



Revolution rocks WOU!

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For one Sunday in July, the *WOU Revolution!* transformed WOU's usually sedate main campus into a buzzing learning carnival that was open to the public. Thousands of visitors streamed to WOU to experience paintballing, cyber gaming, Robert Kiyosaki's Cashflow 101 board game, jewellery-making, food art workshops and live bands.

Headlining the entertainment for the day were Pop Shuvit and Dasha Logan, daughter of the late Loganathan of the Alleycats fame. Other bands to take to the main stage included the Areca Jazz Ensemble, High Society, Ocean of Fire, and 1300.

The climax of the carnival was the prize-giving ceremony for the WOU Post@Postcard Contest graced by Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan. In his address, he said that WOU as "the people's university" was "always on the lookout for innovative ways to promote the University and bring the community closer together." Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Wong Tat Meng gave out the lucky draw prizes for visitors to the carnival.



“Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

It is with some sadness that I approach my final message as Vice Chancellor of WOU. It has been such an exciting and fulfilling period for me; one I shall always look back on with pride and marvel at how much the 'WOU family' has accomplished and how far the University has come. I shall still be retaining close links with the University and am looking forward to taking up my new position as a researcher on teaching and learning within the University as of the middle of December 2009.

Over the past three years that I have served as Vice Chancellor I have always been struck by the dedication and camaraderie of our small, pioneering team. Let us make no mistake - the goals that have been set for the University are very ambitious and we should all be proud of the significant progress made to date. I am confident that under the capable leadership of Prof Wong Tat Meng, WOU will make even greater inroads.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Prof Wong on his new appointment. I first had the pleasure of working with him while in Hong Kong many years ago and have always been struck by his commitment and determination. He brings with him decades of academic and ODL experience as well as a sense of pragmatism and integrity - two crucial values that are often missing from our world. I wish him all the very best!

Lastly an appreciation to the University Council which has been exemplary as governors of a new university, supporting, encouraging and advising me on all aspects of University management under the leadership of their indefatigable and passionate Chairman Tun Dr Lim Keng Yaik as well as the enormous generosity of the Wawasan Education Foundation under the chairmanship of Dato' Seri Stephen Yeap Leong Huat. Without these two eminent persons behind us this University could not have happened and would have remained a dream unfulfilled.



Message from Dato' Seri Stephen Yeap Leong Huat Wawasan Education Foundation (WEF)

To write a fitting tribute to WOU's founding Vice Chancellor, Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan in such limited space is no easy task. I have known Tan Sri Raj for 17 years and am aware that he would feel uncomfortable with any tribute to himself, such is his acute sense of humility.

Tan Sri Raj's achievements and contributions to the international open distance learning (ODL) community are far too numerous to mention and a quick Google search will easily demonstrate his prominence in the international ODL arena. It was his expertise that played such a key role in establishing the framework for WOU and marked him out as the most obvious choice for Vice Chancellor.

With his quiet, efficient manner he quickly set about turning an idea that existed on paper into Malaysia's first, private, not-for-profit open university. To do so in the space of only five years was no easy feat and is a testament in itself to his perseverance and ability to build and motivate a strong team.

True to form, Tan Sri Raj's retirement from the Vice Chancellor's post does not mean his complete retirement from the field of education. He will continue to act as a council member of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), sharing his experience and expertise with the Ministry of Higher Education. Tan Sri Raj will also continue to serve on the board of the Wawasan Education Foundation (WEF) and will oversee the integration of WOU and Distd College. It is hard to keep a good man down as they say!

To conclude, I can only describe Tan Sri Raj as a humble man with a big heart, endowed with rational judgement and loyalty. He is a true gentleman and a genuine inspiration to the next generation of Malaysian educators.

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Professor Wong Tat Meng WOU's new VC

Professor Wong Tat Meng will take over as the Vice Chancellor of Wawasan Open University from middle of December 2009. Prof Wong is already a familiar figure in the Malaysian education scene, having played a key role in the establishment of WOU as well as serving as the University's Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) since its inception. With over 35 years' experience in both conventional and ODL universities in Malaysia and Hong Kong, Prof Wong's current interests are in curriculum development, quality assurance and change management.

