WOU’s academic standing enhanced

WAWASAN Open University (WOU) has gained wider international recognition as a provider of quality higher education in the Asian region. At the 25th International Council on Open and Distance Education (ICDE) World Conference held from Oct 16 to 18 in Tianjin, China, the Board of Governors of WOU chairman Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Dr Dhanarajan was conferred the biennial ICDE Prize in Excellence for Lifelong Contribution in the field of Open Distance Learning (ODL). Over 700 participants from 40 countries attended the event.

A research paper submitted by WOU School of Science and Technology academics Karen Khor Ean Teng and Vincent Chung Sheng Hung won the Innovation and Best Practice Award. The winning paper titled “A Framework for the Development of OER-based Learning Materials in the ODL Environment” was evaluated under the theme of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Inter-cultural Aspects. This award was created by ICDE to stimulate innovation and best practice in open, distance, flexible, online and e-learning.

The paper will be published in the next issue of Open Praxis, a peer-reviewed, open access journal of ICDE.

“The ICDE award is considered prestigious and competitive by the researchers as the paper selection for this award went through three rounds of evaluation by a panel of reputable ODL practitioners and the winner was decided by the Editorial Board of Open Praxis,” said Khor.

WOU also made its presence notably visible at the 27th Annual Conference of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) in Islamabad, Pakistan, held from Oct 1 to 3. WOU vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Ho Sinn Chye is the current president of AAOU. Representatives from more than 60 institutions of higher learning in about 20 countries across Asia, the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, Canada and the Middle East attended the conference.

The highlight of the opening ceremony of this AAOU Conference was the conferment of the prestigious 2013 AAOU Meritorious Service Award for the most deserving ODL practitioner to former vice-chancellor of WOU, Emeritus Professor Datuk Dr Wong Tat Meng. Another paper from Khor also won the silver medal under the Young Innovator Award category.

The international recognition enhances the university’s leadership positions in the global arena and reaffirms the quality of WOU’s ODL programmes. To date, more than 13,000 working professionals have seized the learning opportunities offered by WOU. The ODL method allows learners to keep their jobs while they take up studies at WOU.

In today’s global and competitive marketplace, prospective students and graduates are assured that the international recognition accorded to WOU will increase their career prospects. Designated specifically for working professionals, WOU offers more than 40 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to those seeking remarkable self-enhancement and talent development for career growth.

Enrolment for the January 2014 intake is ongoing. To learn more about opportunities in higher education with WOU, log on to www.edu.my or call toll-free Careline at 1300 888 968 (WOU).

Visit the WOU Open Day at the main campus, regional centres and support centres nationwide on Nov 30 and Dec 1.