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UNESCO-ICHEI Annual Partnership and IIOE Meeting

Digital Transformation of Higher Education in Asia-Pacific and Europe:

For a Better Future and Beyond



12 January 2022

The UNESCO-ICHEI 2021 Annual Meeting is organized by International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI) in collaboration with the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE) and University of Engineering and Technology Lahore (UET Lahore, Pakistan), IIOE's Presidency Unit of 2021.

Organizational Arrangements

Date and Time: Wednesday, 12 January 2022, 15:30-17:00 (UTC+8)

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

Target Audience: Higher education stakeholders

Language: English, Chinese and Russian, with simultaneous interpretation

Higher Education in a Transforming World

In a world of increasing complexity and uncertainty, UNESCO has stepped up to lead the campaign of reimagining education for better futures. Specifically, digital transformation in education is one of its key areas. According to ITU's latest report *Measuring Digital Development: Facts and Figures 2021*, an unprecedented 63% of the world's population are connected to the internet through various ICT devices in 2021¹. It can be seen that digital technologies have huge potential, and are yet to be tapped into education.

Within education, higher education, from supporting research and advancing science to creating knowledge and transforming society, plays a critical role². Despite the fact that digital transformation has been under way before the pandemic, challenges remain and need to be addressed urgently, such as the digital technology skills for effective teaching lacked by the Higher Education Workforce (HEW),

[1] ITU. (2021). *Measuring Digital Development: Facts and Figures 2021*. Geneva, Switzerland.

[2] Jensen, T. (2019). *Higher Education in the Digital Era: The Current State of Transformation around the World*. International Association of Universities, UNESCO.

and the technological innovation capacity for systematic resilience required by the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)³. Looking beyond 2030, working together to build a higher education system with further sustainability, greater inclusiveness and stronger resilience will be our common goal. And the solution is clear: accelerating digital transformation of higher education via a holistic approach.

Meeting Focus

UNESCO-ICHEI, together with its partners, is committed to promoting equity and quality of higher education through empowering teachers with digital competency and skills, and this will no doubt contribute to the futures of education initiative. This Meeting aims to provide a platform for HEIs in the Asia-Pacific and other relevant key stakeholders of higher education across the regions to discuss the pathways for digital transformation of higher education. This meeting has three key focuses:

I. Advocating Blended Education: Transforming Teaching and Learning

UNESCO forecasts blended learning as the promising mainstream pedagogy in higher education in the future. Scholars believe the key to scale up and streamline this practice is on an "e-environment"⁴. However, we realize there needs to be further action in terms of policy, infrastructure, professional development, curriculum, and learning support within HEIs to mainstream blended learning, so as to realize blended education. In light of this, this meeting seeks to discuss how to develop a comprehensive theoretical, technical and organizational system from the views of educational research and instructional innovation, which will be beneficial to HEI leaders and policy makers.

II. Emerging Blended Education: Featuring Selected Good Cases across Regions

To advance to blended education, there needs to be a series of interconnected and synergistic blended learning attempts at different dimensions. Through reflecting and examining these practices, it can inspire higher education stakeholders to identify existing challenges and potential responses to realize blended education in their own context. Thus, UNESCO-ICHEI has collected a number of such good practices across regions. Specifically, four cases from different regions have been identified and selected for this meeting in terms of policy, institutional governance, professional development, and curriculum.

III. Promoting Blended Education: Forging Dynamic Partnership and Building Cohesive Local Communities based on IIOE

IIOE provides its partners with opportunity and platform to participate in building the futures of education. By 2021, in partnership with 47 global flagship universities and enterprises, UNESCO-ICHEI's IIOE has provided quality professional development resources and opportunities to more than 9,000 teachers from 135 countries. Meanwhile, not only has IIOE updated its curriculum based on the Competency Framework of Higher Education Workforce (CFHEW), but also co-developed quality content for teacher trainings with partner HEIs. This meeting will witness the forging of a dynamic

[3] UNESCO. (2021). UNESCO Strategy on Technological Innovation in Education (2022-2025). UNESCO Executive Board 212 EX/12.

[4] ITU. (2008). ICTs for e-Environment: Guidelines for Developing Countries, with a Focus on Climate Change September. Geneva, Switzerland.

partnership in Russian speaking countries. Meanwhile, the meeting will officially launch the IIOE National Centre Initiative to build cohesive local communities for teacher's professional development.

UNESCO-IITE and UNESCO-ICHEI on Digital Transformation of Higher Education in Central Asia and other Russian Speaking Countries

This partnership will contribute to the digital transformation of higher education in Central Asia and other Russian-speaking countries and the achievement of Education 2030. Within its framework, Open Educational Resources (OERs) in the Russian language will be developed and/or translated to provide the Higher Education Workforce (HEW) with quality educational content on ICT-related topics. Data generated during the project implementation will also be summarized into an analytical report on competencies of the HEW.

