Editorial

Welcome to the Volume 14 No.1 June 2012 issue of the Malaysian Journal of Distance Education (MJDE). I am very happy to inform the readers that there is a new line-up of editorial committee members as well as the secretariat that will be responsible for the publication of the journal for the next two years (June 2012–June 2014). I would like to congratulate them for their appointments and I am confident that the combination of the vast expertise of the editorial board members and the committed and hard-working secretariat will propel the MJDE to greater heights and achieve the aim of being recognised globally as one of the leading journals in Open Distance Learning (ODL).

The new committee and secretariat have already swung into action to bring about some radical changes to the MJDE. There is already a new website for the journal with more information and features; this is available at http://mjde.usm.my. Apart from the traditional hard copy, published articles are also available in the soft copy format in the website. Complete and full articles (no longer only the abstracts) are now accessible. To expedite the process of publication, the ScholarOne Manuscript (online journal submission system) will be utilised from the December 2012 issue onwards. This established journal management system allows the contributors to track their submission and manage the process effectively, thus reducing the turnaround time tremendously.

In this issue, seven articles are being published, with contributors from the Philippines (1), Malaysia (5) and India (1). The first article is from Katherine Esteves who looked at the suitability of Facebook to be used in teaching and learning. She found that the students are better engaged with the array of functionalities available in Facebook. The second article is from Munirah Rosli et al. who looked at the correlation of the effectiveness of the learning materials and activities available in the e-learning portal.

The third article is from Gaurav Singh who probed the reasons lecturers have not been optimally using the video conferencing system for course

delivery at his university. The fourth article is from Hisham Dzakiria who looked at the theory of relatability in relation to the issue of generalisability of the qualitative research on a small group of distance learners as they progressed through their courses. Following that, Ab. Rasid Mat Zin looked at adult learners' personalities and behaviour towards the examination. In the sixth article, Kathy Belaja et al. reported on the effect of the transactional presence of the course lecturer on the learners' intrinsic motivation when taking a course on English as a second language. The last article is by Mohd. Faiz Hilmi et al. who reported on a study that looked at the service quality and ease-of-use of the Learning Management System (LMS) currently being used in the delivery of distance education programmes.

I sincerely hope to see more contributors from Europe, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific countries in the next issue so that this journal would become the platform to disseminate new knowledge and research findings not only in the regional context but also in the larger worldwide perspective.

Hanafi Atan
Chief Editor