

Call for Proposal:

Subject: Consultation and Need Analysis Report on Promoting Equitable Access to Quality Higher Education through Learning at Scale: the case of International Institute of Online Education (IIOE)

With generous support from the
Tencent Fund

Background

The use of new technologies is continuing to evolve rapidly in cross-sectoral areas and has enormous potential to improve the access to quality higher education. Since its inception in 2015 and to implement UNESCO regional strategies for empowering sustainable development in higher education in line with Education 2030 Goals, International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI) has been carrying out action plans to achieve SDGs, particularly target 4.3, 4.4, and 4.7, to ensure equitable access to quality higher education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Concerning cultural diversity and asymmetrical economic developments in Asia-Pacific region, gaps in ICT infrastructure and technology usage between countries might lead to further disparity in the future. Lim (2018) identified five inter-related challenges that are due to the quality-equity tensions and the urgent need to transform their higher education sector in Asia-Pacific. They are:

- Shortage of quality higher education teachers especially in the provincial institutions;
- High student-teacher ratio with increasingly diverse student population;
- Lack of professional development opportunities and support for higher education teachers;
- Mismatch between curriculum and labour market; and
- Limited access for students from marginalized groups (including ethnic minorities, women, and people with special needs) and remote and rural areas.

Therefore, holistic and strategic approaches are urgently needed to engage leading HEIs in the member states to strengthen their national higher education systems to achieve better governance. Countries have to make sense of and manage the expected transformation of their higher education sector, and address the quality-equity tensions by learning at scale.

More about UNESCO-ICHEI: <http://en.ichei.org/>

The envision of International Institute of Online Education (IIOE)

Harnessing the synergies to achieve equitable quality higher education for all, UNESCO-ICHEI envisage the concept of International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) to further mobilize quality higher education resource in Asia-Pacific and Africa. With the generous support from the **Tencent Fund**, UNESCO-ICHEI is able to initiate the Consultation and Need Analysis project aiming at 5 countries in Asia-Pacific region, namely **Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia**, to understand the practical needs of representative universities. Specifically, we seek to explore the following topics:

1. Key challenges of countries and its higher education systems to achieve SDG4 and their national education goals;
2. The needs of higher education massification and quality improvement of higher education of the country;
3. Gaps between current talent cultivation models and the market demands for local universities;
4. Institutional capacity of producing, delivering online education to students in the country and localize MOOCs and adopt blended learning in curriculum; (Flagship universities of each countries are selected as cases);
5. Needs of IIOE and suggestions regarding its design and administration; (Introduction of IIOE will be send as separate doc shortly).

For this purpose, the project will conduct a consultation meeting, a series of field trips, and a summative meeting will be held to consolidate the findings. The final output will be an integrated report of assessment and need analyses with 4 country-cases in the region.

Objectives

The leading universities as followings in above-mentioned countries respectively were selected in consultations between expert team and UNESCO-ICHEI with the full understanding of regional context and IIOE initiatives. They are:

- Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia;
- University of Colombo, Sri Lanka;
- University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, Pakistan;
- Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia;

Each of the university will nominate a local focal point to provide consultation and draft institutional report. We are now looking for a **part-time consultant** for the successful implementation and execution of the need analysis. The contractor will work closely with the UNESCO-ICHEI's core team to focus on developing a framework for the overall need analysis.

Term and Responsibilities

Term: 1st April – 30th June part-time (flexible working hours)

1. Main Deliverable (Due to 20th June): As the main analyst/editor responsible for the Integrate Need Analysis Report;
2. Field trips (in May): Including 4 countries;
3. Consultation: Participate meetings (in Shenzhen and remotely) and provide consultations for UNESCO-ICHEI (email-cycle).

Qualifications

The project lead should possess the following mandatory qualifications and experience:

- University degree at Ph.D. in Education, ICT in Education, Higher Education or a related field;
- At least 6 years of working experience (including post-doctoral) acquired at the international level or in an international setting;
- Understanding and good knowledge of UNESCO's mandate and its programming in relation to ICT in higher education;
- Familiarity with Asia-Pacific context and the topic of ICT applications in Higher Education, including MOOCs and blended learning;
- Excellent analytical and drafting skills in English;
- Experience with assignments focusing on multi-stakeholder partnerships, and/or higher education project in the Asia-Pacific region with UN institutes or NGOs.

Verification of these qualifications will be based on the provided curriculum vitae.

How to submit application

A complete application comprises of:

1. A curriculum vitae and a cover letter describing relevant professional experience;
2. A financial proposal. Financial estimates should include detailed fees for the draft report and other possible costs. International travel will be managed separately by UNESCO-ICHEI.

The complete application materials should be attached in an email to UNESCO-ICHEI in two separate files and sent to the following email address no later than **31 March 2019**: appo@ichei.org.

For any requests for clarification, please contact Ms. Fan Li at fanli@ichei.org; or Ms. Sherry Duan at duanxt@ichei.org.