ed: Featured in this issue is Nantha Kumar Subramaniam, one of our Assistant Lecturers from the School of IT and Multimedia Communication, to update all readers on the world of IT.*

During his recent trip to Disted College, Pulau Pinang, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mansor Fadzil (Academic Vice President) mentioned about establishing an OU Malaysia's Learners Society (Majlis Perwakilan Mahasiswa OUM) at each Learning Centre. I learned that some of the Learning Centres have already elected a President for the society and some have even begun organizing activities for the learners. My suggestion is to have a column in the Newsletter dedicated to this society and all the activities that were previously organized.

**Azizuddin**

*Ed: That's a fine idea. We'll definitely include more coverage on our students' activities in the issues to come.*



# Human Resource

## Announcement

### NEW STAFF

In the past few months, OU Malaysia has seen some changes in its staffing. We would like to welcome the following staff who have joined us in recent months.

Qeemnoor Z Zazanee Muhamad Noh, Executive (Instructional Design)  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 6 June 2002

Mohd Fauzi Saad, Driver  
Administration and Logistics  
who joined us on 11 June 2002

Harvinder Kaur a/p Dharam Singh, Executive (Instructional Design)  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 11 June 2002

Johari Saleh @ Mohamed, Animator  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 13 June 2002

Zulhairi Salih, Multimedia Developer  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 17 June 2002

Mohamad Zahili Ramly, Multimedia Developer  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 17 June 2002

Badriah Abdul Latip, Office Assistant  
Administration and Logistics  
who joined us on 17 June 2002

Safiah Abd Latif, Multimedia Programmer  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 17 June 2002

Prof. Dr. Zainal Aripin Zakaria, Professor  
School of Engineering and Technical Studies  
who joined us on 24 June 2002

Ezlin Tamrin, Graphic Designer  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 1 July 2002

Massila Hamzah, Assistant Lecturer  
School of IT and Multimedia Communication  
who joined us on 1 July 2002

Dr. Maheswari Kandasamy, Lecturer  
Institute of Professional Development  
who joined us on 1 July 2002

Dr. Kanesan a/l Muthusamy, Lecturer  
School of Engineering and Technical Studies  
who joined us on 1 July 2002

Azura Mardiana Ayub, Secretary  
Registrar's Office  
who joined us on 2 July 2002

Christopher Raj a/l Anthony, Manager (Programme & Operations)  
Institute of Professional Development  
who joined us on 15 July 2002

Tahir Mustafa Johari, Graphic Designer  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 15 July 2002

Joharizal Mahmud, Executive (Student Management)  
Examinations Unit  
who joined us on 16 July 2002

Zaihasra Abdul Malik, Executive (Student Management)  
Administration  
who joined us on 22 July 2002

Haziq Ruslan, Executive (System Information)  
ICT Services  
who joined us on 22 July 2002

Kol (B) Mohammed Ismail, Manager  
Centre for Defence and Security Programmes  
who joined us on 1 August 2002

Siti Haniza Zahari @ Zakaria, Executive  
Human Resource  
who joined us on 1 August 2002



# Highlights

Suhaila Mas Ayu Mohd Saad, Desktop Publisher  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 1 August 2002

Izzal Asnira Zolkepli, Executive (Corporate Relations)  
Planning and Corporate Relations  
who joined us on 5 August 2002

Aznan Ariffin, Audio Specialist  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 12 August 2002

Hulwani Abdullah, Clerk  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 8 August 2002

Mohd Latiff Idris, Executive Assistant  
Finance Services Department  
who joined us on 15 August 2002

Sani Kechot, Chief (Safety and Security)  
Administration  
who joined us on 15 August 2002

Siti Aminah Ariffin, Executive  
Human Resource  
who joined us on 16 August 2002

Rabiatul Adawiyah Ab. Manan, Librarian  
Library  
who joined us on 19 August 2002

Leenawati Razali, Librarian  
Library  
who joined us on 19 August 2002

Wan Mohd Hatta Idris, Executive Assistant  
Finance Services Department  
who joined us on 19 August 2002

Farid Redza Muhamad, Executive  
Human Resource  
who joined us on 2 September 2002

Mohd Ezlie Azram Mohammad Khasasi, Executive  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 2 September 2002

Mohd Razif Ramli, Executive  
Examinations Unit  
who joined us on 2 September 2002

