



Allama Iqbal Open University

2015

INTERNATIONAL VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM
(2ND SESSION) SHANGHAI OPEN UNIVERSITY,
CHINA

Visit Report

(2nd November to 12th November)

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Introduction

About SOU

Shanghai Open University, formerly known as Shanghai TV University, founded in 1960. In June 2012, approved by the



Ministry of Education, Shanghai Television University was renamed as Shanghai Open University. Shanghai Open University is a university opens to the adults with distance open education supported by modern information technology. It is a modern open university not only provides academic education, but also provides vocational training as well as leisure and cultural education. It has more than 100 thousands actively enrolled students and more than 500 thousands non-degree students. It has around 41 branch schools throughout Shanghai and more than 4000 teachers. It offers more than 40 degree programs

Mission

“For all learners & all for the learners”

Motto

“Teaching without discrimination, learning with joy reaches afar”.



Guoshun Road Campus



Fuxin Road Campus



Zhongyuan Road campus

About IIE, SOU

Institute of International Exchange, Shanghai Open University is a specialized institute responsible for Sino-foreign cultural exchange established in 1993. It takes responsibilities of student recruitment, management and services for Sino-foreign joint programs, teaching Chinese as a foreign language, and importing and exporting quality teaching resources/courses for the Shanghai Open University.

To meet the needs of the international economic cooperation and cultural exchanges, the institute uses a variety of sources to carry out international cooperation actively. By building the excellent talents for the world and developing friendship among people, they strive to make new contributions, cooperation and exchanges every year.

Visiting Scholar Program

This program was offered to 10 scholars. It's a 2 week visiting scholar program to the member universities and institute of ACDE, AAOU and other universities and institutes in open and distance education. The main purpose of this program was to promote cooperation between open universities through academic exchange and to enhance the quality of teaching and research in the field of open and distance learning. A research proposal on **“A comparative study of student support services at AIOU and SOU”** was accepted through an academic evaluation process. Detailed research report will be submitted later to SOU. **(Annex-A)**

Visiting Scholars

Following list of scholars from different ODL institutes participated in this program. Their contact details are given for any future collaboration with them.

1. Dr. David James

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2. Peter Van Rosmalen

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4. **Dr. Quintas-Mendes**
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5. **Pauline Mary Sugranes**
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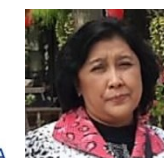
6. **Doreen Mwamlangala**
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Program Schedule

Day 1: Welcome Ceremony

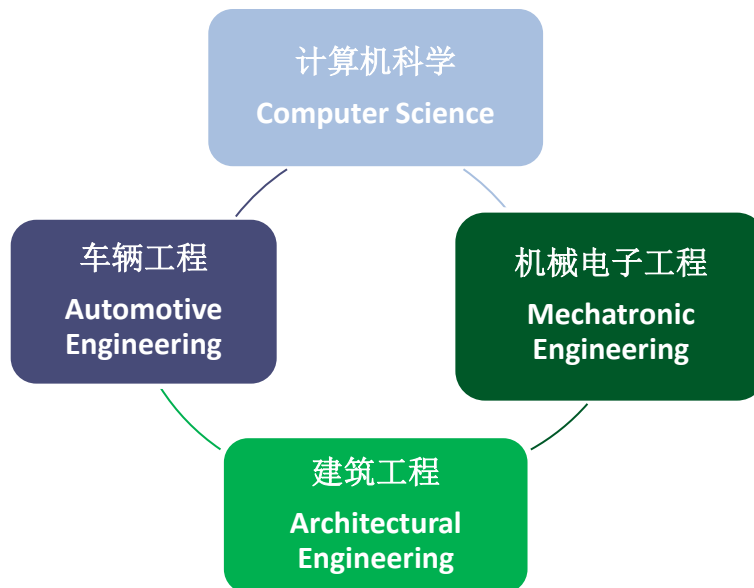
On Monday November 2, 2015, all the international scholars were warmly welcomed by Shanghai Open University, China. During ceremony, each scholar gave 10 minutes short introductory presentation about their country and university. Introductory presentation and welcome video of AIOU was shown to them and the welcome video prepared by IET, AIOU was well appreciated by all the scholars and SOU management. Later there was a meeting with SOU foreign expert Mr. ZHAO Xiaojun & Dr. David James from UK. After that all scholars met with R&D department of SOU.



