



High Level Roundtable for Vice-Chancellors & Heads of ODL Institutions

Commonwealth of Learning (COL)
and Asia e University (AeU)

HOTEL BANGI-PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA 17 – 18 MARCH 2016

PROGRAMME & DELEGATE BIOGRAPHIES

Table of Contents

Programme	4
Sightseeing Schedule	7
Delegate Biographies	8
Organising Committees.....	26



**High Level Roundtable for Vice Chancellors & Heads of ODL Institutions
Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and Asia e University (AeU)**

Hotel Bangi-Putrajaya, Malaysia
17 – 18 March 2016

Programme

Thursday, 17 March 2016

Time	Session
08:00 – 09:00	Registration and refreshments – AeU/COL

Chair: AeU

Time	Session
09:00 - 10:00	Welcome Address Professor Dato' Dr. Ansary Ahmed Introducing the Round Table Professor Asha Kanwar
10:00 – 10:10	Photo session
10:10 - 10:30	Refreshments and networking - AeU

Session 1: Leadership

Time	Session
10:30 - 11:00	Leadership in ODL institutions – Dr. Caroline Seelig
11:00 - 12:00	Group discussion/activity
12:00 - 13:00	Plenary session: Recommendations
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

Session 2: Quality

Time	Session
14:00 - 14:30	Quality in ODL – Prof. Belinda Tynan
14:30 - 15:30	Group discussion/activity
15:30 -15:45	Refreshment and networking
15:45 – 17:00	Plenary session: Recommendations
19:45 – 22:00	Dinner

Friday, 18 March 2016

Session 3: Technology

Chair: Ms. Mariana Patru

Time	Session
09:00 - 09:30	The Role of Technology – Prof. Rozhan Idrus
09:30 - 10:30	Group discussion/activity
10:30 - 11:00	Tea/coffee/networking - AeU
11:00 - 12:00	Plenary session: Recommendations
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch

Session 4: Sharing Best Practice

Chair: Professor Dato' Dr. Ansary Ahmed

Time	Session
14:30 - 14: 40	Sharing of best practice at AeU - Professor Dato' Dr. Ansary Ahmed
14:40 - 15:45	Sharing Best Practice - All delegates (Each delegate will share one story of best practice s/he has introduced in not more than 5 min)
15:45 - 16:00	Refreshment and networking - AeU
16:00 - 16:30	Sharing best practice <i>continued</i>
16:30 - 17:00	Recommendations & Next steps
17:00 – 17:30	Closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Dato' Dr. Ansary Ahmed• Tan Sri Dato' Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan• Professor Asha Kanwar
19:45 – 22:00	BBQ Dinner – hosted by AeU

Saturday, 19 March 2016: Local sightseeing hosted by Asia e University - Malacca city

8:00-10:00am (Sightseeing)

- Pick up at Hotel Bangi-Putrajaya
- Cheng Ho Cultural Museum

10:15-12:10am (Sightseeing)

- Menara Taming Sari
- Flora de la Mar Maritime Museum
- St. Paul's Hill

12:15-1:10pm (Sightseeing)

- Stadthuys
- Christ Church
- Red Square
- Queen Victoria's Fountain

1:15-2:40pm

- Lunch at Local Famous restaurant

2:45-3:30pm (Sightseeing)

- Malacca River Cruise

3:35-4:35pm (Sightseeing)

- Kampung Morten, historical traditional Malay village in Malacca City, Malacca, Malaysia

4:40pm-5:00pm (Tea Break/own expenses)

- Enjoy famous Coconut Shake at Pantai Klebang

5:05-6:00pm (Dinner)

- Early dinner (AeU expenses)

7:30-10:00pm (Night Market)

- Transfer back to Hotel Bangi-Putrajaya

Delegate Biographies



**Professor Asha Singh
Kanwar**

President & Chief Executive
Officer
Commonwealth of Learning

Professor Asha Singh Kanwar became President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) on June 1, 2012. She has served COL for 12 years, first as an Education Specialist – Higher Education and Policy and then as its Vice President for six years.

Before joining COL, Professor Kanwar was a consultant in open and distance learning at UNESCO's Regional Office for Education in Africa (BREDA) in Dakar, Senegal.

Professor Kanwar's engagement with distance education began when she joined Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) where she served as Professor, Director of the School of Humanities and Pro-Vice Chancellor. Professor Kanwar has over 30 years of experience in teaching, research and administration.

