

International Conference on  
**'Open and Distance (e-) Learning: Creating Spaces and Possibilities'**  
22-24 February 2012  
Century Park Hotel, Manila, Philippines

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### A. RATIONALE

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, open learning, distance education, and e-learning are inextricably linked. The philosophy of open learning, with its emphasis on learner control over the time, place and pace of study, has animated distance education since its emergence as a mode of educational provision. Distance education in turn has contributed much to making educational systems more open and flexible, through its adoption of various education technologies. Online distance education in particular, has proven to be a transformative influence, as it demonstrates how the use of information and communication technologies can re-shape the teaching and learning transaction.

Open, distance and e-learning (ODeL) has revolutionized the way we perceive universities and the role of education in development. It has contributed to the making of a borderless world driven by innovation and knowledge creation for policy development, advocacy, and community transformation and action.

This conference focuses on the convergence of philosophies, pedagogies and technologies in ODeL, the opportunities opened up by this convergence in education and beyond, as well as issues and challenges arising from the practice of ODeL in various contexts.

### B. CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

The conference aims to provide a forum for distance education and e-learning scholars, practitioners and policy makers to share and reflect on experiences, and collaboratively create and explore spaces and possibilities for open, distance and e-learning for development.

Interested participants are invited to submit abstracts and papers for presentation under the following sub-themes:

**Sub-theme #1 – *The State of the Art in ODeL*.** This sub-theme surveys the phases of development of ODeL around the globe, including ODeL models and their contributions to education and development. Specific topics under this sub-theme include:

- ODeL modalities (ODeL in higher and continuing education, transnational education, blended learning, open schooling, lifelong learning)
- Waves, generations and typologies of ODeL

- ODeL policy, implementation and regulation
- Impact on and contributions of ODeL to education and development

**Sub-theme #2 - Innovations and Best Practices in ODeL.** This sub-theme showcases innovations, tools and best practices in teaching and learning and in the management of ODeL. Specific topics include:

- Designs for learning
- Instructional models and frameworks
- Assessment modes
- ODeL tools and technologies
- Management models, cooperation and partnership

**Sub-theme #3 - Problems, Barriers, Reforms and Solutions.** This sub-theme focuses on issues and concerns in expanding the frontiers of ODeL, as well as initiatives to address these problems at the institutional, national, regional, and global contexts. Specific topics include:

- Nurturing the culture of lifelong learning
- Overcoming problems, barriers and challenges in ODeL
- Engendering ODeL
- ODeL reform planning and design
- ODeL organizational and management frameworks and approaches
- Quality assurance

**Sub-theme #4 - Future Directions, Spaces and Possibilities in ODeL.** This sub-theme considers scenarios and prospective futures for ODeL theory and practice. Specific topics include:

- Mobile learning
- Open educational resources
- Social software for education
- Game-based learning
- Bridging (first, second and counting) digital divides
- Knowledge co-creation and sharing
- Research and development

## C. KEY DATES

Deadline for Abstracts	15 October 2011
Notification of Acceptance	31 October 2011
Deadline for Full Paper	15 December 2011
Deadline for Pre-Conference Registration	16 January 2012
Early Bird Registration Deadline	16 January 2012
Deadline for Conference Registration	16 February 2012