international Meet on transnational Education

January 3-5, 2014
Mascot Hotel
Thiruvananthapuram

Guidance Notes: Technical Sessions

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

www.kshec.kerala.gov.in

Dear Chairpersons and Panelists,

Thank you, once again, for your acceptance to participate in the International Meet on Transnational Education from 3 to 5 January, 2014. We are greatly looking forward to a successful and fruitful Meet.

We know that you are experts in your respective areas and that you will do justice to the various topics, which will be considered in the Technical Sessions. But some of us in the Preparatory Committee have given some thought to the key questions that should not be missed and we have drawn up the Guidance Notes below to highlight them. This is not an effort to give any particular slant to the outcome. Nor do we want to restrain you in expressing your views. The list of topics is illustrative, not comprehensive or exhaustive. We shall leave it to you to use these notes at your discretion.

I would request for your cooperation in beginning and ending the sessions at the appointed time. If any panelist is absent, the delegates may be given more time to discuss the topics.

We intend to incorporate the outcome of the Meet in a Thiruvananthapuram Declaration, which will be discussed at the end of the Meet and presented to the Hon'ble Governor of Kerala in the Concluding Session. We will be grateful if each session will prepare its contribution to the Declaration. A team of rapporteurs will be at hand to assist the chairpersons.

Travel well and enjoy the salubrious weather in Kerala in January.

Sincerely,

T. P. Sreenivasan

International Meet on Transnational Education
3-5 January 2014
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Technical Sessions: Guidance Notes

Overall Session Plan

1. A typical session will be 90 minutes long and will have 4 speakers.

2. Speakers have been selected so that there is representation from global, national and local levels.

3. All speakers will be provided with a set of specific questions in advance which they can use as key points to be covered in their presentations.

4. The session chair will be introduced by one of the coordinators. The session chair will then invite other speakers to the dais.

5. The session chair will introduce the session in about 5 minutes.

6. The session chair will introduce the session and each speaker will be given up to a maximum of 10 minutes in the beginning to make his/her presentation.

7. **There will be NO power point option available for the speakers.**

8. The chair will time the speakers' presentations, giving them 60 seconds notice to wrap up.

9. At the end of first round of presentations, the chair will open the floor for additional input from the floor. The delegates are encouraged to make their observations and questions, if any, and the speaker will answer them. The International Meet has no pre-set conception on the outcome from the Meet. So diverse views are welcome.

10. At the end of the session, the chair will make concluding remarks for 2-3 minutes.

11. All sessions will be recorded.

12. There will be one rapporteur per session who will make real time transcription of the presentations and interventions from the floor, including the chair's observations. This will then be consolidated into a one-page chair's summary and 3-4 key points will be incorporated into the Thiruvananthapuram Declaration. This note will be circulated among the speakers and once approved by the chair, it will form an official record of the discussions.

Session Language

The primary language of the sessions will be English. However, those who wish to make interventions in Malayalam may be allowed to do so with translations made, if necessary.

The session on "Is TNE Acceptable to Kerala" will be run in Malayalam

Technical Session I: *Open Education, E-learning and Massive Online Open Courses*

Friday 3rd January 2014, (9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)

Session Outline

Distance learning has been around for more than a century and online learning is as old as the web, yet suddenly there is excitement in the international academic community about MOOC, which is not revolutionary in its elements. This session will explore its evolution and the opportunities and challenges it poses to transnational education.

Chair: Dr. Jancy James

Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kerala

Panel

1. **Prof. Lucy L. Melbourne,** Professor of English, Saint Augustines's University, Raleigh, Nort Carolina, USA

2. **Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai,** Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment

3. **Prof Bhagavat Shonil,** Director, Research Degree Programme, British Open University, UK

4. **Dr. MuraleeThummarukudy,** Chief Disaster Risk Reduction, UN Environment Programme, Geneva.

Key Global Questions

1. What are the key contributing factors to the international buzz over MOOC?

2. What is the fundamental difference between current models of e-learning and on-line open courses?

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of introducing e-learning and on-line open courses?

4. How can MOOC change the global academic landscape in the coming years?

5. Is MOOC hyped and will it have a fate similar to Open Courseware Initiatives?

6. Will teaching and research part ways in a MOOC world?

7. What global policy regimes are needed to make this concept a force for good?

Key India Questions

1. Will MOOC enrich or deplete Indian academic scene?

2. Why are Indian students among the high users of MOOC?

3. Will Indian universities lose identity in the MOOC world?

4. Should India have its own MOOC platform?

5. How policies should be steered in India to take advantage of the MOOC revolution?

Key Kerala Questions

1. How to increase awareness among students in Kerala about the opportunities provided by MOOC?

2. What are the difficulties to introduce this concept in the Kerala education scenario and what are the benefits of introducing such an initiative?