A recipient of several awards and fellowships, Professor Kanwar brings with her the experience of having studied and worked in different contexts, both developing and developed. She received her undergraduate, Master's and MPhil degrees from the Panjab University in India and a DPhil from the University of Sussex. She was a Fulbright Fellow for post-doctoral research at Iowa State University, where she was later invited to teach. Professor Kanwar received the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) Prize of Excellence in 2009. In 2014, she received the AAOU Meritorious Service Award for outstanding contributions in the areas of open and distance education. She has been awarded honorary doctorates by two universities. Effective September 2015, she was elected as a member of the ICDE Executive Committee for a four-year term.



**Professor Dato' Dr. Ansary
Ahmed**

President/CEO
Asia e University, Malaysia

Professor Dato' Ansary Ahmed, Ph.D He obtained his PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. He first started his career as a tutor in University of Malaya, rose to professorship and held several administrative posts. At the national level, he has been actively involved as Steering Committee Member of the National Bio-technology Group and was the the Project Leader, Senior Vice President and co-founder of Open University of Malaysia. He worked as Special Science Officer at the Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), at the Science Advisor Office, Prime Minister's Department. He also served as a member of several national task forces in science, technology and education and is presently the National Chairman for e learning. Besides being a member of the Academic Committees of IBBM as well as the Razak School of Government. Internationally, he is a member of UNESCO Kornberg 21st Century Visionaries for Higher Education and has served as a UNESCO Consultant for ICT and e learning. He was Project Director for Total e learning solution Ministry of Higher Education, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He currently serves as an Honourary Advisor for Asia, Commonwealth of Learning and as the Global Advisor to Santa Barbara Institute, USA. Professor Dato' Dr Ansary is the Founding President/CEO of the Asia e University which is a collaborative effort of 32 Asian countries under the Asian Cooperative Dialogue. Dato' Dr Ansary was awarded the Most Promising Entrepreneur by Enterprise Asia in recognition of Asia e University's great success as a start up. In recognition of his contributions both nationally and internationally, he was conferred the Darjah Johan Negeri, Pulau Pinang in 2005, and in 2007 the Darjah Paduka Mahkota Perak, by the DYMM Sultan of Perak Darul Ridzuan, which carries the title Dato'.



Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Emeritus Prof. Gajaraj Dhanarajan
Chairman, Board of Governors
Wawasan Open University,
Malaysia

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Emeritus Prof. Gajaraj Dhanarajan has been an educator with over 40 years of experience in education and international development, previously serving as C.E.O. of The Open Learning Institute, Hong Kong [1987 -1995] and President of the Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver, Canada [1995 - 2004]. He was the founding Vice Chancellor of the Wawasan Open University and a Council Member of the United Nations University. He is a recipient of numerous awards and honours including the first Meritorius Service Award from the Asian Association of Open Universities in 1995 and the prize for Life Time Contribution to Open Distance Education by the International Council of Distance Education in 2013.



Godson Gatsha, PhD
Education Specialist, Higher
Education
Commonwealth of Learning

Godson Gatsha has worked in both conventional and open distance learning (ODL) environments as a teacher, ODL practitioner, regional manager and Director. As a Regional Manager of the Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning (BOCODOL) he was responsible for the deployment of open schooling and tertiary education programmes through the ODL mode to deeply marginalised communities. Prior to joining COL, Godson Gatsha was an ODL technical advisor in Malawi for the African Development Bank/SADC funded project, Director of the Southern African Development Community – Centre for Distance Education (SADC-CDE) and Executive Secretary of the Distance Education Association of Southern Africa (DEASA). As Education Specialist, Higher Education, Godson is responsible for ODL capacity building especially facilitating policy formulation and implementation of Quality Assurance at both institutional and national levels.



Dr. Caroline Seelig
Chief Executive
The Open Polytechnic of New
Zealand, New Zealand

Dr Caroline Seelig has over 20 years' experience as a senior manager in New Zealand's tertiary education sector, specialising in Open Distance Learning (ODL) and vocational education. Caroline joined Open Polytechnic of New Zealand as Chief Executive in 2009. She has led institutional strategic and investment planning, along with oversight of flexible learning, teaching and delivery units, academic portfolio development, quality management and student support. She has also been involved in a wide range of successful collaborative initiatives and projects to drive change and innovation. She is an Honorary Fellow of the Commonwealth of Learning for services to the advancement of open and distance learning in the Commonwealth and a Woolf Fisher Scholar. Caroline holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons), a post graduate Certificate in Education, a Master of Educational Administration, and a PhD.



