



Global MOOC and Online Education Conference

Sub-forum 1: Building Future-Ready Higher Education through Equitable and Quality Online and Blended Teaching and Learning

6 December 2021, Shenzhen, China



Background

The global higher education landscape is shifting rapidly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, digital transformation of higher education and the workplace, international mobility of students and scholars, climate change, among other factors. Higher education institutions (HEIs), especially in the global south, face many challenges in implementing inclusive and quality online and blended teaching and learning (OBTL), ensuring the relevance of existing curriculum and assessment, and building institutional capacity to manage these challenges of equity, quality, and efficiency. Given the external and internal challenges, capacity building will be vital to building future-ready higher education institutions and systems that are resilient to the rapid development of digital technologies and ready to take up the opportunities to leverage them for equitable and quality higher education.

The newly released UNESCO report, [*Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education*](#), emphasises the foundational principles of assuring the right to quality education throughout life and strengthening education as a public endeavour and a common good as we move to 2050 and beyond to continue empowering future generations to reimagine their futures and their worlds. More specifically, the report highlights the crucial role of HEIs in the Futures of Education, from supporting research and the advancement of science to becoming contributing and collaborative partners to other stakeholders around the globe. Concurrently, in releasing [*STEERING Tertiary Education: Toward Resilient Systems that Deliver for All*](#), the World Bank Group also highlights the importance of tertiary education in building back better in a new era of green and equitable economic growth. In the proposed steering framework, one dimension explicitly addresses the importance of leveraging technology to improve teaching and research capacity while countering the impact of expanding digital divides. Another dimension on equity calls for actions to ensure equity and inclusion as driving methods for an effective and relevant tertiary education system.

As global stakeholders continue working towards equitable and quality global learning for all, the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI) and the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech) are hosting the sub-forum 1 of the 2021 Global MOOC and Online Education Conference, inviting global higher education leaders to share experiences and perspectives. The theme of the sub-forum will be ***Building Future-Ready Higher Education through Equitable and Quality Online and Blended Teaching and Learning***. Representatives from the ministries of education, higher education institutions, international organisations, and private enterprises are invited to engage in a series of keynote presentations, policy roundtable discussions, and case studies to shed light on each stakeholder's roles in building future-ready higher education under the Conference theme ***Together for a Shared Future - Leading Higher Education Innovation in the New Digital Era***.

Objectives

By examining the global education discourse, international/national policies, and good practices of higher education institutions around the world, this forum will provide a platform for global higher education stakeholders to chart the way forward for harnessing the power of digital technology and implementing equitable and quality OBTL to build future-ready higher education.

Specific goals include:

- Explore the roles, policies, effectiveness, development trends, opportunities and challenges of implementing OBTL in improving equity and quality of higher education;
- Discuss successful practices and lessons learned from the implementation of OBTL;
- Discuss the roles and functions of related stakeholders;
- Respond to the latest global higher education discourse initiated by intergovernmental organisations, such as the Futures of Education initiative by UNESCO and the STEERing Framework proposed by the World discuss ways to operationalise related calls and recommendations;
- Document the discussions and responses of speakers and develop a consultation brief to be submitted to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference.

Time and Location

6 December 2021

18:00 - 20:00 UTC+08:00

The subforum will be conducted online via Zoom and in-person at the Southern University of Science and Technology Convention Centre.

Contact

For any inquiries pertaining Sub-Forum 1: Building Future-Ready Higher Education through Equitable and Quality Online and Blended Teaching and Learning, please contact Ms Bingran Zeng (zengbr@ichei.org).



