

UMS implements globalised online learning

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has commenced the process of implementing globalised online learning by establishing a collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning (COL),

which is an international intergovernmental organisation that facilitates the implementation of technology-enabled learning across countries of the commonwealth.

Speaking at the closing event

of a global webinar on the Design and Development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) which was held recently and attended by 220 academic staff, the Vice Chancellor of UMS, Professor Datuk

Dr Taufiq Yap Yun Hin (pic) highlighted the readiness of UMS in implementing Technology Enabled Learning (TEL) at the University for the benefit of the students and to strengthen the capacity of UMS academicians through the collaboration with COL.

Professor Taufiq highlighted the importance of the Centre for E-learning, UMS, under the leadership of Professor Dr Fong Soon Fook, in delivering the agenda of TEL for the benefit of the students and academic staff by establishing and nurturing the long-term collaboration with international organisations and providing continuous capacity building for the academic staff.

He noted that TEL has gained traction globally with the current situation related to the Covid19 pandemic which has driven teaching and learning out of the classroom and onto the online environment.

"UMS had established a collaboration with COL in 2017 in keeping with the mission and vision of the university which focuses on becoming an innovative university of global standing.

"The collaboration with COL led to the development and implementation of the UMS Technology-Enabled Learning Policy which provides the foundation for the development of TEL-related human capacity and infrastructure across the university," he said.

Professor Taufiq extended his thanks to COL for its active engagement with UMS over the past three years leading to the current capacity-building workshop via a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled "Design And Development Of Massive Open Online Courses" which was conducted over a period of 12 weeks and attended by 220 academic staff.

He encouraged the lecturers to remain committed to their objective of designing, developing and deploying thirty MOOCs for launch in October 2020 which will be pertinent to the engagement and development of the intellectual capacities of the students during the current movement control order.

Meanwhile, Professor Taufiq also thanked Dr Sanjaya Mishra, COL's Education Specialist: eLearning, who was instrumental in conducting multiple webinars which delved into the process of designing and developing MOOCs in accordance with globally recognised ap-

proaches.

These included the taxonomy, instructional design and content development, all of which are essential to a MOOC with high impact across a global audience.

The other key resource persons from across the world included Dr Wayne Mackintosh from the OER Foundation of New Zealand who elaborated upon the technologies for delivering MOOCs and laid forth the path for academic staff with regard to technologies for MOOC development, and Professor Allision Littlejohn from the prestigious University College London, United Kingdom who highlighted the imperative need for the Quality Assurance in MOOCs.

Dr Sheila Jagannathan from the Open Learning Campus of the World Bank Academy, which is committed to accelerating solutions through learning and provides a platform for online learning presented her real world experiences on MOOC design and delivery.

Learning Analytics which provides teachers with critical data related to the progress of students during the course of a MOOC was covered in detail by Professor Paul Prinsloo of the University of South Africa (UNISA), which became the first public university in the world to teach exclusively by means of distance education in 1946.

From halfway across the world in Canada, Athabasca University lecturer, Dr.

Nathaniel Ostashevski spoke about the experience of designing and delivering MOOCs. Professor of Instructional Systems Technology at Indiana University, Professor Curtis J Bonk, who is one of the most well versed and well known academicians in the world of Open Learning, enlightened the participants with his vast experience in research issues that has led to innovations in design practices which he has covered during the course of this online training.

Professor Taufiq stated that UMS has been privileged to host these outstanding academicians who are the drivers of 21st Century Education, in a world where the virtual barriers have ceased to exist even though the physical barriers may still be tangible in the form of the movement control order.

He concluded by thanking Professor Asha Singh Kanwar, President and Chief Executive Officer of the COL for choosing UMS to be the first university to host the global webinar on design and development of MOOC and also congratulated the academic staff for their commitment to the webinar in spite of all the challenges of working from home (WFH) and the festive season of Eid.

Professor Dr Rasid Mail, UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Internationalization), who was also present during the global webinar, thanked COL for its commitment to the development of TEL at UMS.

