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Higher Education Innovation Newsletter (HEI Newsletter) is sponsored by International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHEI). This newsletter aims to disseminate new thinking, ideas, technology and methods of ICTs in higher education. It covers a wide range of topics such as heated issues, policies, strategies, cases in practice, and international projects in relation to online education, mobile learning, distant education, MOOC, open education resources, etc. It also provides updates on the Centre, including projects, meetings and conferences, activities, and communication.

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I am extremely happy to be at the Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO. We need to educate young people to create and innovate for sustainability, social inclusion and peace on the planet.

Irina Bokova
Director General
UNESCO
12 November 2016
On November 12, 2016, Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, visited the newly-established International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (Hereafter as "ICHEI") at Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech). Ms. WU Yihuan, Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen Government, Mr. DU Yue, Secretary-General of the National Commission of the People’s Republic of China for UNESCO, Ms. GUO Yurong, Chairwoman of University Council of SUSTech, and Mr. LI Ming, Director of ICHEI accompanied Ms. Bokova. Mr. Charles CHEN Yidan, Core Founder and Advisor Emeritus of Tencent, Founder and Honorary Chairman of Tencent Charity Foundation, Mr. ZHANG Jihong, Director of Bureau of Education of Shenzhen Municipality, and other Governing Board members of ICHEI were also involved.
Ms. WU extended her warm welcome to Ms. Bokova. She pointed out that China places great emphasis on the cooperation with UNESCO, supports and plays an active part in the events organized by UNESCO. As the gateway and model city for China’s economic reform, Shenzhen has achieved fruitful results through close collaboration with UNESCO. Shenzhen is willing to continue exchanges with UNESCO to support ICHEI in becoming a distinctive and globally influential new institution. In the future, Shenzhen will continue to strengthen communications and exchanges with UNESCO, broaden the collaboration with UNESCO in the Asia and Africa regions, making new contributions to human civilization and world peace.

Mr. LI reported the long-term goals, latest progress and vision of ICHEI. He said that Ms. Bokova’s visit is of far-reaching significance and a great encouragement to ICHEI. The Centre would continue to enhance its standardization and internationalization process, so as to evolve into a professional, efficient, open, and cutting-edge Category 2 institution, contributing to the development of international higher education innovation. In the years to come, ICHEI would continue to employ ICTs to implement various cooperation projects on higher education in Asian and African developing countries, and promote educational equality as well as educational quality.
Ms. Bokova extended her congratulations on the establishment of ICHEI. She reviewed the continued support of the Shenzhen Municipal Government for higher education development. She highlighted that, higher education is vital to the development of innovation and sustainability. UNESCO is committed to stimulating the creativity of young people, and encouraging them to contribute to social development. Under the context of the all-round scientific and cultural cooperation between Shenzhen and the world, and the platform provided by SUSTech, higher education innovation will be able to promote the innovation of young people and encourage them to fulfill their dreams in Shenzhen. Through collaborating with ten Category 2 educational institutions (including ICHEI) across the world, UNESCO will greatly boost the quality of higher education, and cultivate talents for global development. She hoped to work with SUSTech to build an outstanding higher education research institute and advance industry-university cooperation, making ICHEI influential worldwide. She also expected ICHEI to promote the progress of higher education in developing countries under the guidance of the mission and concept of UNESCO.
Thank you very much Madam Wu Yihuan, Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen Municipal People’s Government, Mr. Li Ming, Director of the International Centre, all the distinguished members of the Board. Your Excellency’s, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to be sitting next to Mr. DU Yue, the Secretary General of the National Commission of China to UNESCO, who is supporting and promoting our cooperation both with SUSTech and also with the municipality and the city of Shenzhen. It is the second time I am here in your city, and I can testify to the very dynamic development. And I am also very pleased that we are expanding our cooperation. And I was very pleased two years ago, I am happy too, that you showed also the photo of the moment where we signed the agreement for the establishment of this International Centre for Higher Education Innovation here in the Southern University of Science and Technology. And I do believe after what I have seen, what I have heard, that the mandate of the Centre holds a very specific significance today, and reflects the commitment of the People’s Republic of China and the Municipality of Shenzhen for quality higher education.

