2020 全球智慧教育大会
Global Smart Education Conference

INVITATION
- SPECIAL GUEST -

2020.8.20-22

Join Professor **Curtis J. Bonk**:

In order to promote the rapid development of China's education informatization and strengthen international exchanges and cooperation, 2020 Global Smart Education Conference, approved by Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges of Ministry of Education, and sponsored by Beijing Normal University, jointly hosted by the National Engineering Laboratory for Cyberlearning and Intelligent Technology, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education and Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University, will be held through online and offline ways from August 20th to 22nd, 2020.

With "Artificial Intelligence and Future Education" as the theme, the conference aims to gather global resources and strength in the field of smart education and discuss the development of artificial intelligence and future education after the pandemic. At the same time, a number of international organizations and universities will jointly issue a global smart education research plan.

We sincerely invite you to attend the forum "**OER for Achieving Inclusive Education**", and give an online speech (about **15** minutes) related to the North American experience by covering the three questions in the concept note of the forum. Thanks for your support!

Time: 19:00-22:00, August 21, 2020 (GMT+8)
Zoom Meeting ID: (we will send later via email)
Contact: Muhua Zhang (zhangmuhua1678@163.com),
         Yvonne Li Zhisheng (yvonneli_sli_bnu@163.com)

Regards,
National Engineering Laboratory for Cyberlearning and Intelligent Technology
Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University
UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education

主办
单位   北京师范大学

承办
单位   CIT 互联网教育智能技术及应用
        国家工程实验室

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization · International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education

北京师范大学智慧学习研究院
Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University

2020
Global Smart Education Conference

——AI and Futures of Education

—— [Background] ——

Today, the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation is an irresistible trend, and it has sped up the conversion of scientific research paradigms and social governance model. On the one hand, emerging technologies such as the Internet, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, Cloud Computing, the Internet of Things (IoT) and Virtual Reality (VR) are changing people's way of thinking and living. On the other hand, these technologies can also lead to unprecedented technology ethic issues and significant risks, many uncertainties are shaping our future. Countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan have successively published AI development strategies, ranging from policy plan, industry layout to industry exploration, so as to enhance the integration of intelligent technologies with every area, actively prevent the negative impacts of AI and focus on developing "trustworthy" AI.

Education, aiming at enlightening people, should not only carry forward the spirit and culture of mankind, but also cultivate innovative individuals oriented to the future. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2016) has put forward the idea of "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education to promote lifelong learning opportunities (LLO) for all (SDGs-4)". To provide extensive insight into educational development for countries across the globe, UNESCO has released reports on the futures of education in succession, including Learning to Be: The world of education today and tomorrow (1972), Learning: The Treasure Within (1996), Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good? (2015). In 2019, UNESCO launched the Futures of Education initiative which looks into the education in 2050 and beyond, attempting to reimagine how education and knowledge can shape the future of humanity in a context of increasing complexity, uncertainty and precarity.

The Chinese government has also published the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, Innovative Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence in Colleges and Universities, Education Informatization 2.0 Action Plan, China Education Modernization 2035 Framework so as to provide guidance, objectives and methods for the application of AI in education. The Ministry of Education has selected 10 regions for establishing Smart Education Demonstration Zones, expecting to expedite the exploration of new model, new method and new path to transform education through ICT and intelligent technologies. In recent years, smart education has received increasing attention all over the world. Smart education refers to an educational system with high-quality learning experience, highly adaptable learning content and high teaching efficiency that is provided by schools, regions or countries. As a high-end form of ICT in education, smart education is committed to setting up smart learning environment, exploring new models of learning and teaching, building modern educational system. With the support of information technologies, such as AI, futures of education will open a new chapter in smart education.

Since the beginning of 2020, quite a few schools have adopted online teaching due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic across the world. After the outbreak, China's Ministry of Education has launched an initiative *"Disrupted Classes, Undisrupted Learning"* to integrate high-quality educational resources at school, city, province and country level in order to realize home study of 270 million students through distance education. During the pandemic, the National Engineering Laboratory for Cyberlearning and Intelligent Technology (CIT) and Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University (SLIBNU) have carried out policy consultation, academic research, program research and development, etc., and jointly worked with UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) in finalizing and publishing a series of handbooks, covering flexible learning and online education, which helped share Chinese experience and explore new forms of the futures of education with worst-hit regions of the COVID-19.

