



IIOE Egypt National Centre Launch Ceremony

Concept Note & Agenda

11 May 2022



Background

The COVID-19 pandemic, technological revolution and evolving labour market needs have exposed the urgency of transforming higher education systems. In particular, digital transformation is key for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to adapt to the changing environment and developmental needs. However, due to the "digital divide" and other deeply entrenched inequalities, digital transformation can be challenging for the global south, especially Africa.

In response to this, the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) was launched by UNESCO-ICHEI together with African and Asian HEIs and private sector partners in December 2019, endorsed by UNESCO. Since its establishment, IIOE provided a multilingual online education platform, teacher capacity building programmes in Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, online and blended pedagogy, and STEM online courses. It also developed the IIOE Quality Assurance Framework and Toolkit for Online and Blended Teaching and Learning, as well as the IIOE Competency Framework for the Higher Education Workforce. Since its launch, IIOE has benefited over 9,000 teachers in 135 countries worldwide.

Under the guidance of UNESCO's Priority Africa Strategy, the "IIOE National Centre" initiative was initiated by UNESCO-ICHEI in order to better serve the needs of HEIs in developing countries in terms of digital transformation. IIOE National Centre will serve as national/regional hubs for higher education digital transformation through research, capacity building, online course construction and sharing, technical support and networking.

As the IIOE founding member and the First IIOE Rotating Presidency Unit, Ain Shams University (ASU) and UNESCO-ICHEI have had substantial cooperation in ICT capacity building, digital infrastructure, academic exchange, and joint research since 2017. Based on multi-stakeholder consultations with UNESCO, ministries and partner HEIs, Ain Shams University will host the IIOE Egypt National Centre. The establishment of the IIOE Egypt National Centre will serve to empower the country's higher education through digital transformation, in alignment with the nation's development strategies, for a more sustainable, inclusive and equitable future.

To this effect, UNESCO-ICHEI is jointly organising the IIOE Egypt National Centre Launch Ceremony with the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Supreme Council of Universities, UNESCO Priority Africa and External Relations Sector, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States (Beirut), and Ain Shams University.

When and Where

Time: 11 May 2022, 10:00 - 11:30 (Cairo Time) 16:00 - 17:30 (Beijing Time)

Location: Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt and Online via ZOOM

ZOOM Registration:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oYsrPj-BQjCc5vS7opmoRw

Objectives

1. Officially launch the IIOE Egypt National Centre
2. Identify operational modalities and work plan of the IIOE Egypt National Centre for 2022
3. Establish a platform of dialogue and mutual benefits among HEIs and HE organisations in Egypt.

Participants

- Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Egyptian Supreme Council of Universities
- Higher Education Institutions in Egypt
- UNESCO senior officials
- Relevant international/regional/national organisations
- IIOE Egypt National Centre partner HEIs; Universities of Alexandria, Benha, Galala, Menoufia

Agenda

Time	Section
8 mins	Opening • Video presentation of IIOE
15 mins	Opening remarks • Prof. Mahmoud El-Meteini, President, Ain Shams University • Prof. Hesham Farouk, Assistant to Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research for Digital Transformation • Prof. Mohamed Lotayef, Executive Secretary of Egyptian Supreme Council of Universities • Mr. QIN Changwei, Secretary General, National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO
20 mins	Policies and initiatives driving and supporting higher education digital transformation in Arab States • Representative of UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States - Cluster Office for Egypt and Sudan (Cairo) (TBC) Digital Transformation of Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities • Prof. Abdel Fattah Mohamed Fathy Saoud, Vice President for Education and Students' Affairs, Ain Shams University
20 mins	Presentation of the IIOE Egypt National Centre implementation framework and work plan • Ms. Xiaohan BI, Assistant Director and Chief of Africa and West Asia Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI • Prof. Mona Abdel-Aal Elzahry, Executive Director of Education Strategy Administration, Ain Shams University
15 mins	Future expectations of partner Egyptian universities • Prof. Abdelaziz Konsowa, President of Alexandria University • Prof. Gamal Abdel-Raheem Mohamed Sosa, president of Benha University • Prof. Nancy Yosif Assad, Vice President for Education and Students' Affairs, Menoufia University • Prof. Mohamed Elsayed Elshenawy, Acting President of Galala University
5 mins	Closing • Prof. LI Ming, Director, UNESCO-ICHEI

