ANNOUNCEMENT OF UDEEEWANA LAUNCHING

Dear Distance Educators,

UDEEEWANA as a new distance education association is Launched. A brief info is presented here UDEEEWANA.

UDEEEWANA - United Distance Education For Eastern Europe, Western Asia, Northern Africa- is suggested as a new association for the region covering Eastern Europe, Scandinavia, Baltic, Turkic Republics, Caucasians, Middle East, Arab Peninsula and North Africa which are included the countries such as Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Georgia, Jordan, Hungary, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Morocco, Northern Cyprus Turkish Republic, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Syria, Tatarstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and so on.

A Map of the UDEEEWANA Regional Countries
WHY IS UDEEEEWANA NEEDED?

It is mentioned in the book titled as “eLearning Practice..... 2010”, that eLearning offers many opportunities for individuals and institutions all over the discussion technologies such as mLearning, tLearning and uLearning. Multimedia on the internet, telecommunications, wireless applications, mobile devices, social network software, Web 2.0, Web 4.0, etc. are radically redefining the way people obtain information and the way to learn. Policymakers, international organizations, higher education institutions and researchers in the field of education agree that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have the potential to stimulate international collaboration, to create flexible learning paths and to open the borders of the university.

Western and Eastern Asian nations are increasingly embracing eLearning in education and training, both within their classrooms and in distance education. E-transformation has been much slower in the education systems of the Eastern Europe, Nordic, Turkic Republics, Middle East, Arab and North African countries.

It is therefore considered timely to conduct an inquiry into the ways and extent of eLearning in these countries, the factors driving and constraining such developments, and how progress might be further encouraged. Searching the literature, it is possible to find reports, accounts, research findings and conference presentations on eLearning in these countries but many of these are in languages other than English. English language developed in collaboration with colleagues in these various countries and so will be a first and of international significance. Many of the institutions in the countries to be reviewed also make extensive use of traditional teaching, methods and media, so for these countries it will not consider only eLearning and mLearning in isolation but in blended or mixed-mode learning, both in classroom environments and in distance education.

This project focuses on the distance education practices in Turkey, and will examine and discuss the role of leadership to be undertaken by Turkey in the region of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. It is a well-known fact that the international distance education organizations are not well organized and functional in this region. And up to now no institutions have been organized in the countries in the region of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. To fill this gap, Turkey might adopt a leadership role in the distance education field in the region and can organize the practices of the regional countries in academy and practice. Based on this argument, the structure and regulation of the potential organization will be discussed. Furthermore, the draft of the constitution of the recommended association will be presented, which will be redesigned in accordance with feedback from the other shareholders. Thanks to this council, more than 50 countries will have the chance to introduce their distance education practices to the world.

These countries can use UDEEEEWANA to discuss practical and scientific issues via conferences or journals, and they can even establish sub-distance education associations in their region or in their countries. Some of these countries are
Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Georgia, Jordan, Hungary, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Morocco, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan.

Your opinions, comments, suggestions, and recommendations are very welcome. UDEEEWANA can grow only with your invaluable support and critique.

Announcer Prof. Dr. Ugur DEMIRAY,
Founder President of UDEEEWANA

Ugur DEMIRAY is teaching at the School of Communication Sciences of Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey. His research deals with distance education practices of Anadolu University, Ministry of Education and by other universities in Turkey. His research also focuses on distance education students’ communicational gaps with their institution, the profile of distance education students, and the relationship of graduates with the job market in Turkey. He is also interested in improving the ethical behaviors around the world especially by using distance education applications and eLearning. In addition, his studies also focus on scholarly online journalism, especially on DE. He has an extensive experience publishing internationally in peer-reviewed e-journals on distance education under the patronage of Anadolu University for 15 years, named TOJDE-Turkish Online Journal for Distance Education. He is also an editor, consultant editor, and reviewer for more than 15 international journals which deal with distance education and educational technology. In addition, he has responsibilities on advisory boards and is a referee for conferences, symposiums, and panels. He has co-authored and individually contributed chapters in some Turkish and international books. He has also authored many books on distance education and has published a lot of articles in national and international journals. He is now the Editor-in-Chief of GLOKALde, the official eJournal of UDEEEWANA association.