Agenda

Notice: *Chi means the speaker will speak in Chinese, please switch to English interpretation service.

I. Opening Session	
Chair: Ms. Han Wei , Professor, Executive Deputy Director, UNESCO-ICHEI	
15:30-15:40	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. LI Ming^{*Chi}, Professor, Director, UNESCO-ICHEI • Mr. ZHAN Tao, Professor, Director, UNESCO-IITE • Mr. Syed Mansoor Sarwar, Professor, Vice Chancellor, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore (UET Lahore), Pakistan (IIOE Presidency 2021)
15:40-15:45	UNESCO-ICHEI's Work Summary 2021 (video)
II. Keynote Session: Higher Education for a Better Future and Beyond	
Chair: Mr. Wang Libing , Professor, Chief of Section for Educational Innovations and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education	
15:50-16:00	Higher Education, Science, Technology & Innovation: Imperatives for Socio-economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Atta-ur-Rahman, FRS, N.I., H.I., S.I., T.I. Academician, Chairman of Prime Minister's National Task Force on Science and Technology, Pakistan; Academician Chinese Academy of Sciences, UNESCO Science Laureate
16:00-16:10	Digital Transformation of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. CHENG JIANGANG^{*Chi}, Professor, Director of Institute of Higher Education Digital Transformation, UNESCO-ICHEI; Emeritus Professor at Institute of Education, Tsinghua University, China
III. Inter-regional Partnership Session: From Plans to Actions	
Chair: Mr. HAN XIBIN , Professor, Vice Dean, Institute of Education, Tsinghua University, China	
16:10-16:25	Roundtable Discussion: Promising Practices of Online and Blended Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Paulina Pannen, Chairperson, Indonesia Cyber Education Institute (ICE-I), Universitas Terbuka; Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology, Indonesia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Thushani A. Weerasinghe, Senior Lecturer, University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC); Coordinator of e-Learning Centre; Deputy Director (Training) of Cyber Campus, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka • Mr. Tamo Chattopadhyay, Associate Professor, Director of Institute of Education, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan • Mr. Bojan Lalić, Professor, Laboratory for Educational Technologies, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad, Serbia
<p>Chair: Mr. LIM Cher Ping, Chief Expert of IIOE, UNESCO-ICHEI; Chair Professor of Learning Technologies and Innovation, Associate Dean (International Engagement), Faculty of Education and Human Development, Education University of Hong Kong, China</p>	
16:25-16:45	<p>Advancing IIOE to Support National Visions of Higher Education</p> <p>Brief on IIOE National Centre Initiative in Asia-Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. LI Fan, Assistant Director, Chief of the Asia Pacific Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI <p>Launch of IIOE National Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIOE National Centre, Pakistan Mr. Syed Mansoor Sarwar, Professor, Vice Chancellor, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan • IIOE National Centre, Malaysia Mr. Mohd Roslan bin Sulaiman, Professor, Vice Chancellor, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia • IIOE National Centre, Mongolia Mr. Ochirbat Baatar, Professor, President of Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Mongolia
16:45-16:55	<p>Launch of IITE-ICHEI Joint Project & IIOE Russian Platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Svetlana Knyazeva, Chief of the Unit of Digital Pedagogy and Learning Materials, UNESCO IITE • Mr. XU Mingshun^{*Ru}, Programme Officer (Central Asia and Russian speaking region), Asia-Pacific Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI
<p>IV. Concluding Session</p>	
<p>Chair: Mr. Waqar Mahmood, Professor, Director of KICS, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan (IIOE Presidency 2021)</p>	
16:55-17:00	<p>IIOE X Seewo Course Competition Results Announcement</p>
17:00-17:05	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. LI Ming^{*Chi}, Professor, Director, UNESCO-ICHEI

*Master of Ceremony: DUAN Sherry, Senior Programme Officer, Asia-Pacific Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI

Speakers (*In the order of speaking arrangement)



HAN Wei

Prof. HAN Wei, Executive Deputy Director of UNESCO-ICHEI, Research Professor at Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), and Co-Director of Greater Bay Area Data Center for Higher Education. Previously she worked for Education Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality and Shenzhen University, and has undertaken a number of provincial and ministerial projects and served as a consulting expert for various universities and educational institutions. Her fields of study focus on Higher Education Theory & Policy, University Governance & Reform, Talent Training Innovation, and Residential College System of Modern Universities.



LI Ming

Prof. LI Ming is the Director of UNESCO-ICHEI and Chair Professor of Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech). He is also a member of the Expert Committee of International Online Teaching Platform and Curriculum Development of the Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education. He received his doctoral degree in management from Xi'an Jiaotong University. Prior to UNESCO-ICHEI, Prof. LI served in an array of key positions in the government of Shenzhen Municipality, including Deputy Mayor and member of the Shenzhen CPC Standing Committee.