The Sultan Abdul Hamid College, Alor Star 'old boy' received his BSc (Hons) and PhD in Zoology from the University of Otago, Dunedin in New Zealand in 1972. His study there was funded through a NZ Colombo Plan Scholarship (1965-1972). For his postgraduate studies, he was also awarded a New Zealand Postgraduate Scholarship (1969-1972). He then returned to join the newly established Universiti Sains Malaysia where he served for the next 21 years in various academic and administrative positions including Lecturer, Associate Professor, Chairman of Programmes, Deputy Dean and Dean of the School of Biological Sciences as well as the Foundation Director of the University's Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies.

While at USM, Prof Wong's research interests focused on the environmental physiology of inter-tidal invertebrates, pollution studies, benthic

crustaceans and bivalve aquaculture. He conducted pioneering studies into the artificial breeding and production of bivalve seeds using hatchery techniques in the early 1980s. His team at the Muka Head station was the first in the country to successfully induce spawned and artificially-reared juveniles of many Malaysian bivalve species including the blood cockle, mussel, carpet shell clam, razor clam and two species of oysters. They were also the first to document the spawning and larval development process in these species through the use of video recording technology. His research has been disseminated through numerous journal papers and conference presentations both locally and internationally.

During his career, Prof Wong has received a number of fellowship awards including the Commonwealth Fellowship (1979), University of Rhode Island Visiting Scholar (1987) and the IDRC Travelling Fellowship (1987). He successfully completed a number of consultancy projects for international agencies such as the ILO (Netherlands), IDRC (Canada), the Shell Group of Companies, ASEAN Foundation and others. Prof Wong had also contributed actively to local professional and learned societies, having served as President of the USM Academic Staff Association (1975-76), Council member of the Malaysian Scientific Association (1982-84) as well as President of the Malaysian Society of Marine Sciences (1985-87).

In 1993, Prof Wong joined the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong (later upgraded to the Open University of Hong Kong) as Dean of its School of Science and Technology. He was promoted to Chair Professor and Dean in 1995 and held the post until 2006 when he was invited back to Penang to join the newly established Wawasan Open University.

Court-ing excellence!

When not burning the midnight oil and swotting up on the sex lives of oysters, crabs and clams, Prof Wong was an all-round sportsman, and an accomplished badminton exponent back in the days when Malaysia were genuine Thomas Cup contenders and wooden racquets and pristine white kits were the norm. He represented the Kedah state team while still a lower secondary schoolboy.

During his 'varsity' days in New Zealand, Prof Wong earned an Otago University Blue for badminton in 1965 and was also

awarded the New Zealand Combined Universities Blue for badminton over four consecutive years from 1965 to 1968! He also won the New Zealand Open Championship in 1965 as part of the Men's doubles. He regularly plays tennis at the Penang Sports Club to keep fit. Even at a 'youthful' 65, he can still deliver a 'thunderbolt' serve and a 'killer' smash.

His immediate objective is to make Wawasan Open University the preferred institution of higher learning for the country's working adults and their employers.

WOU hosts global economic experts



KHAZANAH PENANG LECTURES

The sixth instalment of Khazanah Nasional Bhd's Penang Lecture series brought together two eminent personalities, Prof KS Jomo and Datuk Seri Panglima Andrew Sheng, to WOU's main campus on 6 August 2009.

Prof Jomo, a leading scholar and expert on the political economy of development, spoke on *"The Global Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Asia"*. He currently holds the position of Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development in the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

Meanwhile Andrew Sheng, who moderated the talk, is a director of Khazanah Nasional Bhd and chief adviser to the China Banking Regulatory Commission. He was recently appointed as an expert member of the National Economic Advisory Council (NEAC).

Jomo explained that most developing countries are innocent victims in a global economy that practises double standards. He observed that China and India were

currently the two best performing economies due to stringent capital controls they had imposed earlier, which allowed them to weather the current crisis far better than most developed countries.

He quoted social data from the International Labour Organisation which indicated that over 200 million more of the global workforce will be poorer, while unemployment figures will rise by 51 million. Social unrest caused by the crisis will be rampant, while US intelligence reports suggest that the crisis is now posing the greatest security risk to international stability.

The lecture culminated with a Q & A session chaired by Khazanah's Vice President of Strategy and Investment Research, Hamdan Majeed. Prof Jomo and Sheng responded to questions from the audience, which included Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) northern branch chairman Dato' O K Lee, businessman Dato' Dr Neoh Soon Bin, Bukit Bendera Member of Parliament Liew Chin Tong, WOU Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan, USM's Prof Dato' Anwar Fazal, and Consumers Association of Penang (CAP) president S M Mohd Idris.

