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มหาวิทยาลัยสุโขทัยธรรมมาธิราช 406 ✓  
ตำบลบางพูด อำเภอปากเกร็ด ๗๗  
จังหวัดนนทบุรี ๑๑๑๒๐

๗ มกราคม ๒๕๖๒

เรื่อง ขอความอนุเคราะห์ประชาสัมพันธ์การประชุมวิชาการนานาชาติ “International Conference on Distance Learning : Research and Innovation for a Digital Society”

เรียน เลขาธิการสำนักงานคณะกรรมการการอุดมศึกษา

สิ่งที่ส่งมาด้วย Concept Note

ในโอกาสสถาปนามหาวิทยาลัยครบรอบ ๔๐ ปี มหาวิทยาลัยสุโขทัยธรรมมาธิราชร่วมกับ UNESCO Bangkok กำหนดจัดการประชุมวิชาการนานาชาติ “International Conference on Distance Learning : Research and Innovation for a Digital Society” ระหว่างวันที่ ๑-๓ สิงหาคม ๒๕๖๒ ณ มหาวิทยาลัยสุโขทัยธรรมมาธิราช อำเภอปากเกร็ด จังหวัดนนทบุรี โดยมีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อส่งเสริมการวิจัยและนวัตกรรมเพื่อการเรียนรู้แบบเปิดและทางไกลที่มีคุณภาพสอดคล้องกับ SDG4 ทั้งนี้ เปิดโอกาสให้นักวิจัย นักวิชาการ คณาจารย์ และนักศึกษาระดับบัณฑิตศึกษาเสนอผลงานทางวิชาการ โดยแบ่งเป็นหัวข้อย่อย ๔ หัวข้อ ได้แก่ Trends Analysis in Distance Learning, Disruptive Innovations in Distance Learning, Subject-specific Research in Distance Learning และ Lifelong Skills Development for a Digital Society รายละเอียดปรากฏตามสิ่งที่ส่งมาด้วย

ในการนี้ มหาวิทยาลัยสุโขทัยธรรมมาธิราชจึงขอความอนุเคราะห์จากท่านในการประชาสัมพันธ์การจัดประชุมดังกล่าวให้สถาบันการศึกษาต่าง ๆ ทราบทั่วกัน ผู้สนใจสามารถศึกษาข้อมูลเพิ่มเติมได้ที่เว็บไซต์ <https://stouconference.stou.ac.th> ทั้งนี้ มอบหมายให้ นางสาวอลิสา มีสมรรถ นักวิเทศสัมพันธ์ปฏิบัติการ เป็นผู้ประสานงาน

๒) ๐๗..... กอ.๗..... จึงเรียนมาเพื่อโปรดพิจารณาให้ความอนุเคราะห์ด้วย จะเป็นพระคุณยิ่ง

เพื่อโปรด

- ทราบ
- ตอบกลับ
- เรียบร้อย
- กิจกรรมสนับสนุนการต่อไป

*[Signature]*  
15.1.62

(นายวันนี นนท์ศิริ)  
ผู้อำนวยการสำนักอำนวยการ

ขอแสดงความนับถือ

*[Signature]*

(ศาสตราจารย์ ดร.ประสาธ สืบคำ)

กรรมการสภามหาวิทยาลัยผู้ทรงคุณวุฒิ

รักษาการแทนอธิการบดีมหาวิทยาลัยสุโขทัยธรรมมาธิราช

① *[Signature]*

๐.

(นางอุษณีย์ วัฒนกุล)

รองเลขาธิการคณะกรรมการการอุดมศึกษา

รัฐมนตรีว่าการแทนเลขาธิการคณะกรรมการการอุดมศึกษา

งานวิเทศสัมพันธ์ สำนักงานอธิการบดี

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*[Signature]*  
ไม่คัดค้าน ดร. *[Signature]*



Bangkok Office  
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau  
for Education



๑๐ ปี มหาวิทยาลัยสุโขทัยธรรมาธิราช

มหาวิทยาลัยสุโขทัยธรรมาธิราช  
Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University

## International Conference on Distance Learning

### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR A DIGITAL SOCIETY

1-3 August 2019  
Nonthaburi, Thailand

#### CONCEPT NOTE

##### Background

Growing demand for knowledge and skills continues to challenge formal education systems and calls for more flexible modes of learning. In this regard, ICT in education is critical to achieve **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4)**, which aims to ensure equitable access to quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities. In Asia-Pacific, there are concerns about the accessibility, connectivity, quality, and gaps in ICT use, and the recognition of qualifications earned through non-traditional modes of learning. In this context, distance learning must respond and accelerate progress towards inclusive access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU), one of the leading universities in Thailand, provides lifelong learning through distance education. Over 39 years, the university has created various innovations and technologies related to distance learning in order to achieve the mission of excellence as an open university. To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of STOU and to advance the SDG4-Education 2030 agenda, STOU and the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok) will co-organize the **International Conference on Distance Learning: Research and Innovation for a Digital Society from 1-3 August 2019**. This conference will provide a great opportunity to all attendees including lecturers, researchers, and educators to share their experiences, research expertise and best practices to promote quality open and distance education. The conference will assess the current status of distance learning, share successful initiatives and good practices regarding distance learning and explore innovative strategies, partnerships and mechanisms to promote quality distance learning, research and innovation for a digital society.