When I attended five years ago, the University Presidents Forum in Shenzhen, which drew leaders of higher education institutions from over 80 countries, I could feel this ambition. The ambition of Shenzhen for excellence in higher education in science, technology, innovation, for giving the capacity of young people, the skills of young people, to be everything they want today, to create, to innovate, to join their dreams, the private sector, the government, the academia, in order to create.

And in that time, I remember Madam LIU Yandong provided us with eloquent insight into the landscape of higher education in China. She emphasized the need for policies to create a more open learning environment: to increase international cooperation in research; to encourage closer interaction with society at large; and to further cross-cultural communication.
This commitment, this ambition was reconfirmed last year when we had another important conference on information and communication technology in education that we held in Qingdao, once again with Madam LIU Yandong, and now here I am in your Centre. Because I do believe that higher education today is strategic for innovation and sustainable development.

We see all over the world, the demand for tertiary education is surging, and technology is deeply transforming both learning and delivery models. All societies require the capacity to build inclusive, high-quality, and relevant systems. And I believe this Centre, your Centre, our Centre, will support this imperative. Its mandate is very relevant to the demand to produce knowledge, to provide technical support, to build capacity, and to provide the platform for information sharing in the Asia and Pacific regions.

Higher education has a decisive role to play in achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals in the agenda 2030. We need to search (an innovative) an innovation for green growth for elevating poverty, for finding sustainable solutions practically to all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our 2016 Education for All Global Monitoring Report finds that by 2020 the world will have 40 million too few workers with tertiary education relative to demand. 40 million, 40 million workers will be missing if we compare it to the demand.

So more than ever, knowledge is the energy that will provide the future. We must invest in creating and sharing it for the benefit of society. And higher education is at the heart of this transformation. UNESCO, dear friends, is the only specialized agency of the United Nations with a specific mandate in higher education. And we have successfully pushed for the recognition of higher education and lifelong education and learning in the 2030 agenda. We encourage cooperation among universities worldwide through a network of over 700 UNESCO Chairs, including 18 here in China. We are at the forefront of efforts to advance quality assurance with regional conventions on the recognition of higher education qualifications, and groundbreaking work on the Global Convention on the way because it is higher education that is that will cultivate the talents we need for the 21st century.
I think China understands very well, and supports our efforts to widen the international cooperation because it is essential to provide access, to share innovative approaches, including through technology, through open and distance learning, to build high-quality equitable systems.

Last June, this Centre was inaugurated with an International Meeting on Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education where the Assistant Director General of UNESCO for Education, Mr. Qian TANG was here. In its conclusion, the Shenzhen Consensus was approved to empower higher education for sustainable development. And I would like to thank once again the Municipality of Shenzhen because it was instrumental in supporting project to strengthen quality assurance across 10 African countries, and to leverage information and communication technologies to widen access to higher education in Asia with a project focusing on Cambodia and Sri Lanka, and some other countries of these projects were mentioned also today.

I believe these are essential platforms for innovative partnerships bringing together researchers, policy makers, civil society, and the private sector. And this is the way forward. This is vital to create and share knowledge, but it is also vital to build mutual understanding and peace which resonates at the heart of UNESCO’s mandate. So in this spirit, allow me once again to express my gratitude to the Shenzhen Municipal Government’s support to higher education and I wish this Centre and the projects every success. I am sure that we will make a difference. We will make a difference both here in the Asia Pacific, but we will make a difference also across the world, in Africa, in the developing world. And also, I believe promoting Open Educational Resources, promoting excellence in higher education, as I said, is vital for the achievement of sustainability, of social inclusion, of mutual understanding, and at the end of the day of peace.