Professor Belinda Tynan
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
(Learning Innovation)
The Open University, UK

Professor Belinda Tynan holds the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning Innovation) at the Open University. Previous roles have included Pro-Vice-Chancellor Learning, Teaching and Quality at the University of Southern Queensland, and Director of the research centre DEHub at the University of New England. Professor Tynan leads the sub-units of the Learning & Teaching Centre, the Open Media Unit, Learning and Teaching Solutions, the Institute of Educational Technology, the Knowledge Media Institute and Library Services, which provide leadership and support for the University strategic objectives for the creation of exciting and innovative learning experiences. She is an active researcher and supervisor of doctoral students. Her research interests are concentrated in the field of distance education and sub-topics of academic workload, student voices and academic professional development. She has more than thirty years of experience in the education sector in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the UK. Recently she was awarded her PFHEA. In May 2016 Professor Tynan will join RMIT, Melbourne, Australia as Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education.



**Professor Rozhan M. Idrus,
Ph.D**

Professor of Open and Distance
Learning & Technology
Universiti Sains Islam, Malaysia

Rozhan M. Idrus is a Professor of Open and Distance Learning & Technology is the first Professor of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) appointed in a public institution of higher learning in Malaysia. He holds a PhD in Solid State Physics and has been trained in various aspects of ODL in Australia, Canada and the UK. Trained as an instructional designer, he has published more than 170 scholarly works in the form of books, chapter in books as well as refereed journal contributions.



Mariana Pătru
Programme Specialist, Higher
Education,
UNESCO, France

Mariana Pătru has worked for three decades in international higher education. She began her career in UNESCO's European Centre for Higher Education, located in Bucharest (Romania). Since November 1995, she has worked as a programme specialist in ICT and ODL in the Education Sector at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris. She has a long professional experience in international and national-level policy and strategy advice to governments and institutions, particularly in assisting them address challenges related to the adoption of online and distance learning in formal and non-formal education.

Mariana has coordinated, chaired and served as keynote speaker at numerous international conferences on the role of ICT and ODL to widen access to quality education and lifelong learning for all. She has contributed to the development and publication of original research and studies on the use of ICT and ODL in education, with a focus on teacher professional development. Mariana is a member of international professional associations promoting the development and dissemination of knowledge and good practices in the use of ICT in education and teacher development.



Professor S. A. Ariadurai
Vice-Chancellor,
The Open University of Sri
Lanka, Sri Lanka

Professor S.A. Ariadurai is the Vice-Chancellor of the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL). He has more than 25 years of experience in teaching, research and management in the University. Professor Ariadurai joined the Department of Textile Technology of the OUSL as an Assistant Lecturer in 1988. He won the Commonwealth Scholarship in 1994 and proceeded to the United Kingdom for his research studies. In March 1998, he was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree by the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), Manchester, United Kingdom. He returned to the Department of Textile and Apparel Technology of the OUSL in January 1998 and served as Senior Lecturer until 2008. He became Professor in Textile & Apparel Technology in February 2009. He also served as a Visiting Professor in Technical Textiles for the Textile Institute of Pakistan, Karachi from 2008 to 2009 and Head of the Textile Research and Innovation Centre, Karachi from 2010 to 2011. He is an Associate of the Textile Institute - UK, Member of the Institute of Engineers - India, a Chartered Textile Technologist and a Chartered Engineer. He is a recipient of the Presidential Research Award from Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka. Professor Ariadurai served as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Technology from December 2012 to June 2015 before taking over as the Vice-Chancellor of the OUSL.



Professor Elifas T. Bisanda
Vice-Chancellor
Open University of Tanzania,
Tanzania

Prof. Elifas Tozo Bisanda is the new Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania (OUT) for a period of five (5) years with effect from 3rd June, 2015. Before his appointment, Prof. Bisanda, who is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Regional Services) for two (2) years (2007-9), then Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics) for a period of six (6) years (2009-2015) at the Open University of Tanzania.