Figure 1: Group Photo after Welcome Ceremony

Day 2: Meeting with SIE & Travelling

On Tuesday November 3, 2015, all the international scholars had a meeting with school of Information engineering wherein they presented about their department, programs and courses that they are offering and some research activities.



Research Interests

- Data Mining in Distance Learning
- Recommendation Technology
- Agent Technology
- Complex Network
- Sentiment Analysis
- Multimedia Technology



Figure 2: Meeting with SIE Department



Figure 3: Scholars with their country flags



Figure 4: Visit to the Bund & River Cruise

Day 3: International Conference

On Wednesday November 4, 2015, scholars visited Shanghai educational resource center and Library. Before conference scholars visited the digital lab of open learning. They are working on classroom learning space by involving 3D virtual reality, augmented reality, learning screen, interactive learning screen and spectra vision. They also demonstrated their research work on network-based learning space which involves game-based learning. They also presented their work on learning analytics which are used for improving instructional design.



Figure 5: Digital Lab for Open Learning



Figure 6: Live experience of interactive learning screens

On the afternoon of Nov.4th 2015, the International Conference with the theme “**The Capacity Building of Open Universities in the Globalization Era**” was successfully held at the main campus of SOU. The conference was co-organized by Shanghai Open University and UNESCO UNITWIN Network in Distance and Open Learning. More than 200 participants from 13 countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa attended the conference.



The conference focused on the exploration of educational reforms and the latest achievement in online distance education of SOU. Participants shared their prior experience and shared their views and thoughts about MOOCs, flipped classroom, building capacity of staff in research through open and distance education, learning support services, and management services, etc.

Lessons Learned:

- Implementation of MOOCs
- Smaller groups of students for collaboration of online students

Day 4: Meeting with Teaching Affairs & S&T Museum

On Thursday November 5th, 2015, scholars met with teaching affairs office to discuss challenges and practices of SOU in teaching affairs. To motivate teachers they conduct contest of innovation each year.



Figure 7: Meeting with Teaching Affairs office

After meeting, a visit to Shanghai Science and Technology Museum was arranged which was very helpful visit to learn about latest technological developments in China. Following were some unique technological systems

- Robots which can play many games with humans like puzzle, chess etc.
- Robot car mechanics
- Virtual dog training

Day 5: Visit to Qingpu Branch School

On Friday November 6th, 2015, scholars visited the branch school of SOU located at Qingpu district of Shanghai. SOU has around 41 branch schools in Shanghai district. For support services of students they are using multi-platforms as shown below:

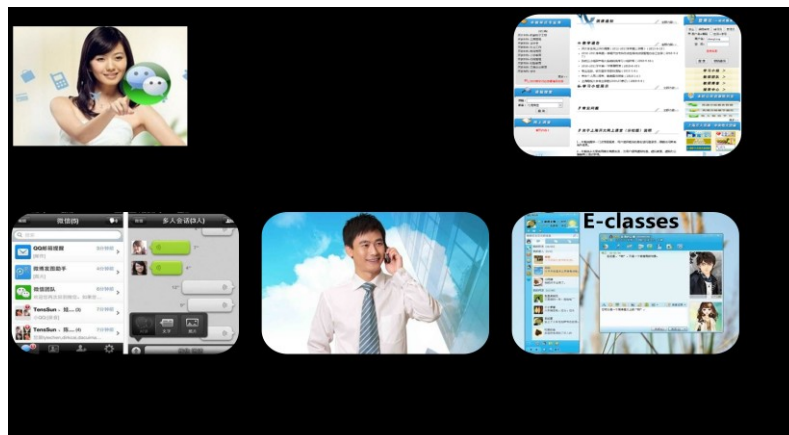




Figure 8: Providing door to door tutorial for some groups



Figure 9: Visit to Qinqpu Branch School

Day 6: Meeting with IT & Seminar on Students Success

On Monday November 9th, 2015, scholars met with team of Information & Network Management Center. The motto of this department was that IT empowers open education to take off. They explained their IT system structure and IT support services at SOU.



The IT divisions are working on different projects; some of key projects are as under:

- Design Ideas
- Curriculum Building Backup System
- Learning Support System
- Lifelong Learning Service System

SOU is not only working for SOU students but they are also working very actively in making Shanghai “The Learning City” the vision given by their central government. They have developed some online learning websites for all citizens.



