Final Report of WOU-CEMCA Project on
OER-based eLearning Course offering at Wawasan Open University, Malaysia (2014-2015)

1.0. Background

WOU and CEMCA were engaged in a Project during 2013-2014 and under which a Course on 'OER based e-Learning' was developed along with building institutional capacity at the Wawasan Open University (WOU). This project was sponsored by Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and involved participants from WoU and several other institutions in Asia including IGNOU (India), Open University, Malaysia For the present Project the course was modified and offered as OER-MOOC by WoU to facilitate the cause and to promote the use of OER in educational institutions. The course was structured to include five modules, which covered different aspects and issues concerning OER and its practices. This report presents a short description on the tasks carried out under the project.

2.0. Work completed according to the Statement of Work

2.1. Design and Development Workshop:

A workshop was organized on 29th and 30th August 2014, where in 15 academics from WOU participated for reviewing and adapting the materials. A team of 3 academics reviewed each module of the existing course on 'OER-based eLearning. This team further worked on these modules for a period of 15 days to finalize and to meet the needs of WOU.

2.2. Capacity Building in Online facilitation

Prior to the launch of the course a 3 day workshop on "OER-Based eLearning – Online Facilitation and Assessment" was held from 14-16 October, 2105 at WoU. The purpose of the workshop was to orient and train the academic faculty of WoU as facilitators for on online facilitation. Resource support in the workshop was provided by Dr.Som Naidu (CEMCA Consultant), Dr. Mohandas Menon and Dr. B. Phalachandra (WOU).

The three-day workshop was designed to achieve mainly the following goals:

a. Orientation of participants to the five modules of the OER-based eLearning course that has been developed with the support of CEMCA.
b. Orientation of participants on assessment and providing feedback to learners online, and
c. Provision of moderation and facilitation in the online environment

The workshop involved examining the learning outcomes of the five modules of the OER-based eLearning course, developing assessment criteria in line with the learning outcomes, and moderating discussion in an online learning environment. Participants in the workshop explored strategies for supporting students, and how and when to provide feedback to online learners. Further the participants were engaged in online role play activities by taking part in simulation exercises for better understanding of online moderation. It involved groups of participants posting comments to issues raised as 'students' on WOU's learning management system (Moodle), while a member moderated the discussion with the student-moderator roles being reversed in a subsequent activity.

2.3. Preparation for the launch

Followed by the facilitation workshop a series of in- house work sessions were organised to develop the brochure, identification of facilitators for each module and modifications in the modules to include one assignment for each module to cover all major aspects discussed in the given module, the strategy for assessing the assignment and awarding the badges and certification.

2.4. Course Modules

The MOOC on OERs in e-Learning consisted of the following five modules each leading to a Module badge. On completion of the five modules the learners are awarded a course badge and a Certificate of Completion from the Centre for Professional Development and Continuing Education (WOU-PACE)

• Module-1: Concept and Practices of Open

• Module-2: Licensing and Copyright

• Module-3: Education Searching and Evaluation of OER Materials

• Module-4: Designing Learning Experiences using OER

• Module-5: Integrating OER in eLearning

2.5. Establishing the MOOC platform.

The platform for offering hosting the MOOC was developed by the IT Department of WOU utilising the required IT expertise from within and outside the University. The platform was developed on a Moodle version 2.5 open source software. The plat form was named *Wawasan4PACE*.

2.6. Launch seminar and Advocacy

The brochure for the MOOC on 'OERs in e-Learning' was developed and distributed among various agencies and potential participants. The launch seminar was organized in the WoU campus on 29 January 2015 and it was attended by some 40 academic and academic support staff including WOU Board of Governors Chairman Tan Sri Emeritus Prof Gajaraj Dhanarajan, Vice Chancellor Prof Dato' Dr Ho Sinn Chye In the launch seminar the participants were briefed about the efforts made by WoU in developing and offering a MOOC on OER for the benefit of faculty members of various ODL and other educational institutions.

