

**Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)
Distance Learning and Internet Conference 2003
@ the National University of Singapore**

Conference website: <http://www.cit.nus.edu.sg/dli2003>



Presenter: Dr W. A. M. ALWIS

Biography

Mervyn Alwis, PhD, PEng, is the Director of Academic Affairs of the Republic Polytechnic, Singapore. He is presently leading the development of a problem-based learning framework at this latest polytechnic in Singapore which offers diploma programmes in applied sciences, technology and engineering. At the polytechnic he coordinates the academic programmes, educational methodology and academic staff training. Prior to taking up this assignment he was a member of academic staff of the Department of Civil Engineering of National University of Singapore for 20 years and of Monash University, Australia for 2 years. At the Faculty of Engineering at National University of Singapore he has served as the Director of the Computer Based Learning Centre, Coordinator of the Talent Development Programme, and Sub-Dean for Innovation and Junior Outreach. His professional interests cover, apart from the areas of his formal specialisation in engineering, a wide range including education, computing and innovation. His research publications have been mostly in the areas of elastoplastic analysis, long-term deformation of concrete and computer aided design. He has served as a consultant for the industry involved in heavy-duty trailers and cranes, shock isolation of equipment in protective structures and surge analysis of pumping mains. He has developed novel protective blast doors and holds Singapore and US patents for a passive blast attenuation configuration. On the education front, he has been active in several

major enrichment programmes for young students in Singapore. He has been a long standing member of the coordinating committee of the Science Research Programme for top junior college students. He originated the Innovation Programme that is now being annually offered to over 500 primary and secondary school students. He has been a member of the coordinating committee of the Singapore Science and Engineering Fair since its inception.