Prof. Bisanda holds a PhD in Materials Science from the University of Bath, UK (1991), an M.Sc. in Metallurgical Engineering from Cranfield University UK (1984), and a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Dar es Salaam (1981). He is also a Registered Professional Engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Tanzania. He is also a fellow of the Tanzania Academy of Sciences (TAAS).

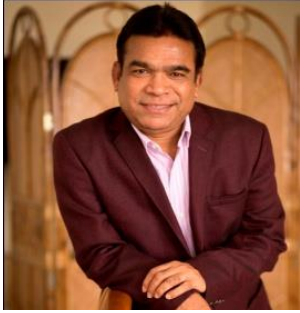
Prof Bisanda is the Chairman of the Governing Council for the Institute of Adult Education in Tanzania. He is also the Chairman of the Council of Morogoro Vocational Teachers Training College. He is a member of the University of Arusha Council, the Tanzania Police Training Board.

He has accumulated years of experience in strategic planning, partnership development, negotiation skills, personnel management, resource mobilization, institutional management, academic audit, quality assurance, photography and desktop publishing. He is also an expert in renewable energy, has done research work related to micro-hydro-power, biogas, wind-power, solar-power, and zero emission, and has published more than 50 papers in journals and conference proceedings.



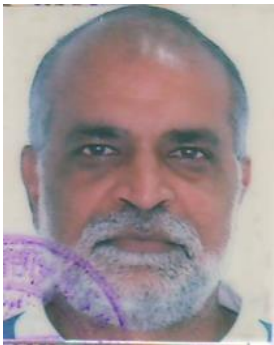
Professor Richard K. Coll is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor – Learning, Teaching & Student Services at the University of the South Pacific. He holds a PhD in Chemistry from Canterbury University and a Doctor of Science Education from Curtin. He previously worked as a chemistry and education lecturer at Waikato University in Hamilton, New Zealand, and was Vice-Chancellor at the University of Fiji before taking up his current post.

Professor Richard K. Coll
Deputy Vice-Chancellor –
Learning, Teaching &
Student Services
University of the South
Pacific, Fiji



Hitesh Deka, Ph.D
Vice-Chancellor
Krishna Kanta Handiqui
State Open University, India

Dr. Hitesh Deka started his teaching career as a Lecturer in the Political Science Department of MNC Girls' College Nalbari, Assam. He was elected as a member of the State Legislative Assembly for a period of five years with effect from 1991 to 1996. He then served as the founder Principal of K C Das Commerce College, a leading Commerce College of Assam. He was found to be instrumental in the establishment of a number of educational institutions in Assam. Besides, he has been actively associated with a number of socio cultural organizations and striving hard for the all-round development of the society. While he has been nominated as a member of the Governing Body of Indira Gandhi National Open University, the Government of Assam also nominated him as a member of Governing bodies of different Universities including a number of statutory bodies. He joined Krishna Kanta Handiqui Stated Open University as Dean in 1993. A man with complete dedication Dr. Deka is presently holding the post of Vice-Chancellor, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, which is the first Open University of the North Eastern Region of India and is responsible for promoting education and to reach the unreached through the Open and Distance Learning system.



Roshun Dhurbarrylall
Associate Professor
Open University of
Mauritius, Mauritius

Roshun Dhurbarrylall started his career as a Civil Servant in Mauritius prior to going to the UK to train as a Nurse in the National Health Service (NHS). After 11 years in senior positions in the NHS, he enrolled at Sussex University, UK to read for a BSc (Hons) in Biology. After completion of this degree, he also earned a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from the same University before returning to Mauritius in 1987 when he landed a job as Producer of educational programmes for radio and television at the Open University (formerly the Mauritius College of the Air). He was awarded a Rajiv Gandhi fellowship to read for an MA in Distance Education through IGNOU. Since 1994, he has been involved in Open Distance Learning and contributed to the inception of a Division of Distance Education within the Open University. With the proclamation of the Open University Act in June 2012, he assisted in the setting up of the Open University of

Mauritius. He currently manages the Academic Affairs Division of the Open University.