3.0 Launch of the MOOC (February to May 2015)

The revised modules were uploaded on the LMS (Wawasan4PACE), with activities and assignment to be carried out by the participants. Each module was of 3 week duration and the participants were expected to go through different sections of the modules and respond to the issues raised by the module facilitators. Each module was facilitated by an internal facilitator from WoU. The module presentation occurred from second week of Feb, 2015 up to the third week of May, 2015.

3.1 Participants

The participants from 8 countries enrolled (India, Namibia, Trinidad, Magnolia, Malaysia, South Africa, Philippines and Malawi) for the course. In all there were participants 66 (37 Female and 29 male).

3.2 Participation

Though 66 persons enrolled for the course, there was a gradual decrease in the rate of participation over 5 modules. The first module saw 58 participants, second with 18, third with 10, fourth with 7 and fifth with 3 participants. Most of the participants attempted activities

and participated in dialogue forum, however very have submitted assignments. Few participants requested for extension of time for going through the modules and submission of assignments. Appendix A shows some samples of works done by the learners.

3.3 Challenges and difficulties

It appears for most of the participants, the time has been the constraint as the whole course was about of 3 months. It also seems that getting the badges and certificate were never the criteria for enrolling the course but understanding the issues and concepts relating to OER was the focus. In view of the request from few participants the end date for the course is extended to 20th July, 2015

4.0   Support provided on various functions:

4.1 Marketing support:

The marketing and promotion of the MOOC was carried out by the MARCOM and WOU-PACE

4.2 Facilitation /Tutoring Support

A panel of facilitators who had undergone training in the facilitation workshop organise in October 2014 were available for providing online facilitation/tutoring support during the entire delivery of the MOOC.

4.3 Technical Support

All technical support for designing, developing and maintaining the LMS on a Moodle platform was provided by the IT Department of WOU. The day to day technical support for administering the course on a day to day basis was provided by the LMS administrator and support staff of the Educational Technology Unit.

4.4 Monitoring and Evaluation of the Programme

The development and delivery of the programme was managed by a course team based in the Centre for Professional Development and Continuing Education (WOU-PACE). The monitoring of the project was done through regular meetings and virtual interactions with Prof. B. Phalachandra as course coordinator. Regular online monitoring of the course was done for all the 5 modules with

module facilitators, course coordinators and the project leader observing the day to day operations and interactions among students

4.5 Administration and Finance Management Support

The Admin staff of the DVC's office and WOU-PACE provided all administrative and logistic support during the entire period of the project. WOU's Finance unit took care of the finance management of the project.

5.0 Course Team

The Wawasan team which planned and implemented the programme included:

Ms. Jasmine Selvarani Emmanuel. (Facilitator –Module 1)

Ms. Deehbanjli Lakshmayya (Facilitator –Module 2)

Dr. S. Vighnarajah (Facilitator –Module 3)

Dr. Ooi Chia-Yi (Facilitator –Module 4)

Mr. Prakash V. Arumugam (Facilitator –Module 5)

Ms.Marnisya Rahim (Technical support)

