



Conference Speakers

Day Three: Saturday 18 May 2019

Plenary Session 4: International partnerships towards an AI-enhanced future of education



Tao Xiping is a committee member of Chinese National Education Consultative Committee, an Advisor to the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, the Honorary President of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations, the Honorary President of the Asian-Pacific region of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations. He has been engaged in educational works and non-governmental UNESCO movements for a long time. He has successively served as a committee member of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of Chinese

Sameer Sharma is currently Senior Advisor at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Regional office for Asia-Pacific, Bangkok. He is responsible for sustainable development through ICTs to create digital economies and promote digital connectivity through digital transformation for South Asian countries. Mr Sharma assisted countries in migration from legacy networks to Next Generation Networks, Conformance and Interoperability, Type Approval, Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Map, National Broadband Policy Frameworks and Wireless Broadband Master Plans, IOT, IMT/5G and bridging the standardization gap. He is also the focal point for developing national cybersecurity strategies, and the establishment of CIRT and Child Online Protection (COP). Mr Sharma also worked on digital inclusion and has assisted countries on Emergency Communications Framework and network restoration. Mr. Sharma holds MBA in Telecom Management and Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Communications (Honors).



Mohamed Jemni is a Professor of Computer Science and Educational Technologies at the University of Tunis, Tunisia. He is the Director of ICT Department at The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (www.alecso.org) from October 2013. He has been the General Director of the Computing Center AlKhawarizmi, the Internet services provider for higher education in Tunisia, from 2008 to 2013. At ALECSO, he is currently leading several projects related to the promotion of effective use of ICT in education in the Arab world, namely, OER, MOOCs, cloud computing and the strategic project ALECSO-APPS. He published more than 300 papers

in international journals, conferences and books. He produced many studies for international organizations such as UNESCO and ITU.

He has been awarded the honorary distinction of Commander of the Order of the Tunisian Republic in May 2009 and the Order of Educational Merit in July 2007.

Larry Nelson is Senior Director and Regional General Manager of Education for Microsoft Asia, He leads the education business unit for primary, secondary and higher education institutions and drives digital transformation projects in educational organizations across Asia. Before joining Microsoft in 2009, Nelson led the strategic planning of telecom services at Stanford University. He was also the principal at Global Educational Technology Knowledge, LLC, where he provided strategic planning, marketing, operations, market research and business development expertise to corporations, schools, universities and Ministries of Education. With approximately three decades of experience, Mr Nelson has held a series of executive positions in technology multinational corporations, including the acting executive director of the Global Education and Learning Community at Sun Microsystems. He was also the vice president of sales, marketing, and finance at SchoolCity.com, and the CEO of the Decision Development Corporation (DDC), a privately held educational software publisher.



Mr Nelson graduated from Vassar College, United States of America, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science (Legal Theory). He also received a Master of Business Administration in Marketing and Finance from Cornell University, United States of America.



Paula Valverde is the Product and Innovation Director at ProFuturo a joint initiative of “la Caixa” and Telefónica Foundation, since 2016. Master’s Degree (MSc) in Telecommunications Engineering (Radio Communication) from Universidad Politecnica of Madrid and Executive MBA by EOI Business School. She is an experienced leader in the conceptualisation, development and launch of complex digital innovative products and expert in IoT, wireless communications and data analytics/big data. Ms Valverde creates differentiated products

& services leveraging technological innovation, her strategic leadership, emerging technology knowledge and business acumen. She joined Telefonica in 2008 and has succeeded in driving new concepts into becoming a digital business (from idea to commercial product) in verticals such as Telecommunications, Retail, Insurance telematics/connected car, IoT. She joined ProFuturo in April 2017.

Joe Guan leads the public policy agenda for the Greater China region, such as engagements with governments and regulators as well as outreach to institutions and think-tanks. He advocates for members’ common interests, provides expert advice on policymaking and thought leadership to the evolution of policies and regulations. He is also active in capacity building and policy debates at regional and international forums. Previously, he led the GSMA spectrum policy programme for the Asia Pacific region. Before joining the GSMA, Mr Guan worked for the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment — in a variety of roles ranging from radio engineering, spectrum licensing, compliance, to project management. He was heavily involved in the development of the New Zealand government’s online register of radio frequencies and its online spectrum licensing and compliance systems. Mr Guan has a bachelor’s degree in engineering from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, specialised in radio engineering and digital signal processing. He is also a certified PRINCE2 practitioner with many experiences in project and programme management.





Songfan Yang was the founder and CEO of FaceThink Inc., and associate professor at Sichuan University, China. Mr Yang received his Ph.D. degree from University of California Riverside. He worked as a post-doc research fellow at University of California Irvine and Data Scientist at Blizzard Entertainment. Mr Yang was the winner of 2011 IEEE international competition on automatic facial expression recognition challenge.