Professor M.P. Dube
Vice-Chancellor
U.P. Rajarshi Tandon
Open University, India

Prof. M.P. Dube (b.04.04.1952) is the Vice-chancellor of U.P.Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad (India). Before joining as the Vice-chancellor on Oct.17, 2014, he was a faculty member at the University of Allahabad. Prof Dube brings to his academic role 42 years' experience of teaching and research in the field of environmentalism, gender justice, contemporary political philosophy, and Indian Politics. In addition, he worked as the Director, Institute of Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Head, Department of Political Science, University of Allahabad. He had his education at the University of Allahabad. He has contributed more than hundred articles and research papers to journals and edited volumes. Prof. Dube has authored *Role of Supreme Court in Indian Constitution*, *Dharmanirpekshata Aur Bhartiya Loktantra*, *Secularism in India*, besides has edited *Jawaharlal Nehru: Legacy and Legend*, *Social Justice and Women in India*, *Perspectives on Human Rights*, *Democratic Decentralization in India*, *Gandhi: Practical Idealism and Strategies of Inclusion*. He edited the journal, **Man, Nature and Society**, and the **Journal of Social and Political Studies**, published by the Department of Political Science, University of Allahabad. He has received several awards for outstanding contribution to education



Prof. Dato' Dr. Sinn-Chye Ho
Vice-Chancellor and CEO
Wawasan Open University,
Malaysia

Professor Dato' Dr. Ho has more than 40 years of university teaching, scientific research and senior management experience in both on-campus and open distance learning environments in Malaysia. He obtained his BSc (Hons) and MSc in Hydrobiology from the University of Malaya, and doctorate from the Kiel University, Germany for research done at the Max-Planck Institute for Limnology in Ploen, Germany. He lectured in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) for 28 years (1973-2001), rising to become Professor and Dean of the School of Biological Sciences. He played an active part as programme chairman, developing and taught courses in USM's off-campus programme for many years in the early 1980s. Prof Ho was the founding Director of the National

Oceanography Directorate of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE) in Putrajaya (2000-2006). He joined Wawasan Open University in 2007 and currently a member of the Executive Governing Board of the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada. Prof. Ho was the immediate past President of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU, 2012-2013).



Dr. Nasir Mahmood
Professor and Chairman of
Early Childhood Education
and Elementary Teacher
Education
Allama Iqbal Open
University, Pakistan

Dr. Nasir Mahmood is Professor and Chairman of Early Childhood Education and Elementary Teacher Education in Faculty of Education, Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. He has experience of working in both formal and ODL higher education sector. He is actively engaged in revision of curricula, content, support material, and e-delivery systems of MPhil/PhD program at AIOU. He has completed 32 research projects/grants as Principal, Co-Principal and team member. These grants/projects were funded by ODA, UK, PMSP-Asian Development Project, DFID Punjab Middle Schooling Project, ADB Teacher Training Project, UNESCO, HEC, UNICEF, University of Punjab, British Council, Gender Equity Program USAID and Teacher Education Project-USAID and PERI as consultant in MICS evaluation. He has 34 research papers published in national and international peer reviewed journal on various topics including e-support in higher education. He has presented papers in more than fifty seminars, conferences and workshops at national and international level. Ten of his doctoral students have already been awarded PhD degree. Currently, he is part of the National Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (NACTE) committee on formulation of national standards for ODL and Blended programs in higher education.



Naveed A. Malik, Sc.D.
Rector
Virtual University of Pakistan
University, Pakistan

Professor Dr. Naveed A. Malik is the founder-Rector of the Virtual University of Pakistan. Dr. Malik obtained his Doctor of Science degree from M.I.T. in the field of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science specializing in Digital Signal Processing. As a staff member at the University of the Punjab, Pakistan's largest and oldest university, he established the Spark Source Mass Spectroscopy laboratory at the Center for Solid State Physics and later, became the founder chairman of the Department of Computer Science. He was the principal architect and developer and of the Punjab University's computerized examination system and was also responsible for the design and implementation of the University's fiber-optic campus-area network that was commissioned in the year 2000. From 2005-2012, he was the Principal Investigator for two IDRC (Canada) funded Asia-wide research projects on distance education that resulted in the publication of several books and many scholarly articles. He has lectured extensively, has been an active systems and software development consultant and has published several papers on various technical subjects. He is a life member of the Pakistan Institute of Physics and was awarded the Pakistan Civil Award of Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2008 for services to education.