From 2016 to 2019, Beijing Normal University, jointly with University of North Texas and other institutions have held 4 consecutive *US-China Smart Education Conference (UCSEC)* to explore the development trend of future educational technologies and released relevant research reports that have exerted great influences. Smart education is expected to play an important role in the society with uncertainties, multipolar world and the intelligence era. In order to further understand the latest achievements and development trends in smart education, grasp the influences of AI on the futures of education, discuss the factors, features, plans and potential problems in IT-driven educational development under special circumstances, set up international platforms for educational research, exchange and cooperation, press ahead the building of "a community of shared future in cyberspace ", Beijing Normal University, with the approval from the Ministry of Education, will collaborate with international organizations and other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to hold the *2020 Global Smart Education Conference* on August this year.

[Objectives]

This conference is to pool global resources and strength in smart education, forge high-end platforms for exchange and cooperation, facilitate innovative integration of intelligent technologies and education and promote equity in education and personalized growth. With a focus on the shared future for mankind in the intelligence era, it also aims at seeking diverse approaches and possibilities for smart education to promote human development.

[Themes]

1. New forms of futures of education fostered by AI

2. Promoting educational equity and human development with intelligent technologies (Artificial Intelligence and 5G)

3. Achievements and trends of smart village and smart education development

4. Opportunities and challenges brought by COVID-19 outbreak to global education

[Organizations] 4

According to the Approval of Hosting 2020 Global Smart Education Conference ((2020) No. 161), the 2020 Global Smart Education Conference has been officially approved by Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges of Ministry of Education, China.

The conference intends to invite Department of Science and Technology of Ministry of Education, National Commission of the People's Republic of China (Chinese NatCom) for UNESCO, and China Center for International People-to-People Exchange (CCIPE), etc. for guidance.

Hosts

- Beijing Normal University (BNU)

Organizers

- National Engineering Laboratory for Cyberlearning and Intelligent Technology (CIT)

- UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED)

- China Institute of Education and Social Development

- Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University (SLIBNU)

Co-organizers

- UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE)
- UNESCO International Center for Higher Education Innovation (ICHEI)
- UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building for Africa (IICBA)
- Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
- University of Memphis, the United States
- State Key Laboratory of Virtual Reality Technology and Systems, China
- National Engineering Laboratory for Educational Big Data, China
- National and Local Joint Engineering Laboratory for Internet Education Data Learning Analysis Technology, China
- Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University, China
- Research Institute of K-12 Big Data Application, Beijing Normal University, China
- China Academy of Social Management, Beijing Normal University, China
- Centre for Research and Development in Learning, Nanyang Technological University
- International Association of Smart Learning Environments
- Children and Youth Science Centre, China Association for Science and Technology
- Center for Higher Education Research, Southern University of Science and Technology
- (China-Central and Eastern Europe) Joint Virtual Laboratory for Future Education

Supporting enterprises

- China Mobile, Elernity, iFLYTEK, Huawei, Tencent, Baidu

[Agenda]

Date	09:00-12:00	14:30-17:30	19:00-22:00
20/08/2020 Thursday		**Opening Ceremony** **Forum 1:** AI and the futures of Education	**Forum 2:** The Futures of Education and Teachers' Capacity Building
21/08/2020 Friday	Forum 3: Education in 5G era	**Forum 4:** Governance and Social Perspective for AI; **Forum 5:** Application and development of big data in education under the background of artificial intelligence	**Forum 6：** K12 Education in the Age of Intelligence; **Forum 7：** Open Educational Resources (OER) for achieving inclusive education
22/08/2020 Saturday	**Forum 8:** New Infrastructure Construction and New Ecology of Regional Smart Education; **Forum 9:** Smart Village and Smart Social Development	**Forum 10：** International Science Education Forum; **Forum 11：** ICT Promoting the innovation of Higher Education	**Forum 12:** International Forum on National Smart Education Strategy for the Futures of Education **Closing Ceremony**

[Topic]

Forum: The Futures of Education and Teachers' Capacity Building

With the impact of the tremendous development of emerging science and technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and 5G, the society is transforming systematically, and the futures of education is facing new opportunities and challenges, which are full of uncertainties. The essence of education is teachers. The construction of teachers' abilities is one of the core elements of future education development. Therefore, what kind of teachers can be called "good teachers" in the future? How can governments, schools and social institutions, from a global perspective, improve the abilities of global teachers? Around these issues, this forum will invite educational officials, experts and business representatives from all over the world to carry out multi-level discussions.

