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International Higher Education Digital Transformation Conference

Concept Note

International Centre for Higher Education
Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO

February 28, 2023
Shenzhen, China



Background

In 2022, "Transforming Education" as a critical global agenda reiterates the need to address the intensified challenges higher education encounters and calls for prompt action on digital learning and transformation. To respond to the learning crisis and continuously catalyze the digital transformation of higher education, mobilizing quality online learning and blended learning has been a consensus globally. Along the line, UNESCO initiated a new social contract reimagining education for the future that includes action tracks on building more open and connected higher education institutions. Creating quality open educational resources, and promoting knowledge sharing in teacher professional development continue to facilitate this process as key scaffolds.

The International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI), closely aligns its mission with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which focuses on the digital transformation of higher education in developing countries, and further expand opportunities for lifelong learning and quality and equitable education through building the capacity of university teachers for the digital future. In 2019, with the support of the Tencent Charity Foundation, UNESCO-ICHEI joined hands with 11 partner universities, 8 international education technology enterprises, and 4 Chinese universities to form the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE), a collaborative network of higher education stakeholders. On the premise of co-construction and sharing, IIOE made progress in curating professional development resources, empowering infrastructure upgrades in partner institutions, promoting the quality assurance frameworks, and improvement of digital teaching and learning in higher education. Through a series of measures such as joint research, regional studies, and pilot projects, and relying on the IIOE National Center mechanism, localisation practice and implementation of the digital teaching improvement plan, UNESCO-ICHEI and partner networks have formulated a series of shareable practical results around the digital transformation of higher education.

The pandemic era made a push on higher education institutions to make active responses and progress in digital transformation at various levels. Meanwhile, IIOE has also thrived through continuous transformation and innovation. In this context,

UNESCO-ICHEI sincerely extends the invitation to IIOE National Centres and global partners to share and consolidate best practices, discuss the trends and insights in transforming higher education, and jointly envision the way forward of higher education digital transformation.

Conference Theme

The **International Higher Education Digital Transformation Conference** will invite partners and stakeholders from higher education institutions, colleagues from UNESCO and international organisations to:

- Share knowledge and consolidate recommendations from the "Empowering Teacher's Digital Teaching and Learning Pilot Projects"
- Map the status and identify challenges of the higher education transformation in partner institutions and their regions
- Gather research-based insights that feed into reforming the future-facing education

Conference Objectives

- Introduction of the joint-research projects that aims to facilitate knowledge sharing among the IIOE network
- Summarize best practices and case studies from the IIOE pilot projects and make more concrete action plans for the next phase of digital transformation of higher education teaching and learning
- Initiate a conversation around emerging trends and visions for the future of education and higher education digital transformation

Event Information

Date and Time: February 28, 2023, 4:00-6:00 pm (UTC+8)

Meeting Format: Hybrid Format via a ZOOM Meeting

Meeting Link: [Click here for registration](#)

Offline Meeting Location: Conference Centre at Southern University of Science and Technology

Target Audience: IIOE partners from higher education institutions, enterprises, UNESCO systems and international organisations, and higher education stakeholders

Language: English and Chinese, with simultaneous interpretation to six official languages of the United Nations (EN, CN, FR, ES, AR, RU)

Co-hosts

- International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI)
- IIOE Rotating Presidency Unit for 2023 (University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia)
- UNESCO
- Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
- Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech)

Agenda

International Higher Education Digital Transformation Conference

2023/2/28, 16:00—18:00 (UTC+8)

Part One: Opening Remarks

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

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Opening Remarks

- **Mr. Ismi Arif Ismail**, Professor, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic & International), Universiti Putra Malaysia, IIOE Rotating Presidency Unit for 2023
- **Mr. QIN Changwei**, Secretary General, National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO
- **Mr. Mohamed Elfarnawany**, Director of the Coordination of Priority Africa, UNESCO
- **Mr. LU Chun**, Chair Professor, Vice President of SUSTech, Deputy Director of UNESCO-ICHEI