ZHAN Tao

Dr. ZHAN Tao is the Director of UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) located in Moscow. He received his PhD from Shandong University in China in 1987, majoring in number theory and later became a Research Fellow of Humboldt Foundation at University of Freiburg in Germany, and Professor of Mathematics at Shandong University. Before joining UNESCO IITE in 2017 he had served as the President of Shandong University and Jilin University, Director of Educational Management Information Center of Ministry of Education in China.



Syed Mansoor Sarwar

Prof. Dr. Syed Mansoor Sarwar, with a PhD in Computer Engineering from Iowa State University (USA), joined UET Lahore in 2018. He started his academic career in 1982 as a Lecturer at the Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore. Previously, he had various positions at the University of Portland, the Lahore University of Management Sciences, and Kuwait University. From January 1991 to August 1991, he was also the Area Chair, Computer Science at the Pak-American Institute of Management Sciences, Lahore.



WANG Libing

Prof. WANG Libing is Chief of Section for Educational Innovations and Skills Development (EISD) and Senior Programme Specialist in Higher Education, at UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Thailand. Prior to joining UNESCO, he received his doctoral degree in Comparative Education from Hangzhou University and served as a Professor at Zhejiang University in China. Currently, he oversees higher education, teacher education, ICT in education, TVET, ESD, and research and foresight in the region. He has published widely in the areas of comparative education, higher education policies, and teacher education.



Atta-ur-Rahman

Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman is currently the Co-Chair of the UN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation for UNESCAP and President of Network of Academies of Sciences of Islamic Countries (NASIC). Previously, he served as Chairman of Prime Minister's Task Force on Science and Technology, the Federal Minister for Education, and the Federal Minister for Science and Technology. He obtained his PhD in organic chemistry from Kings College, University of Cambridge in 1968. He has 1,267 international publications including 781 research publications, 50 international patents, and 366 books. Prof. Rahman is the first scientist from the Muslim world to win the prestigious UNESCO Science Prize and was awarded the "Einstein Professorship" by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).



CHENG Jiangang

Dr. CHENG Jiangang is an emeritus professor at Tsinghua University. He currently serves as the Director of the Institute of Digital Transformation of Higher Education at UNESCO-ICHEI while also serving on the boards of the Academic Committee of the China Educational Technology Association, the Academic Committee of the China Education Development Strategy Society, and the Information Expert Committee of the Ministry of Education. His research areas are online education theory and practice, ICT-Ed development strategy and policy, etc.



HAN Xibin

Dr HAN Xibin is a tenured professor and vice dean of the Institute of Education at Tsinghua University. His research focuses on e-learning system development and adoption, blended learning implementation, and institutional teaching innovation through technology in higher education and vocational education. He served as the president of the Society of International Chinese in Educational Technology in 2018. He is one of the co-editors of the Journal of Educational Technology Development and Exchange (JETDE) and an Editorial Board member of The Internet and Higher Education. He was a member of expert team of the UNESCO project Building the Capacity of Higher Education Institutions in Asia-Pacific for Blended Learning.



Paulina Pannen

Graduated from Syracuse University over 30 years ago, Paulina Pannen has had tenure as director of SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, Vice Rector at USBI, Dean of Faculty of Education at Universitas Terbuka, chairman of task forces on development of Indonesian MOOCs and e-learning, distance education, and higher education quality development and improvement programs under DGHE. She has also served as Senior Adviser on Academics to the MORTHE until 2019, and Interim Director for Innovation System and Secretary to the Consortium of Research and Innovation for Covid-19 at MORT/NARI until 2020. Currently, she chairs the Indonesia Cyber Education Institute under Universitas Terbuka.



Thushani A. Weerasinghe

Thushani A. Weerasinghe is a senior lecturer at the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC), Sir Lanka. Presently, she is the coordinator of the e-Learning Centre of the UCSC and the Deputy Director-Training at the "Cyber Campus", the Distance Learning Centre of the University of Colombo. She obtained her PhD degree from the Department of Computer and System Sciences, Stockholm University, Sweden. She has a keen interest in designing online learning environments for distance learning programmes and researching technology-enhancing learning environments and related information systems.



Tamo Chattopadhyay

Tamo Chattopadhyay is the Founding Director of the Institute of Education at American University of Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan; where he launched Central Asia's first dual-degree (US-Kyrgyz) graduate program in teacher education. Previously, he was a faculty at the University of Notre Dame and Columbia University. Tamo brings 17 years of research and consulting experience in Central Asia, South-East Asia, and Brazil in areas of social organization of schooling, non-state actors in education, and connected learning in higher education. He holds a Doctorate in International Educational Development from Teachers College, Columbia University.



