



# IIOE Nigeria National Centre Launch Ceremony

Concept note & Agenda

20 April 2022



## Background

The COVID-19 pandemic, technological revolution and evolving labour market needs have exposed the urgency of transforming higher education systems. In particular, digital transformation is key for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to adapt to the changing environment and developmental needs. However, due to the "digital divide" and other deeply entrenched inequalities, digital transformation can be challenging for the global south, especially Africa.

In response to this, the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) was launched by UNESCO-ICHEI together with African and Asian HEIs and private sector partners in December 2019, endorsed by UNESCO. Since its establishment, IIOE provided a multilingual online education platform, teacher capacity building programmes in Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, online and blended pedagogy, and STEM online courses. It also developed the IIOE Quality Assurance Framework and Toolkit for Online and Blended Teaching and Learning, as well as the IIOE Competency Framework for the Higher Education Workforce. Since its launch, IIOE has benefited over 9,000 teachers in 135 countries worldwide.

Under the guidance of UNESCO's Priority Africa Strategy, the "IIOE National Centre" (IIOE-NC) initiative was initiated by UNESCO-ICHEI in order to better serve the needs of HEIs in developing countries in terms of digital transformation. IIOE-NCs will serve as national/regional hubs for higher education digital transformation through research, capacity building, online course construction and sharing, technical support and networking.

As a founding member of IIOE, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) and UNESCO-ICHEI have had substantial cooperation in ICT capacity building, digital infrastructure, academic exchange, and joint research since 2019. Based on multi-stakeholder consultations with UNESCO, ministries and partner HEIs, ABU will host the IIOE Nigeria National Centre. The establishment of the IIOE Nigeria National Centre will serve to empower the country's higher education through digital transformation, in alignment with the nation's development strategies, for a more sustainable, inclusive and equitable future.

To this effect, UNESCO-ICHEI is jointly organising the IIOE-NC launch ceremony in Nigeria with the Nigerian Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission of Nigeria, UNESCO Priority Africa and External Relations Sector, UNESCO Office in Abuja, and ABU.

## When and Where

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:00 am (Abuja time), 17:00 – 18:00 (Beijing time) 20 April 2022

**Location:** Online, hosted from Shenzhen, China

**Please use the following link to register for the event:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bBI2m5l\\_S6G6bafVfOfA5w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bBI2m5l_S6G6bafVfOfA5w)

## Objectives

1. Officially launch the IIOE Nigeria National Centre
2. Identify operational modalities and work plan of the IIOE Nigeria National Centre in 2022
3. Establish a platform of dialogue and mutual benefits among HEIs and HE organisations in Nigeria.

## Participants

- Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education
- Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO
- National Universities Commission, Nigeria
- Higher Education Institutions in Nigeria
- Representatives of international organisations

## Agenda

Time	Section
6 mins	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video presentation of IIOE</li> </ul>
16 mins	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. DU Yue, Director of the Division for Cooperation, Intersectoral Follow-up and Partnerships for Africa, UNESCO (TBC)</li> <li>• Prof. Kabiru Bala, Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University</li> <li>• Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (TBC)</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Mallum Adamu Adamu, Minister of Education of Nigeria (TBC)</li> </ul>
8 mins	<b>Policies and initiatives driving and supporting higher education digital transformation in West Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Dimitri Sanga, Director of UNESCO Dakar Office, O.I.C. of UNESCO Abuja Office</li> </ul>
15 mins	<b>Presentation of the INC implementation framework and work plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Qiao Shi, Programme Officer, UNESCO-ICHEI</li> <li>• Mr. Dean Chen, Programme Officer, UNESCO-ICHEI</li> <li>• Prof. Muhammed Bashir Mu'azu, Ahmadu Bello University</li> </ul>
5 mins	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. LI Ming, Director, UNESCO-ICHEI</li> </ul>