M A Mannan, PhD
Vice Chancellor
Bangladesh Open University,
Bangladesh

Prior to joining BOU, M A Mannan worked as a management professor, provost, research director, MBA director and departmental chair at the premier university of Bangladesh – Dhaka University – for nearly four decades, in addition to working as course instructor at North South University, East west University, Delhi University and ILO International Training Centre (Turin). As management consultant, he worked with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNICEF, ILO, European Commission, CIDA, SIDA, KOICA, JICA, etc. He was instrumental in successfully introducing/implementing “School Level Improvement Plan” (SLIP) in over 37000 government primary schools as Educational Planning and Management Specialist fielded by UNICEF and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, introducing Results-Based Management (RBM)

in the second Primary Education Development Program (PEDP II), and inclusion of the concept of Private Public Partnership (PPP) in PEDP III program design. He worked as international trainer with the Sri Lankan Education ministry fielded by ADB for training the school principals/teachers in school-based management. In Bangladesh, he is known as a strong advocate of e-Learning/online education and PPP in higher education, and decentralization of education system management. In Bangladesh Open University, for the first time, he has finished the job of developing own LMS/e-platform, interactive virtual classrooms, video-conferencing facilities, digitizing the media studios, introduction of micro-SD cards in mobile phone sets with video and audio lectures, uploading around 400 video lectures in the YouTube and over 250 textbooks (e-books) in the BOU website as a part of OER, and launching of BOU WebTV and Web Radio for regular broadcasting of lectures and relevant educational information.



Dr. Srikant Mohapatra
Officer on Special Duty;
Odisha State Open
University, India

Dr. Srikant Mohapatra has twenty years of experience as an academic administrator and facilitator in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system in India. He has served at IGNOU, New Delhi as Director, Regional Services Division (RSD) during 2012-15 and Registrar, Student Evaluation Division (2005-09 & 2014-15). He had also assumed additional charge as Director (Defense Unit), Head of the Community College Unit and Convergence Unit of IGNOU. He has also served as the Controller of Examination and Registrar of Sikkim Central University, Gangtok, India (2009-10). Dr. Mohapatra has got wide experience in the field of student support and evaluation under distance education system. He has worked for five years each as Regional Director of IGNOU for Bihar and Odisha and two years as Senior Regional Director of IGNOU in Gujarat.. In the year 2004 he was awarded IGNOU gold medal for providing the best services to the students by the former President of India, late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.



Professor Mutale Mike Musonda

Vice-Chancellor
Zambian Open University

Professor Mutale Musonda is currently serving as Vice-Chancellor of the Zambian Open University with effect from March, 2014. Immediate past Executive Director of the African Council for Distance Education (ACDE). Vice-Chancellor of the Copperbelt University, Zambia from 2003 to 2012. Under his tenure the Copperbelt University grew from four to eight schools and student enrolment increased from 2,150 to 10,000; and introduced nineteen additional undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes; and reorganized Centre for Life Long Learning into a Directorate for Distance Education and Open Learning with its own modern infrastructure; and established a Dag Hammarskjöld Institute for Peace Studies and Sustainable Development and Academic Development Centre. Founder Vice-Chancellor of ACDE in 2004 and has served as Treasurer of ACDE Executive Board from 2004 to 2012. Currently serving as ACDE Executive Board Member representing Southern Africa.



Professor George K. Njoroge

Associate Professor &
Principal
University of Rwanda
College of Education

George K. Njoroge is an Associate Professor and the Principal, University of Rwanda College of Education which has the coordination role of ODL in the University of Rwanda. He served for five years as Rector of the former Kigali Institute of Education, the pioneer of Distance Learning in Rwanda and one of the seven Higher Learning Institutions that were merged in 2013 to create the University of Rwanda. He is a mathematician and a philosopher of education with extensive knowledge, experience and leadership responsibilities in the education sector spanning 31 years. He has previously served as secondary school teacher, Teacher College Tutor, Head of Department, Deputy Dean, Dean and Vice Rector Academic. Over that period he has been involved in change management and reform in the education sector through involvement in numerous committees and taskforces including the University of Rwanda Transition Taskforce. Prof. Njoroge is an alumnus of the University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University both in Kenya and holds a PhD in Philosophy of Education. He has attended and contributed in numerous seminars, workshops and conferences at national, regional and international levels. He is the co-author of book titled: **The Democratization Process in Africa (2001)**, and co-editor of

Education, Gender, and Democracy in Kenya (2001) and author of **Philosophy of Education for Universities and Colleges (in press)** His area of research interest is on philosophical examination of education in all its dimensions and response to human challenges.