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Opening Remark



Prof. Qikun Xue

President of Southern University of Science and Technology

Global Discourse on the Futures of Higher Education and the Role of Digital Technologies: Keynote Presentations

Session Chair:



Prof. Antoinette van der Merwe

Senior Director, Division for Learning and Teaching Enhancement, Stellenbosch University, South Africa



Innovation in Higher Education, Using Technology to Build Back Better

Prof. Fernando Reimers

Ford Foundation Professor of Practice in International Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education; Member of the International Commission on the Futures of Education, UNESCO



Steering Tertiary Education Toward Resilient Systems that Deliver for All

Dr. Roberta Bassett

Global Tertiary Education Lead, World Bank Group



Creating a Conducive Policy Environment for Building Future-Ready Higher Education driven by OBTL: Policy Roundtable

Session Chair:



Dr. Libing Wang

Chief, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok, Thailand



Prof. Ulanbek Mambetakunov

Vice-President of the Academy of Education under the Ministry of Education and Science, Kyrgyzstan



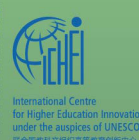
Mr. Succeed Mubanga

Director Planning and Information, Ministry of Technology and Science, Zambia



Prof. Tonny Oyana

Principal of College of Computing and Information Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda; Expert Member, National Task Force on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Technologies, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance



Innovative and Contextualized Practices in implementing Equitable and Quality OBTL: Selected Case Presentations



Prof. Fatima-Zohra Iflahen

Vice President of Cadi Ayyad University,
Morocco

Session Chair:



Prof. Cher Ping LIM

Chief Expert of IIOE, UNESCO-ICHEI;
Chair Professor of Learning
Technologies and Innovation,
Education University of Hong Kong



Prof. Danaa Ganbat

Director of Open Education Centre,
Mongolian University of Science and
Technology, Mongolia



Mr. Paul Kariuk

Director, Information Communication
and Technology Centre, University of
Nairobi, Kenya



Mr. Mingyu Guan

Global Talent Alliance Partner
Operation Director, Huawei

Closing Remark



Prof. Jianhua Zhao

Associate Director, Centre for Future Education Research,
Southern University of Science and Technology

Agenda

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Time	Section
5 mins	Opening Remark Prof. Qikun Xue, President of Southern University of Science and Technology
30 mins	Global Discourse on the Futures of Higher Education and the Role of Digital Technologies: Keynote Presentations <i>Session Chair: Prof. Antoinette van der Merwe, Senior Director, Division for Learning and Teaching Enhancement, Stellenbosch University, South Africa</i> Innovation in Higher Education, Using Technology to Build Back Better. Prof. Fernando Reimers, Ford Foundation Professor of Practice in International Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education; Member of the International Commission on the Futures of Education, UNESCO Steering Tertiary Education Toward Resilient Systems that Deliver for All Dr. Roberta Bassett, Global Tertiary Education Lead, World Bank Group
40 mins	Creating a Conducive Policy Environment for Building Future-Ready Higher Education driven by OBTL: Policy Roundtable <i>Session Chair: Dr. Libing Wang, Chief, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok, Thailand</i> - Dr. Janaka Jayalath, Deputy Director General, Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission, Sri Lanka - Prof. Ulanbek Mambetakunov, Vice-President of the Academy of Education under the Ministry of Education and Science, Kyrgyzstan - Mr. Succeed Mubanga, Director Planning and Information, Ministry of Technology and Science, Zambia - Prof. Tonny Oyana, Principal of College of Computing and Information Sciences, Makerere University, Uganda; Expert Member, National Task Force on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) Technologies, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance
30 mins	Innovative and Contextualised Practices in Implementing Equitable and Quality OBTL: Selected Case Presentations <i>Session Chair: Prof. Lim Cher Ping, Chief Expert of IIOE, UNESCO-ICHEI; Chair Professor of Learning Technologies and Innovation, Education University of Hong Kong</i> - Prof. Fatima-Zohra Iflahen, Vice President of Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco - Prof. Danaa Ganbat, Director of Open Education Centre, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Mongolia - Mr. Paul Kariuki, Director, Information Communication and Technology Centre, University of Nairobi, Kenya - Mr. Mingyu Guan, Global Talent Alliance Partner Operation Director, Huawei
5 mins	Closing Remark Prof. Jianhua Zhao, Associate Director, Centre for Future Education Research, Southern University of Science and Technology