I am here to pledge the full commitment of UNESCO to the excellence, to developing this Centre, and I hope that this will bring us fruits for the future, and it will open the minds of young people for creativity and for innovation. Thank you for your attention and I wish you all success.
The First Governing Board Meeting of ICHEI was Inaugurated

On November 12, 2016, ICHEI held its inaugural meeting of the First Governing Board at Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech). Ms. WU Yihuan, Chairwoman of the Governing Board and Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen Government hosted the meeting. The meeting announced the list of its first Governing Board members, validated the Charter of the Centre, and approved its work plan of 2016 – 2018, including the establishment of the Special Fund for International Higher Education Innovation.

Mr. DU Yue, Secretary-General of the National Commission of the People’s Republic of China for UNESCO, Mr. Charles CHEN Yidan, Core Founder and Advisor Emeritus of Tencent, Founder and Honorary Chairman of Tencent Charity Foundation, Mr. ZHANG Jihong, Director of Bureau of Education of Shenzhen Municipality, Mr. LI Ming, Director of ICHEI, and other leaders, attended the meeting.
On 21 May 2015, the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 was adopted at the World Education Forum 2015 (WEF 2015). This new Education Agenda ‘Education 2030’ is fully captured in the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all”. Education 2030 Framework for Action has provided guidance to governments and partners for implementing Education 2030. As one of the most important elements of lifelong learning, higher education needs to ensure equitable and sufficient access, improved quality assurance and recognition, stronger administrative system, and more advanced research function. Therefore, Information and communication technology (ICT) is mentioned as a change agent, which must be harnessed to support higher education systems through open educational resources as well as distance education with accepted quality standards.

In this knowledge-based society and technology-driven world, all countries, especially developing countries, are faced with unresolved social and economic challenges at both national and global levels. Since the release of OECD statistics which indicate over half of economic growth is dependent on tertiary level of education, higher education of quality has been considered essential to improve the competitiveness of countries and enable citizens to respond to the challenges in all fields of sustainable development. Meanwhile, specific attention is being given to ICT application and innovation, which provides the necessary tools for governments and higher education institutions (HEIs) to achieve SDG4 within the overall international development framework. The considerable potentials of ICT have motivated universities to reshape their educational systems to be more inclusive, well-resourced, efficient
and effectively governed. To do so, HEIs need to redesign their programmes, curriculum, and studies, as well as adequately recruit well-trained, professional, and qualified staff. As a UNESCO Category II institute, International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHEI) is mandated to revolutionize the development of higher education by taking advantage of ICT so as to narrow the gap of higher education for the developing world. Guided by the four main strategic objectives, namely: knowledge production, capacity building, technical support, and information sharing, the Centre will work closely with UNESCO to help Member States incorporate the use of ICT in all aspects of higher education.

ICHEI has launched its training project since its establishment in June 2016. As of now, this project covers Asian and African countries aligned with the ‘One Belt, One Road’ initiative. This project targets officials from relevant Ministries of Education (MoEs), specialists responsible for higher education, and administrators and faculty members of HEIs, to achieve the Education 2030 goals in the area of higher education.
The ICHEI Training project follows the framework below closely in the process of design:

- To advance the understanding of ICT in higher education for decision-makers;
- To help HEIs set up and manage the application of Huawei Smart Classroom;
- To enhance the reach of higher education by embedding online/distance learning;
- To build capacity for HEIs through provision of professional ICT-pedagogy training courses; and
- To develop innovative curriculum, digital learning resources, and ICT-enhanced assessment systems built for the Smart Classroom.

The First Training Workshop on ICTs in Higher Education

The first training workshop on ICTs in higher education is designed specifically for the context of higher education in Cambodia. It aims to enhance the ICT knowledge and skill level of the academic and management personnel of the Royal University of Phnom Penh so that they can use ICT more frequently, efficiently and confidently in their daily teaching, management and research activities.

