

MALAYSIAN JOURNAL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
Jurnal Pendidikan Jarak Jauh Malaysia

Editorial

It has been two years since I was given the privilege to serve as the Chief Editor of the Malaysian Journal of Distance Education (MJDE). I feel a great pleasure to have done my duty for the journal despite the constant demand that it required. Hence, this is the last issue of the MJDE published under my editorship, and it contains eight articles offering new insights in distance education studies.

First article by Sevari Karim and Ebrahimi Ghavam from University of Payam Nour, Ahwaz, Iran demonstrates a research amongst their university students regarding tendency towards academic cheating. Factors of self-control, self-efficacy and academic performance were found to be reasonably correlated with the immoral behaviour.

Mahalecumy Narayanansamy and Issham Ismail from School of Distance Education, Universiti Sains Malaysia (SDE USM), highlighted an alternative learning tool using the mobile technology in delivering course content to students. The introduction of the Short Message Service (SMS) learning system will hopefully become one of the most useful and convenient ways for teaching at a distance.

Azidah Abu Ziden, Issham Ismail, Robitah Spian and K. Kumutha also from the SDE USM studied the use of ICT in teaching Science and show that technology has contributed a greater achievement to the students' performance.

Fourth article is by George Teoh Boon Sai and Agnes Liau Wei Lin who accomplished a case study on Emotional Intelligence (EI) amongst distance learners of SDE USM. They explained that majority of the students have a high level of EI which correlates to their high achievement. The role of EI in a distance education programme is therefore important in establishing their performance as adult learners in a challenging situation.

Nadiatul Maisarah Rosley, Issham Ismail and Hema Latha Visvernardan also accomplished a case study amongst distance learners of SDE USM. The situation was on the acceptance of mobile phone usage and SMS learning. They concluded that at the moment, mobile phones are preferred for personal use only but students are keen to upgrade the usage of the communication technology as another learning tool as this is less expensive, most accessible and popular media.

Sixth article by Ooi Chin Yit and Lim Chap Sam from Asia e-University and USM, explores the perception towards online Mathematics tuition amongst primary and secondary school students. The online programme received positive feedbacks via Constructivist Online Learning Environment Survey (COLLES), and was examined to be effective for the students in the aspects of relevancy, reflectivity, interactivity, tutor support, peer support and interpretation.

Seventh article by Boutkhil Guemide, Chellali Benachaiba and Med Bouzar from University of Mohammed Seddik, Algeria looks at the importance and necessity of exploiting e-learning for the development of teaching profession, especially to the secondary school teachers who are teaching English language.

Mohamad Faisal Abd. Karim and Anton Abdulbasah Kamil from SDE USM wrap up this issue by proposing the possibility of using *Mathematica*® as a computational tool in learning Mathematics. Understandably, their preliminary observations indicated that the SDE students were reluctant in accepting the newly-introduced Computer Algebra System (CAS). Further investigations and crucial issues are therefore needed to be addressed because this interactive computation resource is useful for a distance learning environment.

With the above note, I close this editorial by stating that it has been an enormously gratifying and honourable responsibility which I have accepted with great gratitude. I have greatly enjoyed the wonderful stimulating environment and the collaboration associated with the task.

Speaking of the new Chief Editor, I am very pleased to announce that it will be none other than Professor Hanafi Atan. It means an especially easy transition period since he has had a long ex-tenure with MJDE. This

means no "training" of any kind is essential, and I am confident MJDE will remain strong under his leadership.

While my involvement with MJDE will now shrink a little, I will stay involved in helping editing and referring contributed papers. I look forward to continued association with MJDE and to the results of present efforts in improving the journal by the outstanding current status.

I am eternally grateful to editors, referees, production and administration staff who make each issue possible. To all others associated with MJDE now or in the past, it is also impossible not to mention how thankful I am for your support of the journal during my tenure. It has been a great pleasure to work with a dedicated team of utmost professionalism.

ZURAINI ZAKARIA
Chief Editor
December 2011