Forum: Governance and Social Perspective for AI

The application of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data and Supercomputing is changing the living environment and the way of living and producing. AI is one of the core contents in a new round of scientific and technological revolution. It is a strategic technology leading the future. Many countries are scrambling to upgrade AI to the national strategy and promote the development of AI from top to bottom. In order to maximize the role of AI in promoting social progress, eliminate the negative effects of AI technology, and realize the effective governance of AI, it is necessary to carry out research based on practical evidence, especially the social experimental research of AI in the fields of education, medical care and pension. It has become the pressing demand of the day to respond to the major problems in the field of social governance by drawing lessons from the research methods of pedagogy, psychology, sociology in the context of social practice in the era of intelligence. This forum will invite well-known experts and scholars at home and abroad to discuss how Big Data, AI and other technologies can be deeply integrated into the fields of education, medical care and pension, so as to provide new ideas for building a smart society.

Forum: Smart Village and Smart Social Development

Intelligence is a new production factor of smart society. The basic starting point of smart society is to meet the people's growing requirements for a better life. Based on modern advanced Internet technology, smart village aims to improve farmers' living standards, establish a smart culture and industrial value system, and create a multi-functional business environment. At the same time, the development of smart education will help smart rural areas to access more equitable and high-quality education. In recent years, with the efforts of local governments, the development of smart villages and smart education has some achievements. We need discuss and explore how to further promote them.

Forum: ICT Promoting the Innovation of Higher Education

With the rapid development of intelligent technology represented by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, learning analysis, it provides the possibility for higher education innovation and transformation. In order to meet the needs of knowledge economy and digital society for innovation, there will be plenty of changes in teaching organization form of Higher Education, the requirements and specifications of personnel training, and the management methods. The advantages of higher education in cultivating innovative talents have been valued by all countries in the world. Science and technology is the first productive force, talent is the first resource, and innovation is the first motive force. Higher education plays a bridge between social needs and personnel training. Artificial Intelligence in education plays a significant role in promoting global education equity, achieving balanced development of high-quality education resources and improving education quality. This forum will invite university presidents, as well as experts and scholars in the field of intelligent education from all over the world to conduct in-depth discussions and communications on how to use intelligent technology to improve the scientific and technological innovation ability of colleges and universities, improve the training system of innovative talents, and reform the application of intelligent teaching in colleges and universities.

Forum: National Smart Education Strategy for the Futures of Education

With the rapid development of big data and artificial intelligence, the impact on society and business is increasingly profound. From academia to industry, the coming of an intelligent era has become a common understanding. For education, we shall work out strategic solutions on how to reshape the education to adapt to an uncertain, complex, diverse world. Smart Education introduces the innovative ways of surviving in the intelligent era. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought another unprecedented challenge to education. In this special situation, lots of students must learn online, which tested the resilience of ICT in education in every country. Aware of this situation, five organizations (UNESCO IITE, COL, ISTE, HSE, BNU) collaboratively initiated this "International Joint Project on Rethinking and Redesigning National Smart Education Strategy" to identify the major issues and trends of education and explore the solution of infusing technology into education. The five initial sub-projects are proposed and will be led by one organization with collaborative research of several organizations for a five-year project plan. In this webinar, we will discuss the following topics: 1) The consensual challenges of global education in the last decades; 2) The opportunities and new challenges for education in an intelligent era; and 3) Smart education as the solution for the futures of education.

[Guest to be invited]

The conference intends to invite:

International guests including Nobel laureates, Turing Award winners, directors from international organizations, associations and scientific research institutes, government delegates, presidents of renowned HEIs, primary and middle schools and vocational schools, senior executives of multi-national corporations, fund investors, etc.

Chinese guests such as academians, noted experts, educational authorities, officials of Smart Education Demonstration Zones, eminent presidents and teachers of famous HEIs, primary and middle schools and vocational schools, CEO and investors of education informatization leading enterprises, representatives of mainstream media, etc.

[Media to be invited]

The conference intends to invite network media including Xinhua News, People's Daily Online, Chinadaily, Sina.com, SOHO, QQ.com, Toutiao, etc., TV stations such as CCTV, CETV, etc., print media which include China Education Journal, Guangming Daily, etc., Chinese core journals including E-education Research, China Educational Technology, Modern Distance Education Research, Distance Education In China, Open Education Research, etc., and English core journals such as Computers &Education, Journal of Computer Assisted Learning, Educational Technology Research and Development, Smart Learning Environment (Open Source Journal), etc.