This objective will be achieved by:

- Inculcating pedagogical knowledge of applying ICT in higher education;
- Exposing participants to various ICTs applications/platforms used in higher education;
- Teaching the participants the use of ICTs in higher education (e.g. MOOCs/e-learning platforms/mobile learning); and
- Providing opportunity to actually implement the use of ICT in higher education (e.g. Simulation)
Specifically the objectives for academic staff and technical staff are as follows:

**For academic staff:**
- To strengthen their understanding of ICT in Higher Education, and application of the knowledge in academic activities in university;
- To enhance their capability to prototype blended learning model, and integrate ICTs to optimize teaching and learning based on their own need and practice;
- To develop their innovative and creative pedagogy in higher education through taking advantage of ICTs;
- To form a holistic understanding of the environment and culture built regarding to open/distance learning and mobile learning, and introduce them powerful tools/platforms and;
- To improve their capability to critically and wisely identify and evaluate the use of ICTs in educational settings and processes.

**For technical staff:**
- To enhance their basic understanding of ICT in Higher Education, which can be associated to their supporting work for governance and academic activities in university;
- To develop their IT skills and professionalism.
## Training Modules

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<tr>
<th>Module No.</th>
<th>Theme/Topic</th>
<th>Course Provider/ Facilitator</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Expected Outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Core Issues of ICT Application in Higher Education</td>
<td>Specialist</td>
<td>Panel Discussion and Lecture</td>
<td>To identify current challenges, share views and best practice on ICT use in Cambodia higher education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Theories of ICT in Higher Education</td>
<td>Specialist</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>To enhance knowledge and gain new insights on ICT in Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MOOC Platform</td>
<td>Chiang Mai University</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>To enhance understanding of pedagogy and its applications in ICT</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Open Distance Learning</td>
<td>Open University of Hong Kong</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>STEM</td>
<td>SUSTech</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>To learn about theories, research and rankings in STEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Reform for University Computer Courses</td>
<td>SUSTech &amp; Huawei</td>
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<td>To finish the checklist for university computer courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Blended Learning</td>
<td>South China Normal University &amp; SUSTech</td>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
<td>To demonstrate advanced skills in the creation of blended learning courseware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ICT Solutions For University</td>
<td>Huawei Co. Inc.</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Study Tour</td>
<td>To enhance the capability of choosing and applying ICTs in application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Huawei Academy: ICT Certificate Course</td>
<td>Huawei Co. Inc.</td>
<td>Experiential Learning</td>
<td>To complete the course and pass the examination to get Huawei ICT engineer certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>UOOC and Shenzhen Cloud Computing Center</td>
<td>Shenzhen University</td>
<td>Study Tour</td>
<td>To understand development of local massive online courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On September 20, 2016, the opening ceremony of the first training workshop titled “ICT in Higher Education: Capacity Building of HEIs” was held at SUSTech. CHEN Shiyi, President of SUSTech, LI Ming, Director of ICHEI, and Chet Chealy, Rector of the Royal University of Phnom Penh, and his delegation attended the ceremony. CHEN Shiyi extended his congratulations on the convening of the training workshop and expressed his high expectations for future collaboration of both sides.

As the launch of the ICHEI’s flagship programme, an eleven-day training programme, covering 10 different training modules, was designed by the Centre, specifically for the existing problems of higher education in Cambodia. The programme invited reputable experts from SUSTech, South China Normal University, Chiang Mai University, the Open University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen University, and Huawei Academy. It is designed to enhance the ICT knowledge and skill level of the
academic and management personnel of the Royal University of Phnom Penh so that they can use ICT more frequently, efficiently and confidently in their daily teaching, management and research activities, Innovation, and boost the in-depth exchanges and cooperation between Shenzhen and Phnom Penh as well as China and Cambodia in the fields of culture, education and industries.
On September 21, Ms. WU Yihuan, Deputy Mayor of Shenzhen met Mr. Chet Chealy and his delegation. Mr. LI Ming, Director of ICHEI and Ms. GUO Yurong, Chairwoman of University Council of SUSTech also attended the meeting. During the meeting, Ms. WU Yihuan extended her warm welcome to Mr. Chet Chealy on behalf of Shenzhen Municipal Government, and her congratulations on training workshop. She shared the experience of Shenzhen on building equitable and quality education, and expected that both sides would seize the opportunity of the “One Belt One Road” initiative to further enhance exchanges and cooperation on the basis of long-term friendly ties between China and Cambodia.