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ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY
WELCOMES THE EIGHTH PRESIDENT

Dr. NEIL FASSINA

http://president.athabascau.ca/biography/index.php

The Board of Governors of Athabasca University introduced Dr. Neil Fassina as its eighth President on Wednesday August 17, 2016. An outstanding leader, academic and researcher in the field of human resources, Dr. Fassina will lead Athabasca University as it develops and implements sustainable solutions to its financial challenges and modernizes its work to serve students in an increasingly digital world. Dr. Fassina will take office on October 11, 2016 for a five-year term. The Board of Governors made the announcement from the Governing Council Chambers on the University’s home campus in Athabasca before a gathering of faculty, staff, students, joined by Alberta’s Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt and local dignitaries. “We could not have found a better candidate to lead this great institution at this time,” stated Margaret Mrazek, Interim Chair, Board of Governors. “The Board of Governors is unanimous in its endorsement of his presidency.”

Dr. Fassina’s focus on the student, and commitment to consultation and transparency while implementing institutional transformation as an executive member stood out in a very competitive field of international applicants. His listening skills and values – honesty, integrity and transparency, respect and trust – set him apart.” added Mrazek. "Neil has tremendous depth and insight in bringing together people and leading change.”

"This is a tremendous institution with a history of seeing beyond the immediate and reaching for the future,” said Dr. Fassina. “I am going to hit the ground listening and will be working with people from throughout the organization and government to address the pressures and challenges facing us.”
“I have great confidence, however, that the tools and ability to create stability and sustainability at Athabasca are within our institution’s DNA,” he added. Dr. Fassina was a tenured associate professor with the I. H. Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba following a position as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Calgary. He holds a PhD in Organizational Behaviour and Human Resource Management from the Rotman School of Business at the University of Toronto where he also instructed. He is a certified human resources professional (CHRP) and a designated director through the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD.D). At the announcement, Fassina made it clear that he intends to consult broadly and deeply within the Athabasca University and its stakeholders. “My commitment to everyone involved in Athabasca University and our community is this: Together, we will build on our strengths as a proud comprehensive academic research institution. I am confident that Athabasca University can emerge even stronger as a student-focused open university and global leader in online and distance education, research and technology.” Since 2013, Dr. Fassina has joined the University with a record of outstanding academic administration at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, where he has served as Provost and Vice President Academic. Prior to this, he was Dean of the JR Shaw School of Business and School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts and Department Head, Department of Business Administration at the I. H. Asper School of Business, University of Manitoba. He currently leads a research team awarded an Insight Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to study social exchange relationships in organizations and is a former recipient of the CMA award for excellence in research and teaching. He grew up in the province and completed his BSc in Psychology at the University of Calgary. Dr. Fassina understands Alberta’s post-secondary landscape and the opportunities for Athabasca University within Campus Alberta as the province’s open university and a global leader in online and distance education. Dr. Neil Fassina was appointed Provost and Vice-President Academic of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in 2013. Prior to assuming the role of Provost and Vice-President Academic, Neil served as Dean of the JR Shaw School of Business and the School of Hospitality and Culinary Arts at NAIT since 2011. Dr. Fassina holds a PhD in Management from the Rotman School of Business at the University of Toronto, a BSc in Psychology from the University of Calgary and is a certified human resources professional (CHRP). In his capacity as a post-
secondary administrator, he has and continues to serve on boards of directors in both the non-profit and private sectors.

As a post-secondary educator for 13 years, Dr. Fassina taught courses in effective negotiation strategies, strategic thinking and planning, leadership, conflict management and communications, among other human resource related topics to students in undergraduate and graduate forums. Previously, he provided consulting and coaching services in similar topic areas for private, public and non-profit organizations. Dr. Fassina’s research addresses questions related to applied decision-making, including negotiations and strategic thinking, as well as social exchange relationships and recruitment. As an active researcher, he continues to publish the findings of his applied research projects in academic and professional outlets. Dr. Fassina promotes NAIT’s competitive advantage of relevant and responsive programs and its four educational pillars: science, technology and the environment, health; trades and business. Located in the heart of Edmonton, one of Canada’s most entrepreneurial cities, NAIT is the third largest post-secondary institution in Alberta and one of the largest polytechnics in Canada.

In its pursuit to be the most relevant and responsive post-secondary institution in Canada and one of the world’s leading polytechnics, NAIT delivers innovative, hands-on, technology-based programs.

NAIT is recognized for producing graduates who are able to meet the current and emerging needs of the Alberta economy.

As a leader in applied research, NAIT continues to solve challenges identified by industry partners and seeks to enable strategic opportunities for businesses within Alberta and beyond.
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