Ms.Kang Shing Lee (Admin Asst)
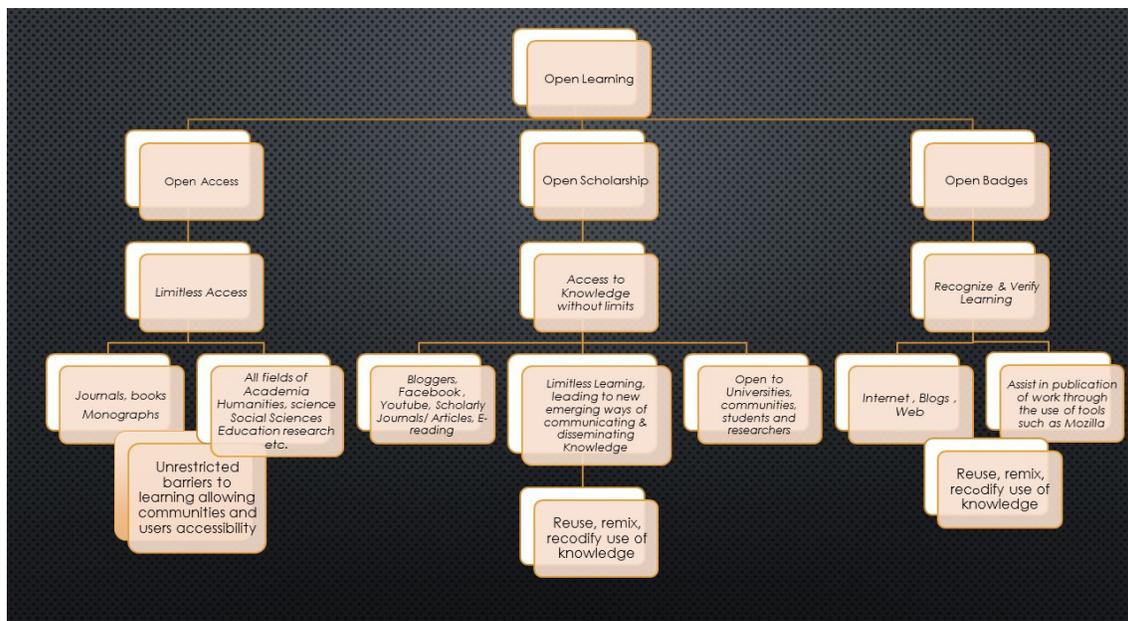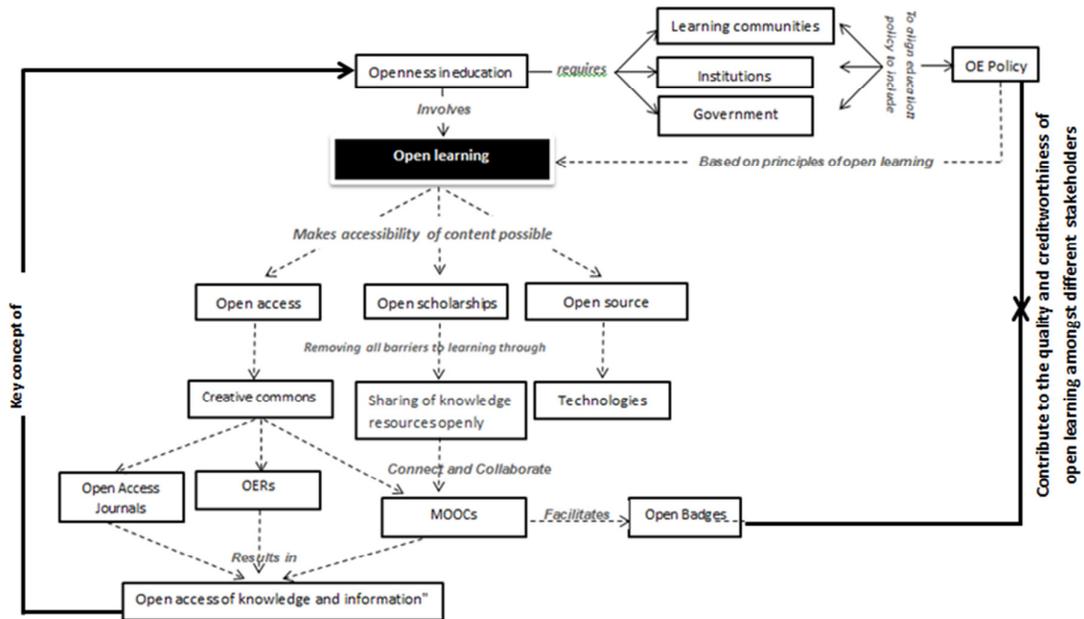
Prof. Mohandas B. Menon (Project Leader)).