Mr. Chet Chealy delivered his gratitude for the warm hospitality he had received in Shenzhen and the convening of the training program. He said that Cambodia was implementing comprehensive reform in higher education currently, and that the Royal University of Phnom Penh, as the best university in Cambodia, needed to set an example in informatization and internationalization. Therefore, the cooperation between ICHEI and SUSTech met the desperate needs of development of Royal University of Phnom Penh.
On the afternoon of October 18, 2016, the kick-off ceremony of SUSTech Huawei Authorized College of Information and Network Academy took place at Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech). Mr. FENG Baoshuai, Vice President of the Corporate Technical Service Department, Huawei; Mr. WU Chuanyue, Vice President of SUSTech; Mr. LI Ming, Director of ICHEI and other leaders attended the ceremony. Mr. WU extended his congratulations on the inauguration of the Academy, appreciated Huawei’s strong support, and expected that the two sides would continue cooperation to open the window of high-tech and globalized innovative enterprises to SUSTech’s students, and make contribution to the development of Shenzhen into an innovation-oriented city.

Huawei and SUSTech share the same vision and goal of ICT talent training, Huawei is willing to assist SUSTech and ICHEI to achieve mutual benefits among the enterprise, the university and students, said Mr. FENG in his address.
Mr. LI spoke highly of the far-reaching significance of the Academy. The in-depth cooperation between SUSTech and Huawei will keep enhancing SUSTech’s research strength, and effectively improve the practical ability and employment competitiveness of SUSTech’s students. He also added that the Academy’s optimized and upgraded curriculum system would benefit more students in the world and provide strong technical support for the SUSTech-based International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO.

As a global industry-university cooperation program of Huawei, Huawei Authorized College of Information and Network Academy gives world leading ICT education to university students. In 2015, SUSTech and Huawei signed an MOU for cooperation, cooperation that took form in the construction of a Huawei Smart Classroom on SUSTech’s campus, to be used for personnel training, scientific research, and information management. The establishment of the SUSTech Huawei Authorized College of Information and Network Academy serves a dual purpose for SUSTech and Huawei, as it serves to increase their deep cooperation in the context of popular entrepreneurship and innovation.
Centre Activities

ICHEI Visited UNESCO HQ

During September 13-18, 2016, Prof. ZHAO Jianhua, Senior Specialist and Dr. MA Jinyuan, Programme Officer of ICHEI, visited the Education Sector, the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems and the Higher Education Sector at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris, France. They had conversations with Mr. TANG Qian, Mr. David Atchoarena, Mr. Peter Wells, Mr. MIAO Fengchun, Ms. Mariana and Ms. Hassmik, and together they decided the following six states as the beneficiary members of African Higher Education Informatization Programme: Ethiopia, Namibia, Egypt, Djibouti, Gambia, and Uganda. The UNESCO Higher Education Section, UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust Project and the ICTs Education Team at the UNESCO headquarters would make use of the available African higher education resources to support ICHEI in executing the programme in Africa.

On September 14, the two representatives visited Mr. TANG Qian, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO, also a Governing Board member of ICHEI. Mr. TANG suggested that the Centre should enhance the standard of international cooperation in project execution and make the full use of UNESCO’s mechanism so as to integrate the recourses effectively. He also pointed out the necessity of combining the African Programme with the UNESCO-Shenzhen Fund in Trust Project and pushing forward with both projects cooperatively.

