

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada, has taken initiative under Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) to assist the educational institutions in the Commonwealth to systematically integrate information and communication technology for teaching and learning. A contribution agreement has been signed between COL and Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) for 5 years on January 16, 2019. COL agreed to provide a systematic approach to implement TEL through research, consultation, capacity building, monitoring, and evaluation to improve the quality of learning outcomes at AUST. AUST is the leading university in Bangladesh to start the implementation of TEL with the support of COL.

The COL TEL AUST project team had previously conducted baseline studies to identify the scope of improving the teaching and learning practices by integrating technologies. A two-day visionary workshop, named “Policy Development for Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) at AUST” was organized on 29 - 30 April 2019. The objectives of the workshop were to discuss the draft TEL policy and strategy for the adoption and implementation of TEL at AUST. In the process of this TEL implementation, another three-day capacity building workshop titled **“Designing and Developing Moodle-enabled Blended Learning Courses”** was organized at AUST to facilitate the systematic implementation of TEL. This workshop was arranged at BdREN Virtual Classroom of AUST with the collaboration of COL on 25 - 27 June 2019 to improve the quality of teaching and learning outcomes.



Group photograph of the guests & participants after workshop inaugural address

The inauguration of the workshop began with a welcome address and warm greetings by Prof. Dr. Kazi A Kalpoma, Point of Contact, COL TEL AUST Project, & Head, CSE, AUST. Later, she summarized the findings from previously conducted baseline studies to identify the scope of improving the teaching and learning practices by integrating technologies. She also mentioned the significance of Blended Learning (BL) courses with respect to this workshop and stated that *“Blended Learning (BL) is a style of education where students learn partly through traditional **face-to-face** classroom methods and partly through online using different digital technologies. In a blended-learning course, students attend a class taught by a teacher in a traditional classroom setting, while also independently completing online components of the course outside of the classroom. The online and in-person learning experiences would go in parallel and complement one another.”* Along with Blended Learning, She gave an overview of the Learning Management System (LMS) and AUST Moodle Server to enhance the overall learning process. Finally, She expressed her most sincere thanks to the Chief Guest honorable Prof. Dr. A.M.M. Safiullah, Vice-Chancellor, AUST, Special Guest honorable Pro Vice-Chancellor & Treasurer, Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam for coming to this program. She also exhibited her gratefulness to COL-Facilitator Dr. Indira Koneru, Head, Department of eLearning, IBS, India for accepting the invitation to conduct this workshop. She concluded her speech with a concise outline of all the activities that were planned to conduct throughout the three days of this workshop.



Welcome address by Prof. Dr. Kazi A Kalpoma

The Special Guest Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Treasurer, AUST was present and took the privilege to welcome to all the participants. He stated that the main goal of this workshop was to provide training for designing blended learning courses and to explore different functionalities of the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS). Then, he emphasized on the effectiveness of Open Educational Resources (OER) saying, *“This method of learning will enable both teachers and students to engage in ways that would not normally be available or effective in a traditional face-to-face classroom style. Moreover, the resources will be available for them to access anywhere and anytime.”* He expected the workshop to be fruitful and enjoyable for the participants.



Formal Opening by the Chief Guest Prof. Dr. A.M.M. Safiullah

The workshop was formally opened by the Chief Guest Prof. Dr. A.M.M. Safiullah, Vice-Chancellor, AUST, who thanked COL for the continued support and encouraged the participants to adopt technology in teaching and learning. Next, he guided participants to the prime concern of this workshop saying, *“The main focus is to redesign a number of existing face-to-face courses to a blended online version to enhance access and to provide learners with greater choice and flexibility.”* Furthermore, he added that *“This method of learning will enable both teachers and students to engage in ways that would not normally be available or effective in a traditional face-to-face classroom style. Moreover, the resources will be available for them to access anywhere and anytime.”*

COL-Facilitator Dr. Indira Koneru, Head, Department of eLearning, IBS, India was invited to conduct this workshop. Twenty three Blended Learning (BL) courses along with the instructors were selected from different departments of the university. BL courses aimed to improve student learning experiences and outcomes by providing them with flexible and interactive learning opportunities.

On the first day of this workshop, the participants learned about the functionality of this Moodle. They gained an understanding of the COL's blended course design components. In the afternoon session, they learned to create a course introduction video and to configure a Moodle mobile app.

The second day, the main emphasis was on OER, open educational resources sourcing, and a Creative Commons (CC) license. A CC license is used when an author wants to give other people the right to share, use, and build upon a work that the author has created. At the afternoon session, they created assessments, like assignments, quizzes, interactive video, etc.

On the last day, they learned how to share learning resources, communicate with students, track learning progress and manage Moodle grade book.

Overall, the three-day workshop helped participants to explore different functionalities of the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) and ways to engage students in technology-enabled learning. Moreover, It also assisted greatly in the preparation of twenty three blended course designs. This workshop will definitely improve the capacity within the university to integrate technology in classroom teaching and learning.



Welcome Speech by Special Guest Prof. Dr. Kazi Shariful Alam