Prof. Phalachandra Bhandigadi (course co-ordinator)

6.0   Sustainability and Concluding Remarks:

In order to sustain the outputs of the project as well as the capacity developed in the academic and support staff this project was embedded into the activities of the Centre for Professional Development and Continuing Education (WOU-PACE). Hence the MOOC developed under the project was offered as one of the pioneer MOOCs of the Centre. So, what is gained in the project will get sustained in the programme of WOU-PACE. The MOOC was offered free under the project and those who completed obtained badges and a Certificate of Completion from WOU-PACE. The Centre will continue to offer this course online with a modified business model. While free users will able to access the MOOC, paid learners will be eligible for assessment and certification. The feasibility and user friendliness of Moodle based MOOC platform is being evaluated. An improved version of the platform based on Moodle or any other suitable open source software will be developed for future use.

Samples of participation work

Concept Map of Openness in Education

Some of the comments/Observations from Participants

Hello everyone, I'm Jenny from Malaysia. I guess I'm the last person for self-introduction. I just registered to this course yesterday. It's great to see people from all over the world getting involved in this course. I'm excited for this course. **TAN JENNY**

This is Fauziyah Md Aris from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I am a Master of Instructional Design and Technology candidate from Open University Malaysia. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wawasan Open University team for developing and offering this Open Educational Resources in e-Learning to us. I am lifelong learner so please assist me to learn stuff about OER, Happy OERing guys :) **Fauziyah Md Aris**

I am Rajeev Rattan from northern part of India known as Jammu & Kashmir. Hope to come across your interventions during the course work...stay in touch! **Rajeev Rattan**

I have been struggling accessing this webpage over the last week. I am glad I can now access the webpage. As a student support services manager with a vision of introducing web based programmes I will be very much interested to learn how best we can assess online.

However, I have concerns on how best we can assess practical skills online. I am yet to learn from you and colleagues. I am currently working as a student support services manager at Mzuzu University in Malawi.

Greetings to you and fellow participants. **Robert Kalima**

I am from a small town Rehoboth, 98km south of Winhoek, the capital city of Namibia.

I have been in teaching for 24 years and am currently a Senior Education Officer in curriculum development, stationed at NIED (National Institute for Educational Development) in Okahandja, 66 km North of windhoek

I am looking forward to share this learning experience with you. **Charlotte Blom**

I 'm glad to eventually be on the platform again. We had many technical challenges to access the platform since Monday. I do hope we'll get extension on activities and assignments.

I'm an Instructional Designer who is looking for OER to incorporate into our eLearning course development. We are in the process of transforming into a University of Science and Technology. We hope in the near future to take the initiative of developing OERs and not just for inclusion into our course material. **Antoinette**

My interest in OER is really based on the nature of my work. I'm a programme developer for eLearning at the Namibian College of Open Learning (NAMCOL). In our material development for both print and eLearning we depend highly on the use of OERs.

I was first introduced to OERs formally in a project with COL sponsored by the Hewlett foundation, OER4Openschooling. We've published some of our JSC subjects as OERs for both print and online. Our institution since then really commits to the OER movement and had developed our institutional OER policy. Currenly I'm heading the development of OER

material for secondary schools on the Notesmaster Online platform. My knowledge therefore was gained mostly by reading online material available on OER and I'm looking forward to learn more from this course. **Wilhelmina Louw**

Basically, all these information and talk on OER is new to me. I am in-charge of a training institute in a church where we train volunteers interested in helping to serve others in various ways. I have lectured on Comparative Religions part-time at WOU, and it was Ms. Jasmine who encouraged me to participate in this course, My aim is to look into ways of providing online learning to our volunteers, especially the elderly, the busy mums, etc, who are unable to travel to our institute for one reason or another. I have already learnt so much from Module 1, which has opened my eyes and mind to a whole new way of thinking about, and doing education, and I look forward to starting Module 2.