

A Report of the First FLAN OBL Sharing Session

The 1st FLAN OBL Sharing Seminar was held by the FLAN OBL team on the 22nd of September 2010. The two hour seminar (12:00pm to 2:00pm) attracted participants from FLAN and the OBL Unit. This report provides an overview of the seminar, the OBL thoughts derived from the discussion in the seminar, the feedback to the seminar from the participants, and the follow-up work to be done after the seminar.

1. Overview of the Seminar

The Seminar aims to provide a platform for tutors from both Chinese and English Departments to share their experiences and insights of OBL in piloting their courses in 2009-2010 with FLAN colleagues. 8 colleagues from FLAN were invited to share in the Seminar. They were Dr Cheung Sau Hung, Dr Ho Chi Hang, Dr Lee How Chung, Dr Leung Pui Wan Pamela and Dr Wong Leung Wo from the Chinese Department; while Dr Wendy Lam, Dr Wang Lixun and Dr Marc Xu were from the English Department. Learning Outcomes of and focus questions for discussion in the Seminar are as follows:

a. Learning Outcomes of the Seminar:

After the Sharing Seminar, the participants should be able to:

- LO₁** demonstrate a better understanding of the OBL approach and its implementation in FLAN;
- LO₂** adopt OBL approach in teaching with more confidence in the future.

b. Focus Questions for Discussion

- i. What is the most unforgettable experience gained from the OBL try-out that you want to share with colleagues?
- ii. Which of the following aspects in the OBL try-out do you encounter most difficult? How did you resolve the difficulty?
 - a. designing the Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)
 - b. planning the Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)
 - c. designing the Assessment Tasks (ATs)
 - d. designing the assessment criteria/rubrics
 - e. conducting the lesson in OBL approach
 - f. assessing the ATs
 - g. giving feedback to students
 - h. others
- iii. The OBL implementation and progress made in respective department

The total number of participants was 25. According to the survey collected at the end of the seminar, all participants (100%) indicated that the seminar was successful. The audience (100%) either strongly agreed or mostly agreed or agreed that they could achieve the learning outcomes of the seminar. The majority of audience (95%) agreed that the sharing of the colleagues helped them better understand the OBL.

2. OBL Thoughts derived from the Discussion

- a. No matter what approach we use in teaching, we need to provide better learning to students and so we have to do reflection regularly.
- b. OBL is like a loop – trial, reflection and revision are the elements in the process of designing our courses in OBL approach.
- c. In designing OBL courses, teachers need to build in the generic outcomes to the course content which are often overlooked in traditional courses.
- d. We have criterion-based assessment in OBL. Therefore teachers need to inform students of the assessment criteria.
- e. OBL emphasizes multiple assessment tasks which should be fair and flexible so as to cater for students with diverse backgrounds, needs and abilities.

3. Feedback from the Participants

a. Evaluation Form (see Appendix)

b. Evaluation Data Analysis

Out of 25 participants, we received 19 copies of evaluation form. Below is the evaluation data analysis. On the whole, the feedback from the participants was positive and encouraging as we can see that 100% of them agreed that they could achieve the Learning Outcomes of the Seminar, the sharing of the colleagues was impressive, the colleagues who shared understood OBL well, the Seminar was successful and FLAN could organize more seminars or workshops on OBL.

	Strongly Agree	Mostly Agree	Agree	Mostly disagree	Strongly disagree
1. I can achieve the Learning Outcomes of the Seminar.	32%	58%	10%		
2. The sharing of the colleagues is impressive.	63%	32%	5%		
3. The colleagues who share understand OBL well.	32%	63%	5%		
4. The sharing of the colleagues helps me better	37%	58%		5%	

understand the OBL approach.					
5. The sharing of the colleagues gives me insight in adopting OBL approach in teaching.	37%	53%	5%	5%	
6. The time duration (2 hours) of the Seminar is appropriate.	37%	42%	11%	10%	
7. The Seminar is successful.	50%	39%	11%		
8. FLAN should organize more seminars/workshops on OBL.	26%	63%	11%		

Apart from the above, **95%** of the participants agreed that the sharing of the colleagues helped them better understand the OBL approach and gave them insight in adopting OBL approach in teaching while **90%** of them thought the time duration of the Seminar was appropriate.

Eleven respondents felt interested in participating in future OBL seminars or workshops organized by FLAN because such activities were helpful, which might give them more insight about adopting OBL approach in teaching and inform them the OBL implementation in HKIED. While others thought that learning and sharing were both important and sharing could definitely make progress and improvement in teaching and at the same time they could learn from colleagues across departments. Finally, FLAN is a key faculty and the FLAN experience is important to the Institute's progress;

As for comments and suggestions, 2 respondents thought one and a half hours for the Seminar would be desirable. 1 colleague was worried that the foreign tutors might not fully understand the content as some colleagues used Cantonese when sharing and suggested grouping the foreign tutors together and assigning a RA to be their interpreter to help them understand the content. Furthermore, 2 respondents suggested the senior department managers, like the Head of Department, attend such activities

4. Follow-up Work

- a. An email showing our votes of thanks had been sent to all participants of the Seminar.
- b. The video clip, photos and handouts of the Seminar will be uploaded to the FLAN

OBL website.

- c. The highlights of the discussions will be transcribed into both languages and uploaded on the website.

Evaluation Form

(Please put a ✓ in the appropriate box)

	Strongly Agree	Mostly Agree	Agree	Mostly disagree	Strongly disagree
1. I can achieve the Learning Outcomes of the Seminar.					
2. The sharing of the colleagues is impressive.					
3. The colleagues who share understand OBL well.					
4. The sharing of the colleagues helps me better understand the OBL approach.					
5. The sharing of the colleagues gives me insight in adopting OBL approach in teaching.					
6. The time duration (2 hours) of the Seminar is appropriate.					
7. The Seminar is successful.					
8. FLAN should organize more seminars/workshops on OBL.					

9. If FLAN organizes seminars/workshops on OBL in the future, are you interested to participate? Why?

10. Other comments / suggestions
