



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.

Closely aligning its mission with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4, the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI) focuses on promoting the digital transformation of higher education in developing countries, and further expanding 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 for Online Education (IIOE), a collaborative network of higher education stakeholders. On the premise of "Joint contribution and shared benefits", IIOE made progress in curating professional development resources, empowering infrastructure upgrades in partner institutions, promoting the quality assurance frameworks, and improvement of digital teaching 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, 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, 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 other 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 respective regions
- Gather research-based insights that feed into reforming the future-facing education

Conference Objectives

- Introduce the joint research projects and the upgraded IIOE platform 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)

Format: Hybrid Format via a ZOOM Meeting

Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvdeygrD0tE9BqSSE6dE6Q4nVZ8zj5TIIB>

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

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

Language: English and Chinese, with simultaneous interpretation to 6 official languages of the United Nations (EN, CN, FR, ES, AR, RU)

Co-hosts (Tentative)

- 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

Agenda (Tentative)

International Higher Education Digital Transformation Conference 2023/2/28, 16:00-18:00 (UTC+8)	
Part I: Opening Remarks	
20 mins	Chair: Prof. LIM Cher Ping, Chief Expert of IIOE, UNESCO-ICHEI, Chair Professor of Learning Technologies and Innovation, Education University of Hong Kong <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief, Section of Higher Education, UNESCO• Secretary General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO• Vice president of Southern University of Science and Technology• IIOE Rotating Presidency Unit for 2023
Part II: Knowledge Sharing from Research and Practice on the Digital Transformation of Higher Education	
40 mins	Chair: Ms. Bi Xiao Han, Assistant Director & Chief of West Asia and Africa Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tsinghua Research Team, Report on the "3+1 Joint Research Project" research framework and action plan —10 mins• Best practice sharing on the Empowering Teacher's Digital Teaching Pilot Projects<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Malaysian and Mongolian cases — 6 mins○ Remarks from regional experts — 5 mins○ Egyptian, Nigerian, and Kenyan cases —9 mins○ Remarks from regional experts — 5 mins

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

45 mins	<p>Chair: Ms. LI Fan, Assistant Director & Chief of the Asia-Pacific Programme Office, UNESCO-ICHEI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IIOE Three-Year Development Report — 10 mins• Digital Transformation of Higher Education in the Latin America & Caribbean Region: A Report — 5 mins• Research Report on the Digital Transformation of Higher Education Teaching and Learning in Central Asia — 5 mins• Research Report on the Digital Transformation of Higher Education Teaching and Learning in Arab Region — 5 mins• Knowledge Sharing: the Outcomes of Project Cooperation between UNESCO-ICHEI and UNESCO IITE — 5 mins• Speech from UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning— Recommendations on the Regional Action Plan of Promoting Digital Transformation — 5 mins• IIOE 2.0 Platform Launch Ceremony — 3 mins
<h3>Part IV: Closing Remarks</h3>	
10min	<p>Chair: Prof. Han Wei, Executive Deputy Director of UNESCO-ICHEI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Zhan Tao, Director of UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education• Prof. LI Ming, Director of UNESCO-ICHEI

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



unesco