Dr. Manikrao Salunkhe
Vice-Chancellor
Yashwantrao Chavan Open
University of Maharashtra,
India

Dr. Manikrao Salunkhe has worked in both Conventional and Open Distance Learning as a Teacher, Director and Vice-Chancellor. He worked as Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University, Kolhapur from 2004 to 2009. During his tenure as Vice-Chancellor in Shivaji University, he undertook a number of reforms in various fields of the University. He served as the First Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Rajasthan from 2009 to 2014 and established new university with strong academic foundation. He has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik from 19th, August 2014. The research interests of Dr. Salunkhe include areas such as polymeric reagents, oligonucleotides and ionic liquids in which he has made important contributions. His academic distinctions include honours like the Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry, UK (2002), Member of Chemical Society.



Professor Dato' Dr. Morshidi Sirat
Founding Director
Commonwealth Tertiary
Education Facility (CTEF),
Malaysia

Morshidi is Professor, School of Humanities, and University Sains Malaysia. Morshidi has served as the Director of the National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN), as Deputy Director-General, Department of Higher Education (Public Sector), and as Director-General of Higher Education/Registrar General, Private Institutions of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia. Morshidi publishes widely on Malaysia's higher education policy and is very active in research and consultancy work for the ADB, the World Bank, and UNESCO APEID Bangkok.



Professor C.W.S. Sukati
Director of the Institute of
Distance Education
University of Swaziland,
Swaziland

Prof. Walter Sukati is the Director of the Institute of Distance Education (IDE) at the University of Swaziland. He has occupied several positions in the conventional education system such as Science Teacher, Educational Planner, University Planner, Lecturer in Educational Foundations and Management, and University Registrar. In the open and distance learning (ODL) environment, Prof. Sukati a) earned a B.Ed. and a D.Ed. degree as a distance learning student and b) worked as a Coordinator for academic and professional studies in the Institute of Distance Education at the University of Swaziland. Prof. Sukati currently holds the position of Director of the IDE and is responsible for all the facets of ODL provision at the University of Swaziland and runs the IDE that has over 33% of the total student enrolment at the university. Walter's research interests and areas that he has lectured and published in include educational planning and policy, comparative education, open and distance education, and economics and politics of education.



Daniel Tau, Ed.D
Executive Director
Botswana College of Distance
and Open Learning,
Botswana

Dr Daniel Tau has worked for 2 decades as a Teacher and School Head in the secondary school system of Botswana prior to becoming an ODL practitioner. He became the inaugural Chief Executive of the Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning in 1999 and is currently steering its transformation into an Open University for Botswana. Under this leadership, BOCODOL has become globally reputable and was conferred an Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement in Distance Education by the Commonwealth of Learning in 2006. Dr Tau was conferred with the Presidential Order of Meritorious Award in September 2011, African Education Leadership Award in November 2013 and Commonwealth of Learning Honorary Fellowship Award in December 2013. He has served as Chairman of the Botswana National Sports Council and Botswana National Vision 2016 Council between 2005 and 2012. Currently he is a Board Member of Orange Botswana Foundation and Botswana Public Employees Union Labour College.



Gard Titlestad

Secretary General
International Council for Open
and Distance Education (ICDE),
Norway

Gard Titlestad, leads the ICDE Permanent Secretariat. ICDE works in close partnership with UNESCO in having online, open and flexible higher education contributing to the new Sustainable Development Goal 4, Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all. Collaboration between institutions, associations, companies and individuals is a key priority, on a regional, global and north-south-south basis. Recently Gard has been in lead of a series of High Level Policy Forums for Online, Open and Flexible Higher Education for Education 2030, in Partnership with UNESCO and others. Gard is a member of the Governing Board for the UNESCO Institute for IT in Education, IITE. ICDE publish the platinum open access journal Open Praxis. Gard is member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Indian Journal of Open Learning and the Editorial board of the American Journal of Distance Education.

