

# **Futures of Education:**

## **How to Assure Quality Higher education during University Closures**

### **Date and Time**

**April 17, Friday 17:00-19:00 (GMT+8)**

**Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://www.zoomus.cn/j/1365644187>

### **Abstract**

In September 2019, UNESCO launched the “Futures of Education” initiative which aims to rethink education and shape the future. Knowledge and learning are humanity’s greatest renewable resources for responding to challenges and inventing alternatives. Education does more than respond to a changing world. Education transforms the world. However, because of COVID 19 outbreak, some 1.5 billion learners around the world were not able to attend school or university as UNESCO’s latest figures of April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The coronavirus crisis has pushed schooling onto online platforms. With this critical situation, it may well change our world and our global outlook; it may also an opportunity to rethink how education should work in the future, especially of how to keep providing quality Higher Education at this moment. With the rapid development of big data and artificial intelligence in the intelligent era, the impact on society and business is increasingly profound at this special situation. For education, we shall work out strategic solutions on how to reshape the higher education to adapt to an uncertain, complex, diverse world. Smart education shall be the innovative ways to survive in the intelligent era.

The webinar is entitled “Futures of Education: How to Assure Quality Higher education during Campus Closures” and it aims to explore the themes of “Futures of Education”, higher education and smart education. In this webinar, the challenges of global education, the opportunities for the futures of education are, and approaches on how to ensure quality higher education during university closures will be discussed. The audience for this webinar will be academics, researchers, experts and policy makers in education from China as well as international. In this first webinar, we invite a small number of experts to share some initial views on these issues. There may be more webinars and virtual meetings to follow. The following may be outcomes of these efforts:

1. Concept/position papers on vision of higher education for the future
2. Pitching of such vision and strategies for quality higher education to international organizations like UNESCO, UNESCO IITE, ICHEI, ALECSO, etc. and to national agencies like MOE of China
3. Publication of such vision and strategies in reports, books and academic journals; dissemination in international seminars/events
4. Formulating joint research proposals requiring international collaboration and funding sources

### **Keywords**

Futures of Education, Higher Education, Smart Education

## Agenda

Time	Event
17:00-17:05	Opening
17:05-17:30	Presentation on “Guidance on Flexible Learning during Campus Closures: Ensuring Course Quality of Higher Education in COVID-19 Outbreak”
17:30-18:30	<p>Share the knowledge and expertise from 5-8 global experts; each will share their perspectives to these questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to maintain quality higher education during university closures?</li> <li>2. What will be the role of teachers, students, or technology for higher education in such a situation?</li> <li>3. What are challenges of higher education during university closures to adapt the futures of education?</li> <li>4. How to respond now through international and inter-disciplinary collaboration to such challenges?</li> </ol> <p>Invited Speakers: * confirmed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chris Dede, Professor, Harvard University, U.S.A. *</li> <li>2. Barbara Wasson, Professor, Director, Centre for the Science of Learning &amp; Technology, University of Bergen, Norway *</li> <li>3. Diana Laurillard, Professor, UCL Institute of Education, U.K. *</li> <li>4. Isak Froumin, Professor, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia *</li> </ol>
18:30-18:50	<p>Further Discussion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kampei Hayashi, Associate Professor, Shinshu University, Japan and now at Uppsala universitet</li> <li>2. Cher Ping Lim, Professor, The Education University of Hong Kong, China</li> <li>3. Mike Sharples, Emeritus Professor, Open University, U.K.</li> <li>4. David McConnell, Professor, Curtin University, Australia (to be confirmed)</li> <li>5. Wayne Holmes, Assistant Professor, The Open University, U.K. (to be confirmed)</li> </ol>
18:50-19:00	Closure remarks

### Joint organization

1. UNESCO INRULED
2. UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education
3. International Centre for Higher Education Innovation (ICHEI)
4. Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University (SLIBNU)
5. Centre for Research and Development in Learning (CRADLE), Nanyang Technological University (CRADLE, NTU)
6. International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)
7. International Association of Smart Learning Environments (IASLE)
8. Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)

## Potential Experts

1. Tao Zhan, Director, UNESCO IITE
  2. Ronghuai Huang, Professor, Beijing Normal University; Director, UNESCO INRULED,  
Co-Dean, Smart Learning Institute, Beijing Normal University (SLIBNU)
  3. Dejian Liu, Founder and Chairman, NetDragon Websoft Holdings Limited;  
Co-Dean, Smart Learning Institute, Beijing Normal University (SLIBNU)
  4. Ming Li, Professor, Southern University of Science and Technology, China  
Director, UNESCO ICHEI
  5. Svetlana Knyazeva, Senior National Project Officer in Education, UNESCO IITE
  6. Chee-Kit Looi, Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
  7. Jianhua Zhao, Professor, Southern University of Science and Technology, China  
Senior Expert, UNESCO ICHEI
  8. Chris Dede, Professor, Harvard University, U.S.A.
  9. Diana Laurillard, Professor, UCL Institute of Education, U.K.
  10. Isak Froumin, Professor, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Russia
  11. Barbara Wasson, Professor, Director, Centre for the Science of Learning & Technology,  
University of Bergen, Norway
  12. Kampei Hayashi, Associate Professor, Shinshu University, Japan and now at Uppsala  
universitet
  13. David McConnell, Professor, Curtin University, Australia
  14. Cher Ping Lim, Professor, The Education University of Hong Kong, China
  15. Wayne Holmes, Assistant Professor, Open University, U.K.
  16. Mike Sharples, Emeritus Professor, Open University, U.K.
  17. Joseph South, chief learning officer at ISTE, U.S.A
  18. Kinshuk, Professor, University of North Texas, U.S.A; President, IASLE
  19. Mohamed Jemni, Director of ICT Department, ALECSO
- More other experts will be invited