The 2nd EXPERT MEETING for
"Building the Capacity of Higher Education Institutions in Asia-Pacific for Blended Learning to Enhance Student Engagement and Outcomes" Project

2-3 May 2016
Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Bangkok
920 Sukhumvit Road, Phrakanong, Bangkok 10110, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was announced in 2015 for all countries and all stakeholders, acting in partnership, to align their development efforts to this agenda. The set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a universal, integrated, and transformative vision for a better world. SDG 4, known as Education 2030, is a single global goal for quality education, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Technology is a fundamental driver of that vision to create equitable, dynamic, accountable and sustainable learner-centred digital learning ecosystems that are relevant for the 21st Century. Rapid advances in technology are revolutionising the way in which teaching and learning is conceptualised, designed, and implemented in higher education. These developments play a key role in delivering quality education for all.

Blended learning, the deliberate synthesis of online and face-to-face contact time between teaching staff and students, has been particularly appealing to an increasing number of higher education institutions (HEIs) in recent years. While many of the advantages of blended learning are well established, its adoption in practice can pose enormous challenges for HEIs, especially in terms of sustainability and scalability. Although blended learning design and implementation could be heavily context-dependent, a systematic, strategic, institution-wide consideration and planning of blended learning may result in large-scale transformations.

Therefore, a UNESCO-commissioned project by The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) and its partners was initiated to build the capacity of HEIs for blended learning. As an outcome of the first Expert Meeting held 3-5 June 2015 at HKIEd, a framework was developed and refined for supporting HEIs to formulate and implement a holistic blended learning approach. The framework includes eight strategic dimensions: vision and philosophy; curriculum; professional development; learning support; infrastructure, facilities, resources and support; policy and institutional structure; partnerships; and research and evaluation. This framework has guided the collective case study book that incorporates case studies from leading HEIs in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition to the framework developed and the experiences and promising practices documented in the case studies, the project also aims to develop a toolkit with hands-on resources that supports HEIs to sustain and scale up innovative blended learning practices. In order to achieve this, a group of experts will gather for an expert meeting in Bangkok, Thailand from 2-3 May 2016.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

The aim of this expert meeting is to construct and refine the toolkit to build the capacity of HEIs in Asia-Pacific for blended learning. More specifically, the experts will have a two-day work meeting to:

- reflect on and discuss the framework and case studies (in press);
- discuss the structure of the proposed toolkit for HEIs in Asia-Pacific;
- evaluate the resources provided in the components in the proposed toolkit;
- identify potential resources that may be useful but have not yet been included or developed; and
- discuss the implementation strategies of the proposed toolkit.

EXPECTED OUTPUT

By the end of the meeting, the following outputs are expected:

- agreed components of the toolkit (table of contents);
- a list of additional resources that may be useful for building the capacity of HEIs in Asia-Pacific for blended learning;
- comments and suggestions for toolkit construction and refinement; and
- possible implementation strategies of the toolkit.

The outputs of the meeting are expected to be consolidated and finalised by 31 May 2016 and shared with all participants of the meeting.

DATES AND VENUE

The meeting will be held at UNESCO Bangkok, 920 Sukhumvit Road, Phrakanong, Bangkok 10110, Thailand from 2 to 3 May 2016.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Expert Meeting Programme

2 May 2016 (Monday)

0845-0900	Registration at UNESCO Bangkok	
0900-0930	Welcome remarks	UNESCO & HKIEd
0930-1015	Project progress	Mr. Cher Ping Lim and Mr. Libing Wang
1015-1030	Tea break	
1030-1200	Discussion of framework and case studies	All experts (Mr. Cher Ping Lim facilitating)
1200-1300	Lunch	
1300-1530	Discussion: Structure of proposed toolkit	All experts (Mr. Cher Ping Lim facilitating)
1530-1545	Tea break	
1545-1700	Discussion: Evaluation of existing resources	All Experts (participant facilitating)

3 May 2016 (Tuesday)

0900-0930	Revisiting the structure of proposed toolkit	Mr. Lim
0930-1030	Discussion: Identification of potential resources for toolkit	All experts (Mr. Wesley Teter facilitating)
1030-1045	Tea break	
1045-1215	Group discussions: Implementation strategies for proposed toolkit	All Experts (participant facilitating)
1215-1330	Lunch	
1330-1500	Group presentation and discussions of implementation strategies	All Experts (participant facilitating)
1500-1515	Tea break	
1515-1700	Timeline and action planning	All Experts (Mr. Cher Ping Lim facilitating)
1700	Closing of the meeting	Mr. Libing Wang

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mr. Cher Ping Lim
Professor of Curriculum and Innovations
The Hong Kong Institute of Education
+852-2948-7049; clim@ied.edu.hk

Ms. Jurairat Pongpinyo-opas
Administrative Assistant, UNESCO Bangkok
+66 2 3910577 Ext. 210
j.pongpinyo-opas@unesco.org