##### Conference objectives

The overall aim of the **International Conference on Distance Learning** is to promote research and innovation for quality open and distance learning in line with SDG4. In particular, the conference will focus on the following objectives:

1. Showcase cutting edge policies and practices on distance learning to achieve SDG4;
2. Enhance quality related to distance education based on the use of learning outcomes;
3. Strengthen the network of distance education providers in Asia-Pacific;
4. Develop an action plan to ensure equitable access for the most vulnerable people through improved institutional governance and strategic partnerships.

### **Sub-themes**

To achieve SDG4, innovation is critical to help strengthen education systems, and ensure equal access to quality higher education for all. In order to address different challenges and opportunities for distance learning, the international conference will include the following sub-themes:

- 1. Trends Analysis in Distance Learning** – This sub-theme will analyse trends for open and distance learning to promote inclusive economic, social and environmental sustainability. For example, distance education can increase access, equity, quality and relevance, and can narrow the gap between what is taught, and what economies and societies demand throughout the region. Related issues:
  - Assess the current status of open and distance learning in Asia-Pacific
  - Identify key stakeholders, policies, trends and challenges influencing distance learning
  - Analyse strategies to ensure all learners can benefit equally from quality education in line with SDG4
  - Instructional and evaluation design
- 2. Disruptive Innovations in Distance Learning** – Rapid and innovative technological advancements must be effectively harnessed to transform distance learning systems. For example, there is significant potential around learner data to guide online learning and improve the design and organization of courses. In this context, education and training providers must innovate to secure appropriate and ethical use of data, including safeguarding the privacy and confidentiality of students' personally identifiable information. This in turn promotes the portability and recognition of learning.
  - Highlight lessons learned from online learning innovations in Asia and the Pacific
  - Showcase practical examples of technological advancements that enhance distance learning, including the use of learning outcomes in the Asia-Pacific region
  - Explore the importance of digital learner data ecosystems (e.g. [Groningen Declaration](#))
  - Impacts of disruptive technology on mode of teaching and learning
- 3. Subject-specific Research in Distance Learning** – Areas of study in distance learning include a focus on providing teachers with system-wide support for the pedagogical use

of ICT, to incentivize teachers, and to develop networks and platforms that allow teachers to share experiences and approaches that may be of use to peers and other stakeholders.

- Share best practices in diverse areas of study (e.g. agricultural studies, data science)
- Identify fields of study that distance learning can further contribute to and transform
- Assess opportunities for networks and platforms to support diverse areas of teaching

**4. Lifelong Skills Development for a Digital Society** – Distance learning can contribute significantly to the development of lifelong learning systems. Effective policies and programmes are required for the provision of quality learning opportunities. These issues are especially challenging given significant implications of demographic shifts throughout the region.

- Explore implications of digital advancements for adult and lifelong learning
- Research on appropriate financing and uses of technology to improve access to quality lifelong learning opportunities with a focus on aging societies
- Analyse case studies in Asia-Pacific where distance learning has been successful
- Application of distance learning for aging society

#### **Expected outcomes**

At the end of the conference, it is expected that the interactive sessions among open and distance education practitioners and participants will promote an understanding of best practices for research and innovation for a stronger and more cohesive digital society, as well as improving collaboration among national and international stakeholders and actors in open and distance education. An action plan will be developed in consultation with participants to support future collaboration in Asia and the Pacific with technical support from UNESCO's Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education.

#### **Target participants**

The conference will be attended by representatives from national and international higher education institutions, open and distance education practitioners and researchers, and other higher education stakeholders.

#### **Organizers**

The conference will be jointly organized by Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) and UNESCO Bangkok, Thailand.

## **Meeting venues and accommodation**

The conference will be held at STOU's main campus in Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi, Thailand. There are four accommodation choices including STOU Seminar Building II (on campus), Novotel Bangkok IMPACT, Ibis Bangkok IMPACT and Best Western Plus Wanda Grand.

## **Tentative program**

### **Thursday, 1 August 2019**

- 08.00 – 09.00 Registration
- 09.00 – 09.30 Opening Ceremony
- 09.30 – 10.30 Keynote Speech 1
- 10.30 – 11.00 Refreshment
- 11.00 – 12.00 Keynote Speech 2
- 12.00 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 – 15.00 Concurrent Session 1
- 15.00 – 15.30 Refreshment
- 15.30 – 17.00 Working groups to develop innovative action plans to achieve SDG4
- 17.30 – 20.00 Welcome Reception

### **Friday, 2 August 2019**

- 08.00 – 09.00 Registration
- 09.00 – 10.00 Keynote Speech 3
- 10.00 – 10.30 Refreshment
- 10.30 – 12.00 Panel Discussion
- 12.00 – 13.30 Lunch
- 13.30 – 15.00 Concurrent Session 2 and Poster Session
- 15.00 – 15.30 Refreshment
- 15.30 – 16.30 Concurrent Session 3 and Poster Session
- 16:30 – 17:00 Closing session: Announcement of action plans, commitments and next steps

### **Saturday, 3 August 2019**

Cultural program (Post Conference Tour)

## **Speakers and Panel Discussion**

The conference will consist of three keynote speakers and one panel discussion which includes three panelists and one moderator who are key resource persons in open and distance education.

## Conference Fee

|                  | Conference Fee |
|------------------|----------------|
| AAOU/ICDE Member | US\$ 220       |
| Participant      | US\$ 250       |
| Thai Resident    | THB 3,000      |
| Thai Student     | THB 1,500      |

**For further information and to join the event, please contact:**

### ***Conference Secretariat***

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