

In Partnership



The Open
University

Open University International Partnerships

Open University Worldwide

Newsletter for International Partners

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OU and NetLearning in partnership to deliver MBA in Japan

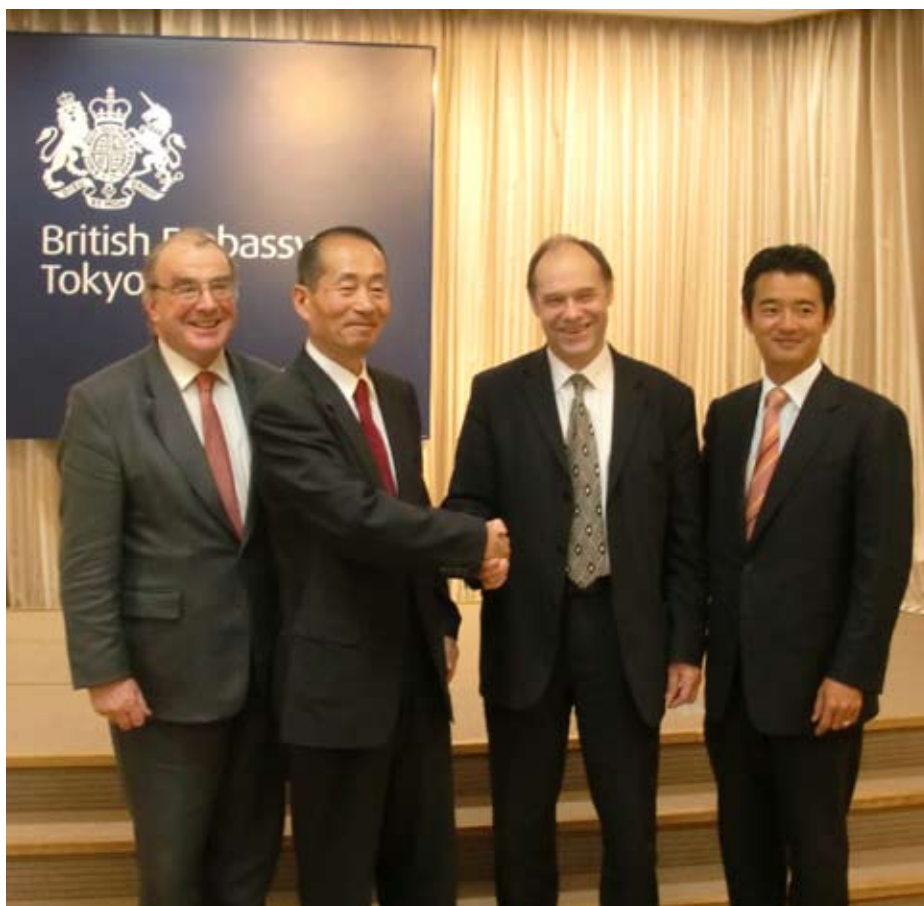
Online corporate trainer NetLearning Inc and The Open University have formed a partnership to promote the Master of Business Administration qualification (MBA) in Japan from November 2010.

NetLearning will act as a representative in the market, concentrating on marketing and advertising the programme locally, managing local logistics and providing immediate student support. Students will be directly registered with the Open University, with the OU retaining all responsibility for quality and for the provision and delivery of all content, including tuition.

NetLearning has offered online continuing professional development courses (CPD) for the Japanese corporate sector since 1998. The organisation has supported almost 3 million students from 3000 corporate clients, including Glaxo Smith Kline, Canon, Microsoft, Coca-Cola (Japan), Mitsubishi, Nissan and Hitachi.

Although a range of MBAs are available in Japan, The Open University Business School is the first to offer a triple-accredited MBA. The MBA programme, taught in English, will enable students in Japan to develop business networks, acquire management expertise through practice based learning, and engage with international students/alumni throughout their studies, including at residential schools in Europe.

The option to study part time and predominantly on-line is particularly attractive to the corporate sector, as students can continue to work, applying new skills and insights as soon as they are learned. Studying in English is also valued in Japan, as a key language for doing business internationally.



Pictured: Antony Gribbon, Managing Director of OU Worldwide; Toru Kishida, CEO of NetLearning; James Fleck, Dean of the Open University Business School; and Toshiaki Yoshida, President of NetLearning.

James Fleck, Dean of The Open University Business School and Antony Gribbon, Managing Director of Open University Worldwide visited The British Embassy in Tokyo during May for NetLearning's launch, which was also attended by Rachael Bayfield, First Secretary, UK Trade & Investment, British Embassy and Professor Toshio Okamoto, President of Japanese Society for Information and Systems in Education.