Bojan Lalić

Prof. Bojan Lalić is a full professor at Faculty of Technical Sciences at University of Novi Sad, Serbia. He is also the Director of Belt and Road Institute at Belgrade. He has diverse experiences working with the government sector, and has participated widely in a range of national, bilateral and international projects. He received his PhD in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management from University of Novi Sad in 2001.



LIM Cher Ping

Prof. LIM Cher Ping is a Chair Professor of Learning Technologies and Innovation at the Education University of Hong Kong and the Editor-in-Chief of The Internet and Higher Education. He is also the chief expert of IIOE at UNESCO-ICHEI. After graduating from University of Bristol, he worked at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore), Edith Cowan University (Australia) before moving to Hong Kong. Over the last two decades, he has engaged major education stakeholders at the national and international levels as his research and development partners to take up the opportunities of digital technologies for the enhancement of education equity, quality and efficiency.



LI Fan

Ms. LI Fan holds a Master's degree in digital technology, Communication and Education from the University of Manchester, UK. Prior to joining the center, she worked at UNESCO-APNIEVE and UNESCO Bangkok. Ms. LI Fan joined UNESCO-ICHEI in June 2015 and served as the programme officer at Programme and Research Office, Chief of the Asia- Pacific Programme Office, and the Coordinator during IIOE preparation. She was appointed as the Assistant Director of the center in Feb 2018. Her research interest is related to digital technologies in higher education.



Mohd Roslan Sulaiman

YBhg. Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan bin Sulaiman is the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). He received his degree in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from UPM in 1994 and was later conferred his PhD in Physiology of The Nervous System from the University of Edinburgh (UK). Upon returning to Malaysia in 1999, he started taking up various positions at UPM. To date, Prof. Roslan has published in over 200 high-impact national and international journals, and he has been very active in the fields of co-curriculum, community networking and student personality development at college, university and national levels.



Ochirbat Baatar

Prof. Ochirbat holds a Mathematician Diploma from the National University of Mongolia and PhD in System Dynamics and Computer Sciences from MUST. He worked as Post-Doctoral Researcher at the Vienna University of Technology, Austria in 2009. In 2013, Prof. Ochirbat was appointed as the President of MUST. He has published more than 20 textbooks and study guides, as well as 50 articles and papers in his research field of System Theory, System Dynamics Methods, Open Education, Engineering Higher Education and Management etc.



Svetlana Knyazeva

Svetlana Knyazeva holds a PhD in Information and Library Science and is Chief of the Unit of Digital Pedagogy and Learning Materials at the UNESCO Institute of Information Technologies in Education, Moscow. Since 2009, she has been co-ordinating a project on Open Educational Resources in non-English-speaking countries. She has promoted OER through analytical and diagnostic studies, strategic advice and facilitation of professional development related to the use of ICT and OER/MOOCs in teaching and learning. Her research interests cover innovative teaching methods and foresight in ICT in education.



DUAN Sherry

Ms. Sherry Duan obtained her Master's degree in International Education Development from Columbia University in 2015. Prior to UNESCO-ICHEI, she has worked in the capacity of event planning, execution and research at Global Citizens Festival and Education Development Center in New York. She has also interned at Mayor's Office of New York City and United Nations Headquarters. Ms. Sherry Duan joined UNESCO-ICHEI in November 2016, and served as programme officer and key focal point for MOFCOM training. She is currently a senior programme officer at the Asia-Pacific Programme Office.



XU Mingshun

Mr. XU Mingshun obtained his Master's degree in Russian Literature (Honours) from St. Petersburg State University in 2018 (sponsored by the China Scholarship Council, CSC). From 2018-2020, he worked as a programme assistant at the UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office (sponsored by CSC). Mr. Mingshun Xu joined UNESCO-ICHEI in June 2021 as project consultant and is currently a programme officer at the Asia Pacific Programme Office (responsible for programmes in Central Asian and Russian-speaking countries).

Organizing Committee

We acknowledge the collective efforts of the organizing committee of this meeting, which includes: Ms. Svetlana Knyazeva, Chief of the Unit of Digital Pedagogy and Learning Materials of UNESCO IITE; Mr. Waqar Mahmood, Professor and Director of KICS, UET Lahore; Mr. Naeem Tahir, Senior researcher of KICS, UET Lahore; Mr. LYU Feng, Assistant Director and Chief of IIOE Management Centre of UNESCO-ICHEI; Mr. JIANG Qingyu, Chief of Administrative Office of UNESCO-ICHEI; Ms. ZENG Bingran, Chief of Knowledge Production and Communication Centre of UNESCO-ICHEI; Mr. Hassan Adeel Shehzad, Programme Specialist of UNESCO-ICHEI; and Mr. FENG Siyuan, Curriculum Specialist of UNESCO-ICHEI.