

BULLETIN

June 2014

Welcome, from guest editor Shane Moore

This month we are pleased to announce that the Open University of Sri Lanka has recently conferred on our President, Som Naidu, the degree of *D. Lit (Honoris Causa)* for his contributions to Distance Education, regionally and internationally. He travelled to Colombo to receive the degree, and gave a convocation address. The following is extracted from the conclusion:

The current model of campus-based and face-to-face educational practice is increasingly becoming unsustainable, and there are many reasons for this. Foremost among these are the pressures that are at the heart of its funding model and the increasing availability of information and communications technologies that are opening up educational opportunities. There are many more routes for accessing educational content today (see Gallagher, & Garrett, 2013).

As a response to this, it seems that after years of existing on the periphery and competing for parity, distance education methods are appealing to mainstream educational provision. Conventional campus-based educational organizations are adopting practices that were pioneered by distance education, not as a cheaper and poorer option, but as a sustainable and viable response to the pressures and demands facing the higher education sector.

You can read the complete address from the [ODLAA website](#).

The committee is continuing with its development of the strategic plan as reported in the previous bulletin. In particular, for the identified aspects of each of the identified focus areas of Membership, Continuing Professional Education, Partnerships, and Branding & Communication, we are outlining the rationales, identifying key short-term and medium-term targets and longer term aspirations, and deliverables.

If you have any suggestions or ideas you want the committee to consider as the draft strategic plan is developed, please send to our Executive Officer Joanne Scott at executive@odlaa.org

ODLAA Webinar in planning for July

We are currently drafting a webinar for late July on the topic of 'Open and Distance Education – meeting the Social Inclusion agenda?'

Three prospective presenters have different perspectives and experiences Australia-wide and overseas and we are hoping to engage them in interesting discussion. Watch out for more details to be distributed through the ODLAA-memb listserve.

EduTech conference

The EduTech conference is being held this week in Brisbane. ODLAA is sending committee member Barrie Toddhunter and he will be joined by another ODLAA member Corola Hobohm, [who may give us a report on key ideas from the conference](#).