Completion Report
Project Supported by LTC/OBA Funding*

(Period covered: 1 April 2008 – 31 August 2010)

Part I: General Information

Funding Source (please tick ✓ as appropriate): ☐ LTC ✓ OBA Funding

Project Code:	2007-8/OBA/FENG	**Host Department:**	EIE

Project Title: Employer Survey on Student Learning Outcomes in Science, Engineering and Technology Disciplines

	Project Leader (Name & Dept):	Team Member(s) (Name & Dept):
Project Team:	Prof. Charles Surya, EIE	(1) Dr Lo Veng-cheong (AP) (2) Prof. George Baciu (COMP) (3) Dr Aron Kwok King-yu (CSE) (4) Dr Mark Ho Tin-kin (EE) (5) Dr Leung Chi-kin (EIE) (6) Ir. Prof. Daniel Chow H.K. (HTI) (7) Mr Steve Frankland (ISE) (8) Prof. Shi San-qiang (ME) (9) Mr K.K. Ng and Miss Kirsten Leung (SAO)

Part II: Project Details

1. Financial Information

(a) Overview

Approved Funding:		Additional Funding Received (if any):		Total Funding Received:
	+		=	

Source of Additional Funding:	- -

(b) Project Expenditure

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† Please give reasons for the revised budget and quote the relevant authority's approval reference where appropriate.

2. Project Schedule

	Start date (dd/mm/yyyy):	Completion date (dd/mm/yyyy):
Dates as Stated in Original Proposal:	01/04/2008	31/12/2009

	Start date (dd/mm/yyyy):	Completion date (dd/mm/yyyy):
Actual Start and Completion Dates:	01/09/2008	31/08/2010

	Total no. of extension(s) obtained :	Obtained during the project period:
Project Period Extension(s) (if any):	2	For a total of 8 months

Reason(s) for Extension(s) (if any):	The following difficulties have been encountered: (1) After submission of proposal in Jan 08, approval was obtained in June 08. The project was started late by 5 months, which had thus led to the late recruitment of project staff, including the project fellow, project manager, and project support staff; (2) More follow-up works were needed due to the poor response rate from employers.

* *LTC: Learning and Teaching Committee*
OBA Funding: Funding for Promoting Outcome-Based Approaches to Student Learning

3. Project Implementation

(a) Project objectives

This is a joint proposal between different departments offering programmes in engineering-related fields for the establishment of a joint surveying procedure with the employers on the expected outcomes for our graduates. This is an important step toward the establishment of the outcome based education in the engineering programmes. Through discussions with the different DLTC/FLTC chairs among the various Departments/ Faculties with engineering related programmes, it is decided that it would be most cost-effective if the different Departments/Faculties would collaborate together to achieve the stated goals above as there may be significant overlap among the potential employers.

To successfully implement outcome based education it is important to establish: i.) objective benchmarks for the outcomes of the programme; and ii.) a feedback mechanism whereby the outcomes will be re-evaluated regularly. These ensure that the programme will be regularly updated to meet the needs of the industry as well as our graduates. In this proposal we propose to conduct the following investigations:

    (i)   consolidate and identify similarities in the documented programme outcomes (generic and professional) of different engineering and engineering-related programmes;
    (ii) identify the actual outcomes of the engineering graduates;
    (iii) to establish the survey questionnaires;
    (iv) to conduct face to face interviews with employers on the desired outcomes for our graduates;
    (v) conduct industrial survey(s) to identify the expectations of employers/companies who employ our engineering graduates;
    (vi) find out whether the engineering graduates possess the outcomes that meet the expectations of the employers; and
    (vii) identify the mismatch amongst documented programme outcomes, actual graduate outcomes and employers' expectations.

(b) Overview of specific work undertaken for achieving the project objectives (including any changes to original proposal)

The following has been carried out:
    (i)   Review of programme documents about the intended learning outcomes
    (ii) Design of questionnaires and face-to-face interview protocol
    (iii) Conduction of questionnaire survey and face-to-face interviews
    (iv) Data analysis of questionnaires
    (v) Transcription of face-to-face interviews and data analysis
    (vi) Report writing
    (vii) Seminar organization with employers

(c) Difficulties encountered, if any, which have affected progress, and remedial actions taken

It is quite difficult for the employers to identify the programmes their employees have studied. Hence the survey results cannot be tracked down to the programme level. The findings of the study are only down to the Department level.

