

Preface

I am pleased to present the second 2016 issue of the *AAOU Journal*. In this issue, we have two open submissions on subjects of interest to our readers. There are also five papers which were winners and finalists in the paper awards at the 29th Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU, 2015).

These articles cover a broad range of topics in the area of open and distance education (ODE). Vighnarajah, Hassan, Aziz and Ooi examine the information-seeking behaviour of their distance learning students in using library resources for their research and learning activities. Aluwihare and De Silva investigate the institutional and personal factors which affect their university's bachelor's degree engineering students in prolonging the completion time of their degrees. Rehal illustrates how transformative education and training through open and distance e-learning may increase the quality, quantity and relevance of health professionals' training in the Philippines. Lee, Lau and Yip report a collaborative project which helps in building student-teachers' capacity to learn and teach science-related interdisciplinary subjects. Pugoy, Habito and Figueroa present a study that proposes mobile solutions to aid learners with poor Internet connectivity in accessing open education resources. Wang, Wu, Zhan, Wang and Tang's paper proposes a minimum spanning tree based approach for the clustering of online learning resources. Wong, Zeng and Ho compare and analyse the research trends in the field of open and distance learning as reflected in journal articles published in 2005 and 2015.

We wish to express our thanks to all the authors for their contributions and sharing of experiences in these articles. Also, we are much obliged to the reviewers for their thoughtful suggestions and expert comments in the review process. Again, thanks also go to the Emerald team and staff of the AAOU Secretariat for their support and assistance in the production of this issue.

We hope that you will find this collection of articles useful. It is our aim to provide a forum for academics and professionals to contribute high-quality research papers that provide new knowledge which informs our ODE practices and offers directions and insights for further research.

If you wish to submit a paper on ODE topics to us, you are welcome to click here for details, available at: www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/services/publishing/aaouj/authors.htm

Kam Cheong LI