INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING & LEARNING:
The Experience of Open University Malaysia

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INTRODUCTION

WHY INNOVATE?

→ Responding to global forces
→ Impact of the digital revolution
→ New generation of learners: “digital natives”
→ A new perspective on higher education:
  Learner-centred focus
  Diverse learning styles
  Importance of novel teaching & learning approaches
OVERVIEW OF OUM

Established 10 August 2000
A consortium of Malaysia’s 11 public universities

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programmes</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Enrolment</td>
<td>110,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Learners</td>
<td>31,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active Tutors</td>
<td>4,000</td>
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<td>Learning Centres</td>
<td>23</td>
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INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING & LEARNING AT OUM (1/5)

BLENDED PEDAGOGY:
→ Flexibility, comfort & ease for the learners
→ Learners can study at their own pace/convenience
→ Also: fully-online courses

E-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT - myVLE:
→ A comprehensive system
→ Various content, features & services
→ Can also track learner & tutor activity
→ Online resources, submission of assignments, self-assessment, etc
NEW CURRICULUM STRUCTURE:

→ To improve the overall quality of programmes
→ Ensuring a comprehensive & holistic approach
→ Leveraging on the strengths of each faculty
→ An exercise in continuous improvement
# A New Undergraduate Curriculum Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 Courses</th>
<th>9 Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Courses</td>
<td>18 Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-27 Courses</td>
<td>63-71 Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>UP TO 6 Courses</td>
<td>UP TO 18 Credits</td>
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**Compulsory Homo Courses**

- P&K / General Courses
- Relevant to the Programme
- A combination of (e.g.)
  - Accounting
  - Communication
  - Cultural Studies
  - Economics
  - Information Technology
  - Management
  - Mathematics
  - Project Management
  - Psychology
  - Quality
  - Research Methods
  - Statistics

**Core Courses for the Programme**

**Minor/Elective Courses for the Programme**
LEARNING MATERIALS:

→ Various types to suit different needs & learning styles
→ Using different platforms & media
→ Recent innovations: iRadio, m-Learning, iLectures

FLEXIBLE ENTRY:

→ Granting enrolment to those with working experience but minimal formal credentials
→ RPL & APEL: encouraging people from all walks of life to study
MOBILE LEARNING:

→ Enhancing flexibility of teaching & learning
→ Leveraging on ubiquity of mobile devices
→ Complementing learning with text messages, e.g. reminders, announcements, tips, etc

ONLINE SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

→ Central grading by trained personnel
→ Rubrics set by OUM
→ Assignments subjected to similarity checks & intervention measures
→ Results individually announced
ATTENDING TO DISADVANTAGED LEARNERS:

→ e.g. Visually-impaired learners
→ Specially-developed materials: audio books
→ Examinations in Braille
→ Plans to set up “talking computers”

A NEW APPROACH IN FACILITATION:

→ Introduction of e-tutors
→ Encouraging richer discussion & collaboration in the online forum
→ Further promotion of the e-learning system
ENHANCING INNOVATION IN TEACHING & LEARNING:

- Ensuring anytime, anywhere access
- Maximising use of e-learning
- Leveraging on state-of-the-art technology
- Ubiquity of mobile devices, e.g. mobile telephones, tablet computers, smartphones, etc
- Acculturating innovation as a culture
Higher education as a **constantly changing sector** → Important to **continuously innovate**

The **digital revolution** as a powerful force

A **culture for innovation** will be crucial to leverage on today’s digital world

**e-Learning** as a novel approach to introduce flexibility & accessibility to teaching & learning
THANK YOU