International Institute of Online Education (IIOE):
Harnessing the Belt & Road Initiative to Enhance Developing Countries’ Access to Quality Higher Education
Managing higher education reforms to address economic transformations

Higher education is vital to move developing countries away from a reliance on low-skilled, low-wage, and low value-added industries.
Challenges of Higher Education in Developing Countries

• Lack of capacity of higher education institutions (HEIs) to offer quality courses, especially ICT ones, to meet the needs of transforming economies;

• Lack of capacity of teachers in HEIs to develop and implement quality courses; and

• Unequal access to higher education for marginalized groups, especially women and girls.
How could HEIs in developing countries address these challenges?
ICT: Improving Access to Quality Higher Education

ICT may address these challenges by providing HEIs with opportunities to enhance the quality of higher education, to improve the access to higher education and to enhance the efficiency of higher education.
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
Open Education Resources (OERs)
Mobile-Enabled Learning
How then could HEIs take up these opportunities provided by ICT to address the challenges?
UNESCO-ICHEI and the IIOE Proposal

- The International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI) has been engaged in discussions with its partner HEIs and education experts on how these opportunities of ICT could be taken up to address the challenges.

- These discussions have led UNESCO-ICHEI to propose the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) initiative to support HEIs to address these challenges.
Presenting the INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ONLINE EDUCATION (IIIOE)
Mission of IIOE

Aligning itself to the UN SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, the mission of IIOE is to build the capacity of UNESCO-ICHEI’s partner HEIs for enhancing access to quality higher education teaching and learning.
Aims of IIOE

- Developing teachers’ ICT in education & ICT-related disciplinary capacity
- Building partner HEIs’ capacity
- Providing quality online ICT-related courses
- Using AI to improve personalized professional development
- Bridging graduates and labour market
- Enhancing HE access for female teachers & students
What could IIOE provide for its partner HEIs?
Deliverables of IIOE for Partner HEIs

1. An online learning platform
2. Quality online ICT-related courses
3. An advisory body for quality assurance & enhancement
4. Partnership network
(2) Quality Online ICT-related Courses

**Discipline-related:** Cloud Computing, Big data, Internet of Things (IoTs), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Blockchain.

**TVET-related:** Robotics, E-Commerce and Data Analytics.

**ICT in higher education teaching & learning:** Pedagogical Strategies for online and blended learning, Online Course Development, and Instructional Design.
(3) Quality Assurance and Enhancement

- Ensures and enhances quality of IIOE implementation
- Facilitates self-assessment of HEIs
- Serves as an advisory framework
- Supplements existing frameworks
(4) Partnership Network

UNESCO

UNESCO-ICHEI

Partners

HEIs

Enterprises

Course Providers
Who will benefit from IIOE?
UNESCO-ICHEI’s partner HEIs and their teachers. 

First cohort as below:

**In Asia-Pacific:**
Mongolian University of Science and Technology (Mongolia), Royal University of Phnom Penh (Cambodia), University of Colombo (Sri Lanka), University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore (Pakistan)

**In Africa:**
Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia), Ahmed Bello University (Nigeria), Ain Shams University (Egypt), University of Djibouti (Djibouti), Makerere University (Uganda), University of Nairobi (Kenya), University of the Gambia (Gambia).
What could partner HEIs do for the successful implementation of IIOE?
Responsibilities of Partner HEIs

• Basic infrastructure
• An institutional mechanism for quality assurance
• Teacher professional development
• Online course development and sharing
• Internal IIOE coordination
• Gender equality
What support could IIOE provide for partner HEIs?
IIOE Support for Partner HEIs

• IIOE online learning platform
• Quality online courses
• Capacity building for teachers/supervisors
• Technical support
• IIOE international partner meetings
• IIOE global report
How is IIOE organized?
Organization Structure of IIOE
Is there a work plan for IIOE?
Five-Year Work Plan of IIOE

2020

- Official launch
- Integrate ICT-related courses in 3 languages (English, Chinese & French)
- Capacity building for partner HEIs (master teachers, technical staff, leaders & administrators)

2021-2022

- Enlarge ICT-related course repository (to include Russian, Spanish and Arabic)
- Online courses by partner HEIs
- Enhance the IIOE Learning Platform with AI capacity
- Scale up capacity building (Master teachers providing professional development in local context)

2023-2024

- Enlarge ICT-related course repository (to include local languages)
- Expand IIOE reach to other regions and countries – Latin America and Central Asia
- Deploy more servers for the outreach to other regions
- Phase-1 evaluation
- Planning for phase-2
How could the IIOE initiative be monitored and evaluated?
Before IIOE implementation:

1) To assess partner HEI’s **readiness and capacity** for IIOE implementation
2) To support partner HEIs to **identify and address gaps** for IIOE implementation

During and After IIOE implementation:

1) To assess the **outcomes** of partner HEI’s IIOE implementation
2) To support partner HEIs for **quality assurance and enhancement**
Monitoring and Evaluation

**Annual Report** of IIOE Implementation:

- Usage of courses by teachers;
- Institution-based professional development;
- Students who indirectly benefit from IIOE;
- Development of new courses;
- Self-evaluation based on IIOE QA framework; and
- Promising practices and lessons learnt of IIOE implementation.
Conclusion
IIOE at a Glance

**Design & Management**
- HEIs
- Enterprises
- MOOC platforms

**Implementation**
- UNESCO-IICHEI hosts IIOE courses on IIOE platform and provides to partner HEIs
- Partner HEIs enhance the capacity based on IIOE QA Framework for online and blended teaching and learning
- ICHEI provides teachers' profession training in partner HEIs for online and blended teaching and learning

**Evaluation**
- Teachers in partner HEIs improve their ICT competencies for institutional higher education reform
- UNESCO-IICHEI evaluates IIOE implementation in partner HEIs, organize multi-partners exchange meetings and write IIOE global report
The Belt and Road Initiative, aims to promote and build up collaborative development mechanism among countries by means of talent cultivation and exchange. It is based on the principles of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit.
United Nation Sustainable Development Goals

UN SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO

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