OOUK visit to WOU



A team from The Open University, UK recently paid a courtesy visit on WOU Chancellor Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan and Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Wong Tat Meng on 5 August 2009.

Dr Nicholas Watson, the Project Director of The Open University Business School's pilot Global MBA, and Chris Vincent, an independent market analyst who manages a range of international projects, were accompanied by Peggy Lim, Director of the British Council Penang and Sara Goh from Pearson Malaysia.

The OOUK visitors also held a separate meeting with Prof Wong, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Operations) Dr Seah Soo Aun, School of Business and Administration (SBA) Dean Prof Chee Kim Loy, lecturer Dr Teoh Ai Ping, and Corporate Communications Director Agnes James.

Roundtable discussion on the use of English in teaching Science and Mathematics

Wawasan Open University and SEDAR Institute organised a roundtable discussion at the Kuala Lumpur Regional Office on 17 July 2009 to discuss the Education Ministry's announcement to abolish the policy of the Teaching of Science and Mathematics in English (PPSMI) starting in 2012.

WOU's Dean of the School of Education, Languages and Communications (SELC), Assoc Prof Dr Malachi Edwin Vethamani headed the panel discussion, with speakers including Prof Dr Kuldip Kaur from Open University Malaysia (OUM), Prof Dr John Arul Phillips from Asia e University (AeU) and Dr Ganakumaran Subramaniam from the Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA).

Dr Ganakumaran said that although teaching Science and Mathematics in the students' mother tongue may make the subjects more accessible and allowed better achievement in the subjects, there was a possible loss of opportunities from not learning English especially when students moved on to tertiary education.

A medical professional shared with the participants that out of 1.56 billion Internet users in the world, 465 million use English on the net; two thirds of the world's scientists publish their research findings in English and all international forums are conducted in English. He felt that the benefits of teaching Science and Mathematics in English were too important to ignore. However a Tamil-medium school representative believed the use of mother tongue languages was critical for students to perform well in Science and Mathematics.



Another participant remarked that middle-class parents are aware that students educated in English tend to flourish and revealed that his law firm has rejected many local graduates due to their low levels of English proficiency. He observed that middle-class students have access to English outside of government schools and are thus more likely to excel, leaving students from lower-income backgrounds further behind and widening the economic gap.



Most participants felt that while some students may benefit more from the increased opportunities of learning in English, other students may need to use their mother tongue. Many agreed that the decision to abolish the policy of teaching Science and Mathematics in English was made without adequate consultation from academicians and the public.



SEDAR director-general Khaw Veon Szu (standing) with (seated from left to right) Prof Kuldip, Prof John Arul, Dr Edwin and Dr Ganakumaran.

A few felt that the failure of the policy of teaching Science and Mathematics in English was due to poor implementation rather than the wrong choice of policy. Prof Kuldip lamented on the poor quality of teaching in Malaysia and the need for better education standards and implementation.

Prof John Arul said the quality of education was a more important issue than the actual choice of language of instruction. He reminded the audience that the primary purpose of teaching Science and Mathematics in English was not to improve English standards, but to allow better access to the fields of Science and Mathematics which see ongoing research and developments in English.

In wrapping up, WOU Deputy Vice Chancellor Unni Kumaran Menon said that the government should listen to the people rather than make policies on its own. He called for a separation of the education policy from political influence, and for the formation of a Commission of Education to oversee educational policies. About 30 participants from academia, schools, NGOs and the government sector, attended the roundtable discussion.



U K Menon (right), Khaw (left) and SEDAR deputy director-general Ng Yeen Seen (3rd from right) with the panel speakers.



- Speakers**
1. Yg Bhg Tan Sri Dato' Soong Siew Hoong,
Secretary-General of The Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia
 2. Yg Bhg Dato' Dr Ir Andy Seo Kian Haw
Vice President of Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers & PEMLECAH Koordinatiba
 3. Mr. Kam Lian Hooi
Managing Director of VA Partners Sdn. Bhd



Building up SMEs for economic growth

Given that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) account for nearly 90% of all the businesses in Malaysia, it makes economic sense to strengthen these organisations. Speaking at a public seminar – *"Making the Best of What We Have"* – Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry secretary general Tan Sri Soong

Siew Hoong explained that in manufacturing terms, an SME is an enterprise with no more than 150 full-time employees or an annual sales turnover not exceeding RM25 million. The seminar was organised by the Penang Gerakan Industry Development Bureau.