(d) Deliverables/useful findings/good practices emerged

The strength and weaknesses of the participating departments in achieving the learning outcomes have been identified. The logistics of carrying out such kind of study has been worked out and can be shared to other departments.

(e) Dissemination activities taken/planned to sustain impact

A seminar has been conducted to employers, in which results of findings have been disseminated.
A presentation has been given to the Faculty 4-year undergraduate curriculum workgroup.
There will be another presentation to be given to the university's OBE workgroup.

(f) Self-evaluation or additional information/remarks

The project has been implemented quite successfully.

Name of Project Leader: Prof. Charles Surya   Date: 10 September 2010

(in block letters)

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(a) Rating and comments/recommendations on the following areas of the project

(please put a ✓ in 1 of the following 2 ratings and provide comments)

Areas	Rating		Comments and Recommendations
	Satisfactory	*Needing attention*	
Overall financial management/ use of funding	✓		/
Overall project progress	✓		/
Outputs /deliverables / dissemination	✓		/
Overall rating / comments on the project (Please suggest remedial actions if the rating is 'Needing attention')			/ ✓

(b) Issues requiring the attention of FLTC/Director of School and/or the funding authority

Nil.

(c) Outputs/deliverables/good practices of the project that can be shared with other subjects, programmes or departments within the Faculty, or with the wider PolyU community

It is a very meaningful project which lets us have a better picture of the quality of our graduates from the perspective of employers. Not only the survey results, the logistics of carrying out the study are also useful information that can be shared to other departments. We believe employer survey will be done more frequently in the future with the general implementation of OBE in the University.

(d) Additional comments/remarks

Nil.

Name of D/SLTC Chair

(or HoD/Director of School): Dr Daniel Lun   Date: 14 September 2010

(in block letters)

^ *To be prepared by HoD/Director of School if the PL is also the D/SLTC Chair, or if the Centre/Unit/Office does not have a DLTC.*

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(a) Overall rating on the project (please put a ✓ in 1 of the following 2 ratings):

☑ Satisfactory

☐ Needing attention

(b) Overall comments and recommendations on the project:

The data collected and analyzed from this project is very useful to the respective Departments in the FENG. Although the findings are at a departmental level, they are still useful for each Department in terms of creating a holistic view of the employers for its students. Although it is difficult to make the survey specific to programmes, the project team is still encouraged to think about a way to achieve this.

(c) Issues requiring the attention of the funding authority:

This project is very useful to all the Departments in the Faculty. It may be necessary for this kind of project to be conducted once again in two to four years.

Name of FLTC Chair/
Director of School: _____Dr Kenneth Lam_____   Date: ____15 September 2010____
(in block letters)

\# *The Director of School or HoD of the Centre/Unit/Office needs not fill this part if he/she has already commented in Part III.*

Part V: Response & Follow-up Plan by Project Leader

(Response and follow-up plan is required from the Project Leader if there is any area rated as 'needing attention' in Part III and/or IV.)
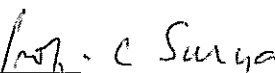
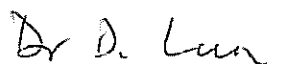Name of Project Leader: _____   Date: _____
(in block letters)

Signature of Project Leader	Signature of D/SLTC (or HoD)@	Signature of FLTC/ Director of School
(Name in block letters)	(Name in block letters)	(Name in block letters)

@ *To be signed by HoD if the PL is also the DLTC Chair, or if the Centre/Unit/Office does not have a DLTC; leave this blank if the PL is also the SLTC Chair.*

The Project Leader and D/SLTC Secretary should each keep a copy of this *Completion Report* for records.
A copy of this *Completion Report* will be submitted along with the *F/SLTC Annual Report (Form 20)* to LTC/WGOBE as a supporting document.