On September 15, ICHEI representatives had a meeting with the Permanent Delegation of China to UNESCO, including Mr. SHEN Yang, the ambassador of the delegation and Mr. FANG Qinchao, Ms. XUE Lian and Ms. GE Siyin, the vice-ambassadors.

On behalf of ICHEI, Prof. ZHAO introduced the history and mission of the Centre to the delegation. He said, the projects implemented by the Centre in Africa and Asia would utilize the platform of the secondary institutions of UNESCO and make it an international
exchange platform for educational institutions and enterprises by popularizing the Chinese experience and outcome worldwide and introducing the international advanced experience and outcome to China. Mr. SHEN strongly agreed with the above stated mission and contended that the platform is essential to growth of China’s international influence. He said, the Centre should take part in international affairs actively so as to make the Chinese voice heard on the global stage. The delegation would fully support the work of the Centre.

On September 13 to 16, the two representatives had meetings with the delegations of Ethiopia, Egypt, Gambia, Djibouti and Namibia respectively. The representatives introduced the background of ICHEI and SUSTech, as well as the content, purpose, method and timeline of the African Higher Education Informatization Programme to the delegations. The delegations showed great interest in the project and promised supports from the governmental authorities in the host countries. They also welcomed the visit of the delegation of the Centre to their countries and expressed appreciation for the international student project implemented by SUSTech.
On September 14, the representatives met with Ms. Suzanne Grant Lewis, Director of International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP), Ms. Michaela Martin, Programme Expert of IIEP, Jimena Pereyra, Training and Education Programme Expert of IIEP and Ms. Emily Stirnemann, Administrative Officer of IIEP. After introducing to each other the business scope and research area of the respective institution, the two parties agreed on the following scope and focuses of cooperation: 1) research on higher education quality assurance; 2) training programmes and courses development in the area of higher education informatization and staff capacity building for international organizations based on the rich experience of IIEP on training and course design; 3) online education and online learning; and 4) effective resources integration based on the higher education resources and network in Africa already developed by IIEP.

On September 15, the representatives met with Ms. Eva Egron-Polak, Secretary General of International Association of Universities (IAU). After introducing to each other the business scope and research area of the respective institution, Ms. Egron-Polak on behalf of IAU promised the Centre that IAU would share its network in Africa and further cooperated with the Centre in implementing the African Programme. Meanwhile, Ms. Egron-Polak invited SUSTech to join IAU as an affiliated member.
ICHEI attended 2016 Regional Seminar for UNESCO RDTC: Sustainable Partnerships for Transformative Teaching

The Regional Seminar for UNESCO Resource Distribution and Training Centers (RDTC) organized by the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education was held in Bangkok, Thailand, during November 23-25, 2016 with the conference theme "Sustainable Partnerships for Transformative Teaching". The RDTC network currently consist of 22 formal member institutions and 9 associated member institutions in 13 countries. ICHEI was accepted as a new formal member institution in 2016 and therefore sent its Senior Specialist Prof. ZHAO Jianhua and Programme Officer Ms. LI Fan as invited representatives to join the Regional Seminar. During the seminar, the two representatives shared their experience and academic insights on the ICTs for education with the other institutions across the region. In accordance with the theme of the seminar, ICHEI entered into partnership with South China Normal University, Mongolia Teacher Professional Development Institution and Uzbekistan Public Teaching Staff Capacity Building Institution. The four partner institutions agreed to further their cooperation on research and staff training on "Problem-based Learning (PBL)".
ICHEI visited Pakistan

During December 18-22, 2016, Mr. LI Ming, the Director of ICHEI led a delegation to Pakistan, where they visited the Pakistan’s Federal Ministry of Education, the UNESCO Islamabad Office, Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, and National University of Science and Technology (NUST). The two main purposes of this trip were to support the federal government of Pakistan in establishing a UNESCO Category II institute of literacy and non-formal education in Pakistan. The delegation received a warm welcome from H.E. the Minister, and Mr. Haseeb Athar, the Federal Secretary. Both parties reached agreements on the work plan, application process, opinion coordination and expert input, making the meeting a fruitful one.

