WOU gains wider international recognition

> Its vice chancellor appointed president of AAOU

WOUN open university (wou) is stamping its mark internationally as a provider of quality tertiary education—its leadership of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU).

The university’s standing as one of Asia’s leading institutions of Open Distance Learning (ODL) received a boost with the appointment of its vice chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Ho Sinn Chye, as president of the AAOU during the recently concluded 26th AAOU Annual Conference held in Japan.

The conference also witnessed its QA manager, Dr Andy Liew Teik Kooi, endorsed as secretary-general of the association.

The AAOU, formed in 1987, is the umbrella organisation for Open Universities in Asia and currently has a membership of 72 ODL institutions. The majority of members are from the Asian region while a few are from Europe. Among the members are at least 17 “mega” universities whose active student population exceeds 100,000—and three of these are known to have more than two million students each.

The appointment clearly points to the credibility and reputation of WOU. Another feather in the cap is the university grabbing the gold and silver medals in the Best Paper Award category at the conference. It was a huge accomplishment as it saw a total submission of 130 papers.

The university similarly triumphed at the previous AAOU Annual Conference by winning two top prizes for the award last year.

These achievements surely speak volumes of the growing recognition the university is gaining although it comparatively new and small.

To date, more than 11,000 working adults from diverse socio-economic backgrounds have taken advantage of the learning opportunities provided by the university.

The ODL mode of education allows learners to remain in their jobs while they take up studies there.

The university is certain that its high standing in the global arena will add to the recognition of its qualifications and its graduates among employers. Prospective students and graduates, the university adds, should be confident that the undergraduate and postgraduate degrees offered will enhance their professional credibility, leading to brighter career prospects. They can expect to be trained to remain current and relevant.

Members of the WOU Alumni Association are assured of the international recognition accorded to WOU to increase their competitiveness in the marketplace. Those keen to find out more about the university’s programmes can do so through the regular entry or through the university’s unique Open Entry Admission that takes their work experience into consideration if they are aged 21 years and above (with a minimum PMR/SPM/MCE/UEC/Diploma).

The Open Entry Admission has seen more than 5,100 working professionals enrolling with the university since 2007. Enrolment for the January 2013 intake is now open. Those keen can visit the university’s Open Day (main campus and regional centres nationwide) on Dec 15 and 16.