Speaking at the launch of the partnership in Japan, James Fleck, Dean of The

Open University Business School, said: "I am delighted to see yet another idea become reality: the Open University MBA available here in Japan... We believe that the characteristics of our MBA and the values of the Open University Business School are well suited to the partnership with NetLearning. And with this partnership, we are confident that we are making an important step towards realising our vision of a truly global business school which will bring value to ambitious managers here in Japan."



Teacher education project wins Queen’s Anniversary Prize



Pictured at Buckingham Palace: Bob Moon, Director of TESSA for the OU; Jenestar Wanjiru of Kenya; Freda Wolfenden, Director of TESSA for the OU; Jophus Anamuah-Mensah, Chair of TESSA; Zukile Mashologu of South Africa; Risikat Iyabode Adenekan of Nigeria; Fidelia Babai of Ghana and Amel Tag Alsir Elhassan of Sudan.

The Open University has been presented with the Queen’s Anniversary Prize at Buckingham Palace for the TESSA (Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa) project.

Five teachers from Kenya, Sudan, South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana joined Martin Bean, the Vice-Chancellor of The Open University, Chair of TESSA Professor Anamuah-Mensah and TESSA directors Bob Moon and Freda Wolfenden at the ceremony, which recognises world-class excellence in higher and further education.

TESSA is a research and development initiative creating open educational resources and course design guidance for teachers and teacher educators working in Sub-Saharan African countries. TESSA has created an extensive bank of internet-based open education resources, which are being used by 300,000 teachers to support classroom practice in 11 African countries.

The African teachers met Her Majesty the Queen to talk about how they have benefited from the Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (TESSA) project, in the face of overcrowded classrooms; poverty; hunger; difference in language and a lack of resources.

Jenestar Wanjiru teaches in Kagoto Primary School, Nakuru, which has a total of 1,660 students with an average teacher/student ratio of 1:55. “TESSA has sparked new life into my practice as a teacher,” she said. “I was so happy to realise that my work as a teacher was creative and worthwhile. This has, of course, lifted my self-esteem.”

Fidelia Babai teaches at the University of Education Practice Primary at Winneba in Ghana, where a number of the 1,670 pupils are deaf. She said: “As an inclusive set-up we need to work practically and effectively so that children have a skill when they leave so they can earn their own living.”



Pictured: Martin Bean, the Vice-Chancellor of The Open University, receives the award from Her Majesty the Queen.

Freda Wolfenden of The Open University said: “All the teachers spoke to the Queen and Princess Anne in the Picture Gallery after the ceremony and they were hugely interested in what the teachers had to say.”

For more information on OU activities in Africa, visit <http://www.open.ac.uk/africa/index.shtm>



New suite of English Language courses proving popular

The Open University has designed three key courses for students who want to improve their academic and business English.

The courses help undergraduate and postgraduate students develop confidence in reading, writing, speaking and listening within a business or academic context. They also introduce students to different styles of English and specialist terms from their own field of study. Each of these courses sits alongside the student's main subject, so that their performance improves not just in English, but across the board.

The Arab Open University is offering the course Professional communication skills for business studies (LB160) to support students studying for an undergraduate business degree. Professor Lewis Mukattash, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs, commented:

"LB160 serves two important functions. First, it introduces students to basic terminology in business studies in context. Secondly, it provides ample opportunity for students to develop their specialised reading and writing skills for business study purposes. The course has relevance to the whole Business Studies programme, as it covers areas of human resource management, finance and accounting, marketing and a number of business analysis methods."

Professor Mukattash noted that the course is particularly useful for non-native speakers of English who wish to study and take exams in English. "An introductory course like LB160 will



Pictured: Course books from LB160, Professional communication skills for business studies.

stand students in good stead before they embark on studying specialised courses in Business Studies, so LB160 is a compulsory background course for all AOU business students." The course has also been extended to students majoring in English language and literature.

Open ELT Course Consultant Jo Ham is discussing the three courses with key universities, business schools and language schools in Spain, and will soon be working with similar organisations in Italy who have expressed interest. For more information, visit www.ouworldwide.com/english_courses.asp.

New diploma in Botswana to support childhood education

The Botswana College of Distance and Open Learning (BOCODOL) is using Open University course material to contribute to a government vision of quality education from early childhood.

BOCODOL has licensed content from the OU's first year undergraduate course The early years: developing practice (E100) as part of their new qualification, the Diploma in Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD).

The Botswana Government has committed to investing in young children and securing access for education for all

children as part of its Vision 2016 goals. Achieving quality education for all is closely linked to the effectiveness of the education and in particular, to teacher's skills. A priority area for development is the training of practitioners working with children up to the age of six.

BOCODOL hopes to make a significant contribution to achieving quality early childhood education with the new Diploma course. The aim of the diploma is to equip trainees with the required professional skills and attributes to work with young children, together with specific knowledge and an

understanding of the Early Years field. The Open University course content is designed for anyone currently working with young children in public, private, voluntary and independent settings. Students consider practice in relation to working with young children, develop their knowledge of provision for young children and explore how they develop and learn. BOCODOL have adapted the course content under license to meet specific local needs.

