



IIOE Pilot Project in Mongolia

Blended Learning Capacity Building for STEM Teachers

22 September 2022

*The Launch Meeting of IIOE Pilot Project (Mongolia) is organized by **International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI)** in collaboration with **Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST)**, as IIOE National Centre, Mongolia.*

Meeting Arrangements

Date and Time: Thursday, 22 September 2022, 15:00-16:20 (UTC+8)

Format: Zoom webinar. Prior registration is required ([Link](#))

Target Audience: Higher education stakeholders in Mongolia and beyond

Language: English, Mongolian, Chinese, with simultaneous interpretation

About the Pilot Project

While attaching great importance to STEM education, Mongolia emphasizes the need to disseminate flexible, blended learning pathways using open education and digital learning technology, with an ultimate goal of supporting talent cultivation in the country. However, Mongolian higher education institutions face significant challenges in effectively conducting online and blended learning, due to the following factors: lack of benchmarks and guidelines on blended learning; lack of systematic training on blended learning, especially pedagogy; lack of effective support for teachers in content development; lack of exemplary blended learning courses as references, especially course evaluation; and etc.

In an attempt to meet the actual needs of front-line teachers engaged in blended learning, with the support of UNESCO-ICHEI, Mongolian University of Science and Technology (MUST), a founding

member of the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) and the host university of the IIOE National Center in Mongolia, is launching an IIOE pilot project "Blended Learning Capacity Building for STEM teachers in Mongolia", focusing on capacity building for university teachers. Particularly, the pilot will try to devise the following solutions:

- Supporting Mongolian HEIs to develop and adopt benchmarks and guidelines to encourage blended learning.
- Conducting systematic teacher trainings on blended learning and developing exemplary courses in STEM, serving as training resources for national Teacher Professional Development (TPD) programmes.
- Facilitating a community for teachers engaged in blended learning.
- Developing a blended learning assessment tool and formulating guidelines for blended learning course development.

With support from a team of internationally and domestically renowned experts, and under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia, MUST, as the national thinktank and hub of capacity building for HEIs in Mongolia, will be the main implementer of this IIOE project, while UNESCO-ICHEI offers seed funding as well as technical support to the project. The key participants of this pilot will be administrators and academic faculty of MUST and other state-owned HEIs in Mongolia.

Event Goal

Held in a hybrid format at UNESCO-ICHEI and MUST, this event marks the official launch of pilot project accompanied by the witness of various stakeholders. It also showcases endorsement and expectations from experts around the globe.



Agenda

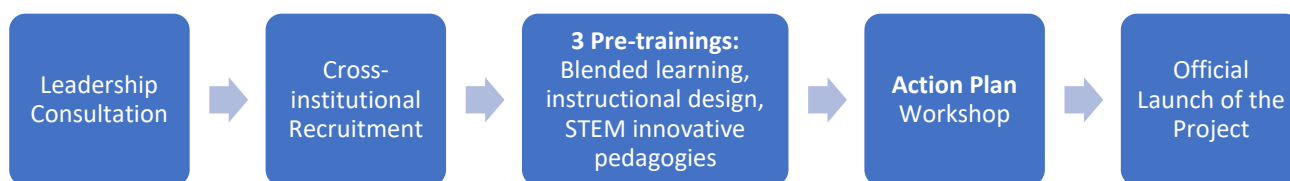
Notice: *CN/MN means the speaker will speak in Chinese/Mongolian, please switch to interpretation service.

I. Opening Session	
Chair: Ms. HAN Wei , Professor, Executive Deputy Director, UNESCO-ICHEI.	
15:00-15:15	Opening Remarks • Ms. Urangaa Erdenee, Program Specialist for Education, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, Mongolia. • Ms. Oyunbileg Oirov ^{*MN}, Expert of the Department of Policy and Management on Higher and Vocational Education, Ministry of Education and Science, Mongolia. • Mr. Namnan Tumurpurev ^{*MN}, Professor, President of Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Mongolia.
15:15-15:20	Group Photo