On the morning of the 21st, the Centre visited the UNESCO Islamabad Office. Mr. Nyi Nyi Thaung, Education Specialist, and Mr. Sameer Luqman Qureshi, Project Officer, provided practical and professional advice on how the Centre could conduct projects in Pakistan in the near future.

On the 20th, the delegation visited Pakistan’s Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training, and conducted an in-depth dialogue centering on the establishment of a UNESCO Category II institute of literacy and non-formal education in Pakistan.

H.E. Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Minister of Pakistan Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training and Mr. LI Ming, Director of ICHEI
In the afternoon, the delegation visited Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan and briefly discussed the current situation and possible collaboration on higher education in Pakistan with Prof. Mukhtar Ahmed, the Chief of HEC, and Prof. Muhammad Raza Chohan, the Academic Director-General. Later, the delegation paid a visit to the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). They discussed the possibility of academic exchanges and cooperation among ICHEI, Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) and NUST with Prof. Asif Raza, Pro-Rector of the University, and agreed to continue the dialogue among the three parties.
On January 5th, 2017, the “Africa Higher Education Innovation Development and Programme Cooperation Seminar” was held at the Southern University of Science and Technology, located in Shenzhen, China. The seminar was organized by ICHEI and was attended by several top-level experts, including Mr. DU Yue, Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO, Professor WANG Libing, Chief, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD) at UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, and other experts from the University of Hong Kong, Zhejiang University, China Development Institute, and Shenzhen Metro Group. Everyone came together to discuss their practices and experiences with innovation and development in higher education and Africa. Mr. LI Ming, the director of ICHEI, welcomed the experts and expressed the importance of the event to the Centre’s work in the African region. Professor ZHAO Jianhua, the Centre’s Senior Specialist, chaired the meeting and also gave a report about the implementation of the Centre’s project. Secretary-General DU Yue expressed his hope that the Centre would continue to improve the capacity of information generation and also fulfill the role...
among UNESCO Category II Centres of “becoming a laboratory of ideas, formulating international rules, leading the international agenda, promoting international cooperation, and influencing national policies.” He hoped that ICHEI could continue to raise the bar for information management, communication, and leadership capacity, all of which play an important role in global education governance. Professor WANG Libing, speaking from the point of view of professional international organizations, offered assistance in the development process of higher education in Africa, suggesting that our efforts should be combined with local policies in order to ensure the sustainability of the project through institutionalization. He added how the Centre should focus on the collection of practical cases throughout the process of the Feasibility Study and the Needs Analysis Report. The University of Hong Kong’s Professor LI Jun introduced the China-Africa 20+20 Cooperation project, sharing his findings from the project and giving specific suggestions for the Centre. Zhejiang Normal University’s Professor WAN Xiulan thinks that working with African Universities is a worthwhile process that is becoming more of a trend, particularly with the Chinese government, Chinese universities, and other organizations. Professor ZHENG Song and Professor CHEN Mingkun analyzed, respectively, the development of higher education informatization in Uganda and Ethiopia, and proposed that ICHEI begin dialogue with the stakeholders and establish effective management, supervision, and evaluation. Mr. XIAO Shixiong shared his experience in the education and training of public transport projects in Africa, while Mr. YIN Qingxun gave his insight based on his experiences working and living in Africa. Mr. QU Jian, Vice-President of the China Development Institute, and Ms. LIU Rongxin, Director of Department of Regional Development Planning under the China Development Institute, respectively introduced their experiences in African construction and African project consulting. As a result of the seminar, the ICHEI staff were able to deepen their understanding of the African context, ensuring the Centre’s ability for smooth project implementation in Africa.