After meeting with IT & Network Management Center, a seminar was held on “Student’s Success in ODL” which was chaired by Dr. David James, UK. Presentation was given to all scholars and SOU staff on Student’s success in ODL wherein student support services using ICT was presented. **(Annex – B)**

AIOU was well appreciated by all the scholars and SOU staff. Dr. David pointed out that number of complaints is very less as compare to total enrollments. This system needs to be implemented in all sections and departments so that it may reflect actual figures.



Figure 10: Kamran Mir presentation



Figure 11: Presenting AIOU Student Support System

Day 7: Meeting with SPA & Seminar on Online Teaching

On Tuesday November 10th, 2015, scholars met with team of school of Public Administration. They keep in touch with their students by getting feedback from their employers. According to their survey result, 16% student's salary was increased after studying from SOU and 10% were promoted in their jobs.



Figure 12:L Ms Pauline presenting on Teacher's Training

After meeting with School of Public Administration, a seminar was arranged which was chaired by Prof. Remond Emilie. Key points focused by Mrs. Pauline Ernest from Spain are given as below:

- Teacher's training is more important than student's training
- For online teaching, training for teachers MUST be online using same platform
- Timing is very important, it MUST be just before they start teaching
- Teacher's training should be rigorous not a formality
- Teacher's MUST give IMMEDIATE feedback/response to students on online platforms
- For audio activity of student, feedback should be in same audio format
- For video activity of student, feedback should be in same video format

Day 8: Seminar on Quality Assurance

On Wednesday November 11th, 2015, seminar on Quality Assurance was arranged. This seminar was chaired by Dr. Peter Rosmalen and presented by Dr. Daniel and Dr. Wai Wai. According to Dr. Daniel, standards are dynamic and quality is about continuous improvement to achieve the set standards at any one time. AIOU can collaborate with Zambian Open University to improve and work on Quality Assurance of both institutes.

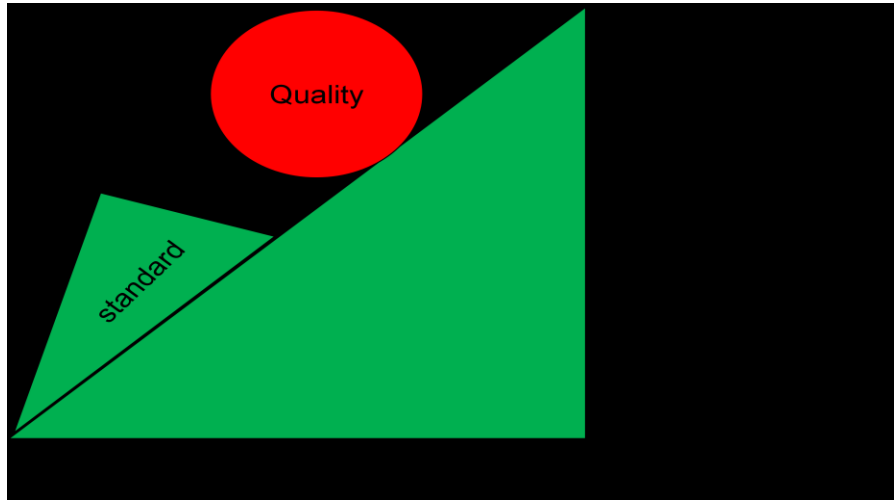


Figure 13: Presentations on Quality Assurance

Day 9: Meeting with College for Disabled People

On Thursday November 12th, 2015, scholars had a meeting with college for disabled people. Following points were observed:

- SOU don't have specially trained teachers for such community
- SOU don't have any special assessment center to evaluate the level of disability



Figure 14: Group photo with College for Disabled

On same day, there was one seminar at AIOU, Main campus on Remote Sensing and GIS. Staff from IT & Network Management participated in this seminar and a presentation was given to them by Kamran Mir, AIOU Pakistan. **(Annex-C)**

Conclusion

- It was very informative and collaborative visit as this was not only a collaboration between SOU and AIOU but a collaboration and sharing between 10 different ODL institutes
- The overall education system in China is very organized and well directed by Govt.
- AIOU can collaborate with SOU digital lab wherein they are conducting research on Instructional Design and other latest technologies in learning
- AIOU can also collaborate with SOU School for Disabled People for improving the learning and teaching methods for special students
- AIOU can also collaborate with Zambian Open University in developing MOOCs or MOODLE and with other universities as well who participated in this program.