Haryate Johari, Executive  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 2 September 2002

Kavita a/p Raman, Desktop Publisher  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 2 September 2002

Wan Baiheyah Wan Ismail, Executive  
Examinations Unit  
who joined us on 9 September 2002

Shahrul Murnizah Mohamad, Administrative Assistant  
Examinations Unit  
who joined us on 16 September 2002

Mohd Azihan Mohd Sebri, Desktop Publisher  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
who joined us on 16 September 2002

Haji Nordin B Rehen, Security Guard  
Administration and Logistics  
who joined us on 23 September 2002

## The following staff have been transferred to the following units.

Mohd Afzanizam Ahmad Farouk, Technician  
ICT Services  
with effect from 1 September 2002

Rohana Hussin, Executive  
Registrar's Office  
with effect from 2 September 2002

Mohd Haniff Mohd Ainun Shamsuddin,  
Executive (Programme Management)  
Centre for Defence and Security Programmes  
with effect from 1 August 2002

Ku Hasnan Ku Halim, Executive (Programme Management)  
School of Engineering and Technical Studies  
with effect from 1 October

Jaafri bin Jaafar, Executive (Programme Management)  
School of Engineering and Technical Studies  
with effect from 1 October



Nirmala Riduan, Executive (Student Management)  
Learners Service Centre  
with effect from 1 October

Nurlina Kamudin, Manager  
Human Resource  
with effect from 1 October

Tuan Haji Abd. Wahab bin Abdullah, Manager/Administrator  
Learning Centre Operations & Monitoring  
with effect from 1 October

Mior Noor Izham Fairuz bin Mior Azham, Administrative Assistant  
Learners Service Centre  
with effect from 1 October

#### FAREWELL

It is with much regret that the following staff have resigned from OU Malaysia. We would like to thank them for their invaluable support and contribution in the past and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Mohamed Nazul Hj Ismail, Executive (Programme Management)  
Centre for Instructional Design and Technology  
September 2002

Hafidz Attan, Executive (Programme Management)  
School of Engineering and Technical Studies  
September 2002

#### OTHERS

Congratulations to the following staff and their families on the birth of their babies.

Encik Mohd. Mazri bin Amir and Puan Faznim Adiera bt. Mohamad Ariffin welcomed Muhammad Harris on April 26, 2002.

Encik Hasbullah bin Hj. Othman and Puan Siti Nuraiha Abdul Jalil welcomed Muhammad Hazim on August 31, 2002.

Encik Tarmizi Abdul Aziz and Puan Roaizan welcomed Afryna Natasha on August 31, 2002.

Encik Habibullah Rejab and Puan Emilia Erwarni Amiruddin welcomed Darwisy Iskandar on September 18, 2002.

Encik Normaldi Ismail and Puan Fatimah Ibrahim welcomed Khadijah on September 27, 2002.



## EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello again. We have received so many interesting comments and ideas on our Newsletter that we have to confess that we couldn't resist the temptation to include a few of them in this edition, which makes this issue slightly different from the previous ones. Please note that as of this issue, we are adding a section called, 'Learner's Domain' where we will feature some of the emails we've received and highlight outstanding students who did well in their examinations.

For those who missed the official launch ceremony and the first annual dinner of the University, this is the time to catch up with what you've missed. Read all about them inside and enjoy a kaleidoscope of photographs in the Gallery. In addition, we are honoured to have one of our assistant lecturers, Nantha Kumar Subramaniam, contributing an article on the standards of E-Learning, entitled "Emerging E-Learning Standards."

If you have any news or reports you would like to contribute in the next edition, please send them to the address below. Lastly, we wish all our readers Happy Deepavali, Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri and a Merry Christmas. Thanks for reading and we'll see you back again in January 2003!

Editor  
editor@unitem.edu.my

## POINTS TO PONDER

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.

– Chinese proverb

[www.wiseoldsayings.com](http://www.wiseoldsayings.com)

## ANNOUNCEMENT

In our quest to make e-learning more efficient and to maximise our student's learning, we are currently in the process of upgrading our online learning delivery platform, WebCT to Learner Management System (LMS). At present, the system is still running on a trial basis.

### ADVISOR

Y Bhg Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Hj.  
Abdullah Sanusi bin Ahmad

### CHIEF EDITOR

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### EDITOR

Repin Ibrahim

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