Tan Sri Soong believed that the current global meltdown is worse than the mid-90s Asian financial crisis since it affects the entire economy and not just the financial and banking institutions. "The crisis especially affects economies like Malaysia which are dependent on exports of manufactured products. Our three main importing partners are the US, European Union and Japan, which take up 40% of our exports."

He declared that foreign direct investments have shrunk as developed countries are focused on their home economies before they even consider investing in Malaysia. He asked, "Is our environment attractive enough to draw them here?" He added, "Our labour is not that cheap, there are not enough skilled workers," and suggested that the government should

be co-operative.

Tan Sri Soong said that the federal government's economic stimulus packages are focused on human resource development to make Malaysian workers "more productive, effective and innovative". The government has also abolished policies not conducive for investment, such as requiring 30% Bumiputra equity and requiring approval from the foreign investment committee.

Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) vice president Dato' Dr Ir Andy Seo Kian Haw spoke on how to speed up delivery of financial support from the government departments, while organisation development expert Kam Lian Hooi explained how to make the best out of the support provided by the government and the private sector. The well-attended talk was officiated by State Gerakan chairman Dato' Dr Teng Hock Nan.

The half-day seminar held at WOU's main campus on 15 August 2009 aimed to create public awareness on the federal government's first and second economic stimulus packages to help business communities and industries weather the current global economic crisis.



WOU joins the International Council for Open and Distance Education

Since August 2009, Wawasan Open University has been an institutional member of the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE); linking WOU to a global network of over 100 institutions specialising in open, distance and ICT-based education (ICDE members come from 140 different countries).

According to WOU Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Wong Tat Meng, the linkage will enable WOU to explore areas of possible collaboration and capacity building opportunities at strategic and operational levels with leading member

institutions in ICDE.

"Top institutions and the key movers of open and distance education have a wealth of knowledge and experience that we can tap into via the ICDE platform. Our staff can benefit from the sharing of new technologies and methodologies to bring about improvements in our delivery of open and distance education," he added.

Members of ICDE have access to Open Praxis, the electronic journal of the ICDE that publishes articles on trends and relevant topics of interest in the field of flexible learning and open education.

About the ICDE

ICDE is affiliated with the United Nations through UNESCO and serves as the global umbrella membership organisation in online, flexible and blended learning, including e-learning and distance education.

Established in 1938, ICDE aims primarily to promote intercultural co-operation and understanding through flexible and online learning around the globe.

ICDE is also an affiliate member of the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and a World Bank partner organisation. Its permanent secretariat has been based in Oslo, Norway since 1988.



Razzle and Dazzle at Retro Night Fever



The retro night fever was at an all-time high as WOU celebrated its third anniversary on 10 September in the spirit of togetherness and fun. The evening kicked off with a gyrating 'YMCA' dance by the Staff Recreational Club (SRC) and Corporate Communications (Deputy Vice Chancellor Dr Seah Soo Aun gamely jumped in!).

The talentime part of the night was hilarious with peals of laughter ringing throughout the 12th floor. The 'Talent on Ten' medley of dances by the academics team - including deans Prof Chee, Prof Ho and Prof Mogana - grabbed the first prize. Corporate Communications came in second for their 'Days of WOUr Lives' multimedia clip, and GSA third for their 'First Love of Aci and Nana' dance.

For the karaoke competition, Patsy Yap (ETP) took first place with Bon Jovi's "Shot Through The Heart" to win RM100 cash. Johnathan Tan and Lim Yao-han of Corporate Communications won RM70 and RM50 for their respective rendition of a Chinese number and Billy Joel's "Just The Way You Are".

Best dressed female for the evening was Sharon (ETP) in a hippie garb and best dressed male, Muhyidin (GSA). A total 52 staff walked away with lucky draw prizes - Elangovan (GSA) won the 32-inch LCD TV grand prize.

Online Campaign on code of ethics and IT use

"Good netiquette at the workplace is important because it improves relationships among colleagues, cultivates teamwork and reflects professionalism at the workplace."

This was finance executive Tan Chia Yun's interpretation of the importance of observing good netiquette in the workplace. Chia Yun was the first prize winner in Wawasan Open University's Netiquette Hunt Contest, organised for its employees.

Participants were required to locate 10 purple icons which each carried a netiquette tip and come up with a creative slogan starting with "Good netiquette at the workplace is important because...".