3. Is promoting MOOC as a compulsory part of academic experience desirable?

4. What courses can Kerala offer to the MOOC world and be successful?

5. How can universities and faculties be supported to succeed in a MOOC world?

Technical Session II: *Credit Transfer and Transnational Education*

Friday 3ʳᵈ January 2014, (11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.)

Session Outline

Credit transfer between universities was already troublesome even before the arrival of transnational education. However, both MOOC and International Branch Campuses are making this question both inevitable and harder. In India, this is even more challenging as we don't have credit transfer arrangement, not even between universities in the same state. The session should explore how this issue is being handled around the world and what lessons can be learnt for India and Kerala.

Chair: Dr. M K Abdul Khader

Vice Chancellor, Kannur University

Panel

1. Prof. Berineme Fakae, Vice Chancellor, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nigeria

2. Prof Sylvia Heuchemer, Vice President, Academic Affairs, Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Germany

3. Dr. Achutshankar S. Nair, Director, Center for International Academics, University of Kerala, India

4. Dr. Maneesha V Ramesh, Director, Amrita Center for International Programs, Amrita University, India

Key Global Questions

1. How do global universities see the question of accreditation of qualifications obtained by MOOC and International Branch Campuses?

2. How is the European Credit Transfer System adapting to credit transfer and transnational education?

3. What are the possible global models for global "credit transfer regimes"?

4. Global certification systems (CCNA, NEBOSH, etc.) and what can the academic world learn from real world in terms of accreditation?

Key India Questions

1. Why is that India still doesn't have a national credit transfer system even for conventional university courses?

2. How will the arrival of International Branch Campuses and MOOC affect credit transfer needs?

3. What institutional arrangements are possible for establishing a national credit transfer system?

Key Kerala Questions

1. How to increase awareness about credit transfer among the academic community (faculty and students) in Kerala?
2. How can other universities adapt the recently approved regulations in Kerala University for credit transfer?
3. What specific rules need to be framed for crediting MOOC qualifications?
4. What are the options for maximising open and online learning while credit transfer rules remain rigid or non-existent?
5. Are the universities ready to revise the course structure and bring uniformity among the core courses?
6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this concept with respect to Kerala education question?
7. Will the Universities of Kerala ready to accept the credit transfer system? If so, what are the modalities for that?

Technical Session III : *Increasing Diversity in Classrooms*

Friday 3rd January 2014(1:30 – 3:00 p.m.)

Session Outline

More than four million students cross borders annually in pursuit of higher education. Internal migration within large countries would be much higher than this. Having geographic diversity of students (which also brings cultural diversity) enhances the learning experience. One of the major fears about transnational education is that while students may be able to achieve similar academic credentials by TNE, their overall educational experience will be less fulfilling.

Chair: Dr. M. Abdul Salam

    Vice Chancellor, University of Calicut

Panel

1. **Prof. Syedd Shamsul Alam**, Former Vice Chancellor, Aliah University, West Bengal
2. **Prof. Mehedi Fakheri,** School of International Relations, University of Tehran, Iran
3. **Prof. N.R Madhava Menon**, Former Director, National Law School of India University, Bangalore
4. **Mr. Shabarinath Nair**, Global Migration Expert, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland

Key Global Questions

1. How important is diversity in classrooms and does virtual classes achieve the same objectives as physical classrooms?
2. Will transnational education reduce global student exchange or increase it?

3. How student migration (for higher education) contributes to a better world and benefits both home and host countries?

4. What global policies can continue to stimulate the exchange of students in the higher education system?

Key India Questions

1. Will the number of Indian students seeking higher education decrease in the new world of TNE?

2. Why India is not a favoured destination for higher education for students from other countries?

3. How can India promote its role as global destination for higher education and what are the specific opportunities offered by MOOC?

4. How the Indian diaspora can be leveraged to promote India as a destination for higher education?

Key Kerala Questions

1. What are Kerala's strengths as a destination for higher education from students from outside the state and country?

2. What are the key barriers for increasing foreign students in Kerala?

3. What opportunities International Branch Campuses and other TNE options give Kerala to promote diversity?

4. What policy changes are needed to increase international student presence in Kerala?

5. How can Kerala attract more foreign students

6. Can the NRI quota be increased in our education system?

Technical Session IV: *Quality Assurance in Higher Education*

Saturday, 4th January 2014 (9:00 – 11.00 a.m.)