II. Introducing the IIOE Pilot Project	
Chair: Mr. Uuganbayar Tumurkhuu , Professor, Director of the Office of International Affairs and Cooperation, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Mongolia.	
15:20-15:35	Why? Rationale of the IIOE Pilot Project Mr. FENG Siyuan, Ph.D., Chief, Knowledge Production and Communications Centre, UNESCO-ICHEI. What? Framework of the IIOE Pilot Project Mr. LYU Feng, Assistant Director & Chief, IIOE Management Centre, UNESCO-ICHEI.
III. From Plans to Actions	
Chair: Ms. Tatiana Shutova , Programme Specialist, Unit of Teacher Professional Development and Networking, UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education.	
15:35-15:45	How? IIOE Pilot Project in Mongolia - Capacity building of blended learning for STEM teachers Mr. Ganbat Danaa, Professor, Director of Open Education Center at Mongolian University of Science and Technology; Coordinator of IIOE National Centre, Mongolia.
15:45-16:00	Teachers' perspective from the State-owned universities in Mongolia Mr. Tserenchimed Purevsuren, Ph.D., Senior Specialist at Open Education Center, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Mongolia. Ms. Chantsaldulam Ravdansuren, Professor, Mongolian University of Life Sciences Mr. Choijamts Yadmaa, Advisor of President, Mongolian National Defense University Ms. Munkhtuya Lkhagvasuren, Head, Distance Learning of Mongolian State University of Education Mr. Tsooj Shambaldorj, Head of Department of Mechanical Science, Mongolian University of Science and Technology Ms. Gandolgor Adiya, Lecturer of Mongolian University of Science and Technology
16:00-16:10	Endorsement and Expectations from International Experts Mr. Shahbaz Khan, Professor, Director, UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office. Mr. Charles R. Graham, Professor of Instructional Psychology and Technology at Brigham Young University, USA. Mr. Waqar Mahmood, Professor, Director of Al-Khwarizmi Institute of Computer Science (KICS), University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan; Coordinator of IIOE National Centre, Pakistan.
IV. Concluding Session	
Chair: Mr. LIM Cher Ping , Chair Professor and Associate Dean (International Engagement), Faculty of Education and Human Development, Education University of Hong Kong, China; Chief Expert of IIOE, UNESCO-ICHEI.	
16:10-16:15	Pilot Project Agreement Signing Ceremony
16:15-16:20	Closing Remarks Mr. LI Ming^{*CN}, Professor, Director, UNESCO-ICHEI.

*Master of Ceremony: Mr. Mingshun Xu, Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI.

Before the official launch ceremony, MUST and UNESCO-ICHEI have scheduled several project pre-activities to enhance the understanding of higher education stakeholders in Mongolia on the content and themes of the project, and to formulate a practical project action plan. Firstly, a leadership consultation helped the project management team and expert trainers of pre-training sessions gain a better understanding of the local context and needs of teachers in relation to blended learning. Next, 3 pre-training sessions on topic of blended learning and STEM innovative pedagogies enabled participating teachers to get motivated. Finally, an action plan workshop was conducted by the Open Education Center at MUST, with active participation of representatives from other state-owned HEIs in Mongolia, and a cross-institutional management team was set up.



Key Findings of leadership consultation

- The pilot project coincides with Mongolia's long-term development policy **Vision-2050** and the **Digital Nation** initiative.
- Mongolia has some experience in MOOCs, while challenges such as lack of interaction are also identified. Hence, to further increase the learning experience and mainstream the technologies application in higher education, blended learning will be a promising solution for Mongolia.
- Supportive policies of institutional leadership and the training of master teachers for institutional digital transformation are significantly important for Mongolia. Mongolian leadership needs to understand correctly and provide the appropriate support to disseminate and make this initiative more efficient for the entire higher education sector.
- How to motivate more teachers other than the participating master teachers to engage in this capacity building is still a big challenge. To address this issue, institutional support and incentives systems are essential.
- State-owned universities in Mongolia have established a joint empowerment board, which will facilitate the promotion of the blended learning project at national level.
- The joint efforts based on the innovative partnership between MUST and UNESCO-ICHEI will sustain the digital transformation of higher education in Mongolia.



Pre-activities before the launch

The three pre-trainings titled **Introduction to Blended Course Design and Facilitation Skills**, **Current status of Blended Learning in Mongolian HEIs and future challenges**, and **STEM innovative pedagogies** were conducted by Prof. Charles R. Graham, Brigham Young University, the U.S., Dr. Ariunbolor Davaa, Head of Teaching and Learning Lab, OEC at MUST, and Dr. Chika Nweke, Lecturer in Biochemical Engineering at University College London, UK. Besides, MUST and other universities in Mongolia set up a local project management team of the project to finalize the action plan, including choosing suitable STEM courses, and adopting an incentive system for the participating teachers, etc.