The contest was part of WOU's internal online campaign on Code of Ethics and IT Use that recently ran on the Staff Portal. The two-month campaign was aimed at equipping

employees with knowledge on the appropriate use of the Internet in the workplace and proper code of conduct.

With more new faces joining the University, the campaign served as a fitting reorientation for both new and existing employees of the University's policies regarding IT use and professional conduct.

Directors of Human Resources and Information Technology Services shared their views on the Code of Ethics and the importance of the code in relation to IT use and employees' conduct.

Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Wong Tat Meng and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Operations) Dr Seah Soo Aun were on hand to present the cash prizes to the winners of the Netiquette Hunt Contest. The second and third prizes went to Audrey Lisa Yeong Yoke Mei from Educational Technology and Publishing and Lilian Yap from School of Business and Administration respectively.



netiquette

Always use your manners



PENANG – Prof Wong welcomes the students at WOU's main campus in Penang.

WOU welcomes new students

The start of WOU's sixth semester saw over 600 new students attending Orientation Days across the nation in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Johor on 19 July 2009; students on the East Coast attended their Orientation Day in Kota Bharu a day earlier.

At the main campus, the freshmen were introduced to Penang Regional Office director K Manoharan and his staff, academics and tutors. A pre-recorded welcome address by Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan was screened, and Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Wong Tat Meng extended a warm welcome to the students, reiterating in his speech the University's commitment and readiness to help students in their educational journey.

All the new students attending the day-long Orientation Day at the five locations were briefed on WOU's IT facilities, *WawasanLearn*, online submission of assignments, and the digital library resources available. The comprehensive session on study skills and TMA preparation taught the students how to study smart and work on assignments.



IPOH – At the Ipoh regional office, some 50 students turned up for the orientation which started off with a welcome address by the director, Ching Huey Ling. New CeMBA student Jasvinderjit Kaur led in the oath-taking session, while Lee Meng Poh shared his experiences as a postgraduate student at WOU.

WOU's Dean of the School of Science and Technology, Prof Dato' Dr Ho Sinn Chye, talked about the ODL model, study skills and TMA (tutor marked assignments).



Petaling Jaya & Kuala Lumpur– Deputy Vice Chancellor for Strategy, Planning and Continuing Education (SPACE), Unni Kumaran Menon, welcomed the students who had registered with the Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya regional offices for the Orientation Day at Menara PGRM.

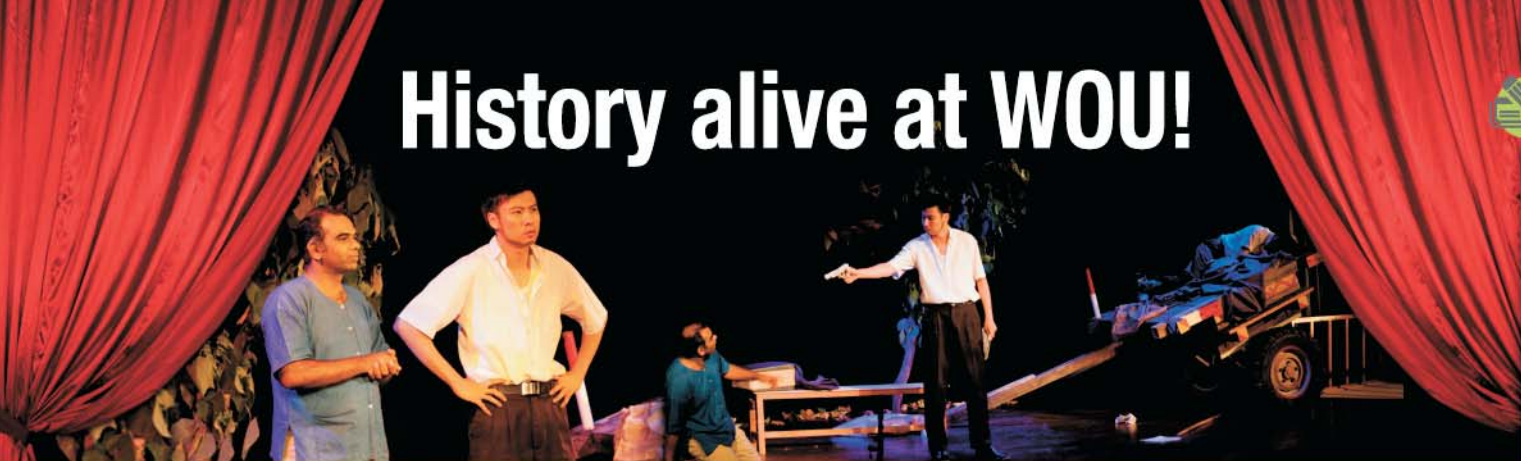
He spoke on the ODL model and later conducted a briefing for the Commonwealth Executive Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration (CeMBA and CeMPA) students.