Part Two: Knowledge Sharing from Research and Practice on the Digital Transformation of Higher Education

Chair: Ms. BI Xiao Han

Assistant Director and Chief of West Asia and Africa Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI

Digital Transformation Empowers the Future of Higher Education

- **Mr. ZHU Zhiting**, Tenured professor at East China Normal University, China

Best practice sharing on the Empowering Teacher's Digital Teaching Pilot Projects (West-Asia and Africa cases)

Egypt: Empowering Higher Education Institutions for Digital Teaching and Learning

- **Ms. Dalia Yusuf**, Director of eLearning Central Unit, Ain Shams University. Deputy Director of IIOE Egypt National Center

Kenya: Transforming Online Pedagogy for Effective Curriculum Delivery in Higher Education Institutions

- **Mr. Justus Inyega**, Director of IIOE Kenya National Centre & Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Nairobi, Kenya

Nigeria: Empowering Institutional Policy Implementation for Digital Teaching and Learning

- **Mr. Muhammed Bashir Mu'azu**, Professor, Director of IIOE Nigeria National Centre & Head of Computer Engineering Department, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Remarks from regional experts

- **Mr. Peter J. Wells**, Head of Education, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe
- **Ms. Grace Oakley**, Associate Professor, Deputy Dean of the Graduate School of Education, University of Western Australia, Australia

Best practice sharing on the Empowering Teacher's Digital Teaching Pilot Projects (Asia-Pacific cases)

Malaysia Pilot – 'Digital Educator' Micro-credentials

- **Mr. Muhd Khaizer Omar**, Deputy Professor, Head of Department Science and Technical Education, Faculty of Educational Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia (IIOE Presidency Unit 2023)

Mongolia Pilot – Blended Learning for STEM teachers in higher education

- **Mr. Tserenchimed Purevsuren**, Senior Specialist of Open Education Center, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Mongolia

Remarks from regional experts

- **Mr. Charles R. Graham**, Professor of Instructional Psychology and Technology, expert in blended learning, Brigham Young University, U.S.

- **Mr. WANG Libing**, Professor, Senior Programme Specialist in Higher Education, Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok)

Part Three: Sharing IIOE's Practice for the Digital Transformation of Higher Education Globally

Chair: Ms. LI Fan

Assistant Director and Chief of the Asia-Pacific Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI

IIOE Three-Year Development Report

- **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

IIOE Course Co-development Project between UNESCO IITE and UNESCO-ICHEI

- **Ms. Tatiana Murovana**, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE)

Joint Research in the Latin America & Caribbean Region

- **Ms. Emma Sabzalieva**, Ph.D., Head of Research and Foresight, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO-IESALC)

Joint Research on the Digital Transformation of Higher Education Teaching and Learning in Arab Region

- **Mr. Mohamed Jemni**, Professor, Director of Information and Communication Technologies, ALECSO
- **Mr. Farouk Kammoun**, ALECSO Expert and Professor of Computer Science - Tunisia

Joint Research in Central Asia

- **Mr. Marat Rakhmatullaev**, Professor, Tashkent University of Information Technologies, Team-leader of HEREs (Uzbekistan Higher Education Reform Experts), Uzbekistan

5:15 pm – 5:50 pm

Joint Research on "3+1" Project

- **Ms. WANG Shuyan**, Tenured Professor of College of Business & Economic Development, University of Southern Mississippi, U.S.

Part Four: Closing Remarks

Chair: Ms. Han Wei

Professor, Executive Deputy Director of UNESCO-ICHEI

5:50 pm – 6:00 pm

- **Mr. ZHAN Tao**, Professor, Director, UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE)
- **Mr. LI Ming**, Chair Professor, Director, UNESCO-ICHEI

***Conference Moderator:** Institute of Higher Education Digital Transformation, UNESCO-ICHEI, **Ms. SU Rui**

***Group photo:** 6:00 pm-6:30 pm, the first floor of the Conference Centre

