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BLENDED LEARNING COURSES FOR TEACHER EDUCATORS IN ASIA AND EUROPE (BLTeae)

– First Face-to Face Training Course
in Dhaka, Bangladesh
22 – 26 January 2018

By: Associate Professor Dr. Margaret Chan Kit Yok

A training course for teachers and teacher educators in Dhaka, Bangladesh was organised from 22 to 26 January 2018 by the BLTeae project team under the EACEA-ERAMUS+ project KA2 programme – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education (No: 574130-EPP-1-2016-1-FR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP). The consortium is made up of four institutions in Europe namely Aix-Marseille University in France, Aalborg University (AAU) in Denmark, Tallinn University (TLU) in Estonia and Audiovisual Technologies, Informatics and Telecommunications (ATIT) in Belgium together with seven institutions in Asia namely Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) in Bhutan, *Universiti Teknologi MARA* (UiTM) and *Institut Pendidikan Guru, Kampus Batu Lintang* (IPGKBL) in Malaysia, University of Dhaka (DU) and Bangladesh Open University (BOU) in Bangladesh, National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and International Islamic University (IIU) in Pakistan.

Since the launch of the project in June 2016, 20 online modules have been prepared for Educators' Professional Development (EPD) and a transnational collaborative community of reflection on teachers' practices. A module "Social Media in Teaching" was developed jointly by *Universiti Teknologi MARA* (UiTM) and *Institut Pendidikan Guru, Kampus Batu Lintang* (IPGKBL). This module consists of four submodules that include Teaching with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest for teaching different subjects. Thus, the educators will know how to use the four submodules to collaborate, communicate and build a network in areas of their teaching subjects among groups of all sizes. In addition, they will be able to extend the classroom at course level to build activities to augment face-to-face interaction and help to manage students' time. They will also know how to use social media tools in teaching to support induction, assessment, feedback, time management and research management of the students' assignment by sharing references, links and resources and conducting class discussions via discussion fora.

Group photo of the partners and participants of the First Face-to Face Training Course of the BLTeae Project in Dhaka, Bangladesh



Introductory session with the panel of national coordinators

Associate Professor Dr. Margaret Chan Kit Yok, (the National Coordinator of the BLTeae Project), Associate Professor Dr. Ling Siew Eng, Professor Dr. Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain (the Pro Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University), Madam Ling Siew Ching and Miss Adeline Engkamat



This four-day training course was hosted by the BLTeae partners from the University of Dhaka and the Bangladesh Open University led by Professor Dr Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, the Pro Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University. The aim of this face-to-face training course was to support and consolidate the online training provided for the learning environments, blended learning pedagogies and innovative didactical models or practices. The opening ceremony was graced by Professor Dr Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain, the Pro Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University followed by an introductory session with the national coordinators of different countries as the panel. Over the next four days, there were presentations of the modules from different perspectives and modalities together with online presentation and active discussions by institutions which wrote the modules. The Malaysian team consisting of members from UiTM and IPGKBL presented the module on Social Media in Teaching in two sessions. The UiTM team consisting of Associate Professor Dr. Margaret Chan Kit Yok who is the National Coordinator of the BLTeae Project, Associate Professor Dr. Ling Siew Eng, Madam Ling Siew Ching and Miss Adeline Engkamat presented the submodules on Twitter and Pinterest on the second day of the course.

A shopping spree was also arranged in Aarong Departmental Store reputed as *All Bangladesh under One Roof*. This chain shop sells various items ranging from clothing items, shoes and sandals, traditional crafts, bedding items, fabrics to souvenirs presenting the core national culture and heritage of Bangladesh. Another place visited was Jamuna Future Park, Bangladesh's largest shopping and entertainment centre.

The most memorable event for the stay in Dhaka was the visit to the National Martyrs' Memorial, the national monument of Bangladesh, set up in memory of those who died in the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971, which brought independence and separated Bangladesh from Pakistan. The monument is in Savar, about 35 km north-west of the capital, Dhaka. According to the brochure description, the architecture is composed of seven pairs of triangular-shaped walls or prisms with each representing a significant chapter in the history of Bangladesh, namely the Language Movement in 1952, the Election of the United Front in 1954, the Constitution Movement in 1956, the Education Movement in 1962, 6-point Movement in 1966, the Mass Uprising in 1969 and finally the climatic event of Liberation War in 1971, through which Bangladesh was liberated. Unfortunately, the visit was on the eve of the visit of the Indonesian President so sadly, we could only look at the monument from a distance.



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