Johor Bahru – The Orientation Day organised by the Johor Bahru regional office at Southern College was attended by 102 new students as well as JBRO Student Club members and staff.

WOU's SBA Dean Prof Chee Kim Loy presented the ODL model while JBRO director Ng Peng Long shared the University's regulations and procedures. Student Razali Rahmat led in the oath-taking of the new students. There was a separate briefing on CeMBA and CeMPA by Prof Chee while the undergraduates were exposed to the learning support system and services.

History alive at WOU!



The encounter between a Communist central party commander and an Indian rubber estate medical dresser near a wooden bridge provides the prelude for the theatrical performance, *At A Plank Bridge*, held at the WOU main campus from 24-25 July 2009. The two characters were convincingly portrayed by WOU's very own Lim Yao-han as Fook Leong, and *theSun* newspaper northern region bureau chief Himanshu Bhatt as Chandran.

The story unfolds with Fook Leong, a resistance fighter in the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA), on his way to Singapore riding a bicycle when he literally bumps into Chandran, who's pulling a bullock cart. As the duo exchange words at the plank bridge, their personal stories and reasons for heading south to Singapore are gradually revealed.

It becomes clear that Fook Leong has grand plans to arrive in Singapore before the British, and to rally the locals to rise up, and to declare Malaya independent following the end of the Japanese occupation.



Meanwhile Chandran, a former "Death Railway" camp worker in Thailand, hopes to join his wife and kids in Singapore. He has packed important documents from the rubber estate he used to work in into gunny sacks loaded onto his bullock cart. These documents are his prized possessions as they contain the medical and death records of all the estate workers; Chandran plans to turn over the records to the British in Singapore so these can be historically preserved.

The drama concludes on a fittingly tragic note with the sound and headlights of an approaching Japanese lorry, before gunfire erupts and Fook Leong falls down dead on the cart.

A first for 'Plank Bridge'

Plank Bridge written by Kannan Menon was staged for the first time in Malaysia by the Penang-based theatre group Cape Poetics as part of the Art International Penang festival to commemorate the first anniversary of George Town's listing as a Unesco World Heritage Site. The theatre performance directed by Jayaram Menon follows a highly successful off-Broadway staging of the play in New York in January 2003.

About 200 people attended the performance at WOU - among them were WOU Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan and wife Puan Sri Sue, Penang Heritage Trust president Dr Choong Sim Poey, and Kannan Menon.

Enrol online to win laptops!

To encourage more students to utilise WOU's new online re-enrolment system - *MyEnrolment* - the University is offering Dell laptops as prizes for three lucky students. All students have to do is simply re-enrol online from 28 September 2009 to 10 January 2010 to automatically be in the running for a Dell Inspiron, Dell Studio or Dell Inspiron Mini netbook.

MyEnrolment was designed to offer students the convenience of re-enrolling for their courses with a credit card, to save time and trips to the Regional Offices. Students are encouraged to log to wou.edu.my to join the contest.





Learning Innovations in Higher Education



Open University Malaysia (OUM) recently hosted the *Ninth International Conference on Information (ICI9)* from 12-13 August 2009, together with co-organisers, Eszterhazy Karoly College, Hungary, Cadi Ayyad University Marrakesh, Morocco, and Delta University al-Mansoura, Egypt.

The aim of ICI9 was to share the latest cutting-edge knowledge and technology available to open learning institutions to impart information to recipients in the best possible ways. ICI9 was a platform to share ideas, views and experiences in introducing, using, sustaining and innovating new technologies for open learning in line with the Conference's theme "Learning Innovations in Higher Education."

WOU Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan was a keynote speaker at ICI9. The abstract of his paper on 'Technology and Learning: Building Capacity, Managing Change' is provided below.