The diploma will be launched later in 2010.



International education explored at global conference

Over 200 influential speakers from around the world convened in London on 25-26 March, for international education conference Going Global.

Hosted by the British Council, the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, the conference explored how education can meet the challenges of a global vision.

In the face of the worst recession in decades, the conference questioned the implications for international education. Is the vision of a truly international education system under threat? How is the global mobility of staff and students being affected and what should they do? And how does it impact the sharing of knowledge and ideas worldwide?

Speakers looked at the trends and implications; explored models for change drawing on case studies from across the world; examined the barriers; and considered frameworks for action relating to staff and student mobility, global partnerships, global citizens and policy and leadership.

Online Education

The Open University's Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean introduced the discussions around Higher Education in a Web 2.0 World. "Students aged 18 to 24 have never known a world without the web, mobile phones, SMS and online video. What's it going to take to engage them?"

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the OU launched on iTunes U less than 2 years ago, but has already seen 16 million downloads of course videos (88% of which are outside the UK) and 10 million users of its open educational resources on OpenLearn.

"We believe that there's a change happening. We believe that we're moving from a classic model of institutional learning with pre-defined



Pictured: Delegates at the opening ceremony of the Going Global conference

steps and paths... (to) a world with hundreds of millions of people inspired to learn. The world can't produce enough brick and mortar universities to keep pace with the demand for higher education."

The ever growing resources of the Open Educational Resources movement offer an opportunity to use smaller learning milestones and flexible access to bring together teachers and learning in a way which builds their reputation and eases them into institutional accreditation.

"The students of the future are going to demand access to the content that works best for them, wherever they can get it, because they want to take control of their learning and define their student experience."

International Partnerships

Sarah McGowan, Partnerships Manager with OU Worldwide, presented a poster session on a partnership between The Open University and Hoa Sen University in Vietnam, funded by the UK government. The project plan has evolved following numerous challenges

into a proposed scheme for Open University course content to be used within Hoa Sen postgraduate technology courses, with additional support from The Open University in the development stage. The poster session discussed the aims and benefits of the partnership and the challenges faced.

English in Action

The OU also demonstrated audio/visual learning materials for a new education programme at the conference, aimed at primary and secondary schools.

English in Action (EIA) is a nine year programme created to help around 25 million people in Bangladesh improve their English language skills. Working with the Government of Bangladesh and other education partners, the project aims to raise the country's economic and social profile by providing English language as a tool for the population to access global opportunities.

For more information on the conference and to watch videos of key speakers, please visit <http://www.britishcouncil.org/goingglobal.htm>.



OU Fellow appointed as a Justice of the High Court



Photograph by Charm Govender

Judge Dhaya Pillay has been appointed as a judge in the Durban High Court from July 2010, becoming one of only six female judges presiding in cases in KwaZulu Natal.

Judge Pillay spent four months with The Open University Business School's Centre for Law during 2009, while Senior Judge of the Labour Court in South Africa. Her interest in international labour law led to contributions to a major undergraduate course; Rules, rights and justice: An introduction to law (W100). Judge Pillay has also been recognised as a defender of human rights by Amnesty International in Durban.

New open source tool makes academic referencing easy

The Open University (OU) and its partners have developed a new piece of free software to help students and universities manage academic references more easily.

Funded by JISC, and made in collaboration with RefWorks, the web-based research management, writing and collaboration tool, the OU has developed MyReferences which is part of the Technology Enhanced Learning supporting Students to achieve Academic Rigour (TELSTAR) project.

Nicky Whitsed, Director of Library Services at the OU, said: "For universities this new and easy reference management system will help to tackle plagiarism by making referencing easier; encourage information literacy; and help libraries to improve reference management for courses".

There are already a number of general referencing tools available to students, but MyReferences integrates referencing into online courses so the materials students commonly need to reference are already available in the format they need. Students simply select the sources they need to reference, the referencing style their institution requires and then copy and paste the result into their assignment. For more information, visit <http://www.open.ac.uk/telstar/>.

Working in partnership with Open University Worldwide

There are many ways to work in partnership with The Open University, depending on your needs and circumstances.

Offer an OU degree

Students are registered with the OU, which provides tutor training, student assessment, examination and awards. Partners manage student communication and guidance and distribute course materials.

Offer your own degree

Licence OU course materials for flexible use in your own course. Partners can select the most useful course units, adapt or translate material, and access print, audio-visual and online resources.

Consultancy

Expert advice on how to run workshops, write course material and establish distance learning organisations. Areas of guidance include quality assurance, strategy and management, learning support, teacher education and computing.



Pictured: The Berrill Building on The Open University campus, UK.

For more information on any aspect of working with The Open University, please contact your partnership representative, visit www.ouworldwide.com or call +44 (0)1908 858785.