Gard Titlestad joined ICDE in 2011 after serving at the Nordic Council of Ministers, NCM, in Copenhagen, Denmark, as director for the Department of Knowledge and Welfare. He managed the secretariat for several configurations of ministers including the ministers for education and research, the ministers for health and social affairs, the ministers for labour affairs, ministers for IT and for a shorter period the ministers for enterprise and the ministers for finance. He was responsible for a number of initiatives, programmes and governance of Nordic institutions. Gard's focus was on Nordic cooperation in education, research and innovation. Before joining the NCM, Gard served as Research Counsellor for Norway, as well as Counsellor on ICT and as member of the executive team for the Norwegian delegation to the European Union. Prior to this, Gard was a senior official in the European Commission in Brussels, Directorate General Information Society. In Norway Gard worked for the Norwegian Government in research and development agencies. Gard is educated Physiochemist and in legal and management issues.



S. Joel Warrican, PhD

Director, Academic
Programming and Delivery
The University of the West
Indies Open Campus,
Barbados

S. Joel Warrican has been in the field of education for over 30 years, with teaching experience from kindergarten to tertiary levels. He has held several posts, including Director of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College (SVGCC); and the Planning and Development Officer with The University of the West Indies Open Campus. He also served on the CARICOM Task Force for Teaching and Teacher Education. Joel is noted for his work as a change leader, and as such was co-opted in the early stages of the setting up of the SVGCC where he was mandated to bring together four established individual educational institutions that constituted the College. He has been an invited presenter in several Caribbean and international fora. His interests include the democratization of education; education for sustainable development; the use of technology in the promotion of education; and youth empowerment. He has produced, either individually or jointly, over 50 scholarly works, including conference papers, technical reports, journal articles, book chapters and some six books and monographs on diverse areas of educational interest. He has published in region and international scholarly journals. In his current position, Joel is responsible for the planning, development and delivery of all programmes offered online by the University.



**Prof. (Dr.) Tariq Zafar,
Ph.D**

Vice Chancellor
M.P. Bhoj (Open) University,
India

Prof. (Dr.) Tariq Zafar at present is Vice Chancellor of M.P. Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India since April, 2013. Dr. Zafar completed his Post Graduation in M.Sc. (Chem.) in the year 1974 and M.Sc. Zoology in 1977. He was awarded Ph.D. in Zoology in 1985. Fifteen students have been awarded Ph.D. under him. Thesis of some students are in process of being submitted. He has guided more than 300 students for various research degrees. He has served in Barkatullah University, Bhopal in various capacities such as Director, Minority Coaching & Guidance Department; HOD (Admn.), Department of Applied Aquaculture; Dean, Student Welfare (Cultural Coordinator and Foreign Students Advisor & Chief Member Incharge of Employment Bureau; Project Officer (Adult Education) and NSS Coordinator. He has also served as Member, Governing Body of AEC, Military College, Pachmarhi. Saifia College, Bhopal, B.S.S. College, Hamidia College, Bhopal and SSL Jain College, Vidisha, M.P.,

India. Indian Icon Award for the year 2013 was conferred on Dr. Zafar by *Parwaz Media Group* and Rajiv Gandhi Global Excellence Award 2013 was conferred on him for outstanding contribution in the field of education by Rajiv Gandhi Global Excellence Award Foundation at New Delhi on 21.05.2013. He has been invited as Resource Person by Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) Centenary Conference, Senate House, London, U.K.; Fourth IIMS International Conference, Manila Philippines; ICDE Standing Conference of Presidents and Policy Forum, Lisbon and in other numerous Conferences/ Seminars/Symposium. Conferences have been attended by him at UAE, Saudi Arabia and Manila.

Organising Committees

COL

Dr. Godson Gatsha
Kayla Ortlieb
Charisse Cruz
Carol Walker
R. Thyagarajan (CEMCA)

AeU – Main Committee

Prof Dr Mak Chai
AP Dr Syed Abdul Kadir bin Abdullah
Mizana Muhamad
Rizal Afandy Mokhtar
Mohamed Suffian bin Mohd Rasheed Khan
Meilina Puteh

AeU – Logistics Committee

Mohd Shahril Jaapar
Mohd Fazlee Zulkiflee
Syed Badrul Hisyam Syed Adanan

AeU – Marketing Communication & Corporate Relations Team

Mohd Fadzil Khairuddin
Nor Hafiza Abdul Razak
Evelyn Tan Pow Chee
Wan Nor Andree Wan Mokhtar
Rozlan Daud

AeU – Registration and Ushers

Azura Mardiana Ayub
Raja Nur Farhanah Raja Halim