Abstract

Global economic and development changes and challenges are fast and furious. The pace of change is requiring nations to produce a faster, smarter and better calibre of human being, not just a few in numbers but entire communities of such individuals. Our current systems of human development are impeding the rate at which this should be happening. Future education systems, some of them already

in the making, have to be designed from policy to practice, exploiting the full potential of technologies for nation building, social inclusiveness and economic benefit. At the same time those in charge of managing these technology driven systems will require new skills, knowledge, and insight. They also need to develop new partnerships and be prepared for greater accountabilities and transparencies. This paper deals with the changes and challenges required in the practice and provision of education with the constant arrival of new learning technologies into the learning environment.

The full paper can be downloaded at: <http://ici9.oum.edu.my/pdf/keynote1paper.pdf>



WELCOME Professor

Prof Insung Jung, 50, who hails from South Korea, took up her position as visiting professor with the Educational Technology and Publishing (ETP) unit on 3 July 2009. She was at WOU for six weeks conducting workshops for new staff on ODL research, e-learning design and development.

She is Professor of Education, Media and Society at the College of Liberal Arts in the International Christian University, Tokyo. Prior to that, she was director of the Multimedia Education Centre at Ewha Womans University, Seoul for three years. She was senior researcher and assistant professor at Korea National Open University for 10 years, during which she managed several projects on the development and evaluation of distance education. She received her PhD in Instructional Systems Technology from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana in 1988.

Brushing up on business management skills at WOU

WOU student Suriati Abdul Rahim, 29, enjoys the opportunity to polish her administrative skills so that she can perform better at work and compete in a tough business environment. She started working at 19 as a production operator in an electronic firm in Bayan Lepas for five years before switching to the administrative line upon joining a government department. She presently works as an administrative assistant in a semiconductor plant.

In her zeal to improve herself, the Penang lass studied for a course on managing information systems and general administration, and obtained her certificate in October 2005.

She began her Bachelor of Business in Management studies at WOU in July to

further "enhance managerial and administrative skills at all levels" and hence improve her marketability and career prospects in the corporate sector.

On how she copes with her work and studies, she replied, "I'm still in a learning process as I left my formal studies years back after my SPM. I try to prioritise the things I need to do on my schedule, and I am also cutting down on some of my activities to concentrate on studying."

Suriati is intent on giving her full attention to her degree since "education is a valuable investment". She finds the ODL approach to learning to be "an amazing experience" and whenever she needs, she visits the WOU digital library for references, the student portal for discussions with other regional office students, and contacts her tutors to clear any doubts.

"My parents and sister supported me on my decision to take up this degree course as it will help upgrade my professional skills and

"...education is a valuable investment."



knowledge," declared Suriati, the eldest of two girls. Suriati is currently pursuing two courses - Microeconomics and Learning Skills for University Studies - and told *WawasanLink* that she is proud to be associated with WOU and aims to share the golden opportunity of higher education afforded by the University with more of her friends and family!

Time to upgrade

After nearly 10 years working in the automation industry, Chan Kok Hooi realised that it was time for an 'upgrade'. Not wanting to be left behind, the 38-year old signed up for a Bachelor of Business in Logistics and Supply Chain Management (Hons) at Wawasan Open University.

"Friends have always encouraged me to look beyond and reach for higher qualifications. I was particularly inspired by a friend who had graduated with an MBA," said Kok Hooi when asked about his motivation to study.

On whether he found it difficult to catch up after having left the formal education scene for a while, he explained, "Not so, as long as one has the desire to succeed."

"It also helps to be among those fortunate enough to receive the Study Grant at WOU; this allows me to save on costs," he added.

Kok Hooi, who holds a diploma in computer studies, feels the time is right to 'upgrade' to a degree because "there are already too many people with diplomas out there". Looking even further ahead, Kok Hooi already has plans to pursue an MBA after his degree.

"...to look beyond and reach for higher qualifications."



UPCOMING EVENTS

Penang Adventist Hospital's Charity Concert

25 October 2009 (Sun)
7.00pm - 11.00pm
WOU Main Campus, Lecture Theatre 1

The Charity Concert by the Adventist College of Nursing student nurses is in aid of the Dr J Earl Gardner Fund, named in honour of the hospital's founder. The fund serves to help those suffering from serious diseases and requiring financial support.

For details on this fundraising event, contact Michelle at 04 - 222 7606.

Amendments to the Private Higher Educational Institutions Act 1996 (Act 555)

4 - 5 November 2009 (Wed & Thurs)
9.00am - 5.00pm

Berjaya Times Square Hotel & Convention Centre, KL

The seminar cum workshop by WOU's Centre for Professional Development and Continuing Education (PACE) looks into the implications of the recent amendments to the Private Higher Educational Institutions Act on the statutory constitution and internal processes, including student disciplinary procedures, of private higher educational institutions.

For enquiries and registration, contact Ms Wang / Mr Mohan of WOU at 03-92817323 ext 131 / 125.

Conference of the Birds

20-21 November 2009 (Fri & Sat)
8.30pm

22 November 2009 (Sun)
3.00pm

Main Campus, Lecture Theatre 1

The opera by Five Arts Centre is a modern interpretation of a poem by a 12th century Persian poet which describes the search of a group of birds for a leader; an allegory of a Sufi sheikh or master leading his pupils to enlightenment.

For enquiries, contact Five Arts Centre at tel/fax 03-7725 4858 or email fivearts@tm.net.my

WOU Open Day for January 2010 Intake

25 October & 13 December 2009
Venue: Kuala Lumpur Regional Office

29 October & 18 December 2009
Venue: Kota Bharu Regional Office

8 November 2009
Venue: WOU Main Campus

1 December 2009
Venue: Ipoh Regional Office

1 December & 6 December 2009
Venue: Petaling Jaya Regional Support Office

13 December 2009
Venue: Johor Bahru Regional Office

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The *WOU Revolution!* was a first-of-its-kind learning carnival that combined learning with fun (two words that don't often go together in many people's minds!). The event was organised by WOU with the support of CIMB Bank as the main sponsor and the Malaysian Mensa Society as the intellectual partner. Other sponsors included Pacific West, Hotlink, FTZ ASiA.net, Grolier, and the Employees Provident Fund.

WOU Revolution!

Your World.
Your Classroom.



In the minds of
our readers

We would like to hear from you. Whether it's a view, a comment or even a question, don't hesitate to drop us a mail at mediainfo@wou.edu.my

For more details, visit wou.edu.my

Call WOU CARELINE 1-300-888-WOU(968)

Main Campus
Wawasan Open University (700364-W)
 54 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, 10050 Penang, Malaysia.
 Tel: 04-227 3323 | Fax: 04-226 9323
 Email: enquiry@wou.edu.my

Regional Offices and Learning Centres
 Open Tuesday to Sunday: 10.00am - 7.00pm

Penang Regional Office
 No. 7 China Street Ghaut, 10300 Penang
 Tel: 04-263 3323 / 262 5359 | Fax: 04-262 3669
 Email: ro_pg@wou.edu.my

Ipoh Regional Office
 Wisma Gerakan, 80 Periarisan Greenhill, 30450 Ipoh, Perak.
 Tel: 05-242 6323 / 243 6323 | Fax: 05-254 9323
 Email: ro_ip@wou.edu.my

Bandar Utama Regional Support Office
 L2-6 & 7, Wisma BUB, 11, Lebuhr Bandar Utama,
 Bandar Utama, 47800 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
 Tel: 03-7629 7223 / 03-7629 7123
 Fax: 03-7629 7023
 Email: rso_bu@wou.edu.my

Kuala Lumpur Regional Office
 Level 3 Menara PGRM, 8 Jalan Pudu Ulu,
 56100 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.
 Tel: 03-9281 7323 / 9283 8323 | Fax: 03-9284 9323
 Email: ro_kl@wou.edu.my
 (Library Services available Tuesday to Sunday,
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Johor Bahru Regional Office
 17 & 19 Jalan Jaya 2, Taman Jaya, 81300 Skudai, Johor.
 Tel: 07-556 4323 / 556 6323 | Fax: 07-554 9323
 Email: ro_jb@wou.edu.my

Kota Bharu Regional Office
 3956 Tingkat Bawah, Wisma Gerakan,
 Jalan Temenggong, 15000 Kota Bharu, Kelantan.
 Tel: 09-748 7323 | Fax: 09-748 9323
 Email: ro_kb@wou.edu.my
 *Open Monday-Saturday from 10.00am-7.00pm

Kuching Regional Office
 St. No.14, Ground & First Floor, Westin Avenue,
 Jalan Tun Jugah, 93350 Kuching, Sarawak.
 Tel: 082-578 923 / 575 923 | Fax: 082-576 923
 Email: ro_kc@wou.edu.my