Session Outline

Academic standards vary widely between institutions and transnational education brings its own challenges. Major universities are averse to opening "branch" campuses, especially abroad for the fear of not being able to maintain similar "brand" quality which itself is a very nebulous concept to define and measure. The session should explore the classical issues of quality assurance and how they are challenged by the new developments in TNE.

Chair: Dr. A.V. George

Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University

Panel

1. **Dr. Antony Stella**, Commission for Academic and Accreditation Ministry of Higher Education, UAE

2. **Prof. Yves Barthelemy**, Paris East University, France

3. **Prof. A. Gnanam**, Former Chairman, NAAC

4. **Dr. Jagannath Patil**, Deputy Advisor, NAAC

Global Questions

1. How to maintain and measure quality in branch campuses?

2. How can current accreditation system evaluate "virtual universities"?

3. Who is responsible for quality assurance of branch campuses: host country, home country or the parent institution?

National Questions

1. How can higher education opportunities be expanded without diluting quality? The IIT expansion experience is relevant here.

2. How to measure quality of International Branch Campuses and what should it be rated against?

3. Can national systems rate virtual universities?

4. What institutional changes will be needed for quality assurance factoring in Transnational Education?

Kerala Questions

1. What input and output factors are key to achieving better academic standards?

2. How TNE elements can be used to improve academic quality in Kerala

3. Is the academic environment in Kerala conducive to increasing quantity and quality?

4. What are the parameters to be set for raising the qualitative standard of the institutions in Kerala and what role can KSHEC play in this regard?

5. Can we create or upgrade existing institutions as centres of excellence?

Technical Session V: *Maintaining Standards in a Globalizing World Ranking of Higher Education Institutions*

Saturday 4th January 2014 (11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

Session Outline

The World University Rankings assess world-class universities across all of their core missions-teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook, employing performance indicators. In India, there is considerable concern that even the best of our universities do not figure on this list. Recently, rankings have been made for BRICS and Emerging Economies and even there, the Indian Universities are not on top. The session may examine the rankings system and consider whether the criteria are equitable and just to Indian universities

Chair: **Dr. N. Veeramanikandan**

Actg. Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala

Panel

1. **Prof. Olof Linden**, World Maritime University, Sweden

2. **Prof. R. Natarajan ,**Former Chairman, AICTE and Former Director, IIT Madras

3. **Prof. Gangan Prathap**, Senior Scientist, NIIST and Former Vice Chancellor, CUSAT

Global Questions

1. Can universities not in global ranking survive in the new world of TNE?

2. How can current ranking systems address online universities?

3. Will "crowd ranking" supersede or supplement institutionalised ranking?

4. How will faculty standards change with online and blended learning?

National Questions

1. Will Indian universities become extinct if MOOC become widespread and students only opt for top brands?

2. How will branch campuses affect faculty and student quality in Indian universities?

3. How can Indian universities increase their ranking in the global ranking system?

4. For establishing a national ranking system, what are the opportunities and constraints?

5. What policy directions can the Government give to promote Indian universities getting onto the global ranking system?

Kerala Questions

1. Why is there no globally ranked institution in Kerala?

2. How will Kerala fare in a national ranking system?

3. Will International Branch Campuses and MOOC offer opportunity for Kerala to improve ranking?

4. What policy support can be provided for our institutions to improve their standards and ranking?

5. Should we have an institution of national importance like IIT in Kerala to improve the standards of Higher education in Kerala?

6. What measures can KSHEC take to coordinate the national institutes and the universities in Kerala to increase quality of education?

Technical Session VI: High Level Panel Discussion

Is Transnational Education Acceptable in Kerala?

Saturday 4th January 2014(2:00-4:00 p.m.)

Session Outline

Education is a highly emotive subject in Kerala and suggestions for change are seen with great suspicion and challenged. The consequence of these actions has been that we have been slow to take advantage of the new academic developments. Will it be the case for transnational education too? The session should explore the likely objections that the key stakeholders in educational sector in Kerala (students, teachers, private sector management) face against widespread adoption of TNE in Kerala. Are they justified? How can the legitimate concerns be addressed?

Chair: **Mr. M.G. Radhakrishnan**

Associate Editor, India Today

Theme Presentation: **Prof. Lopus Mathew**

Member, Executive Council, KSHEC

Panel

1. **Mr. E. T. Mohammad Basheer**, Member of Parliament and Former Minister of Education, Government of Kerala

2. **Mr. M.A. Baby**, Member, Kerala state Legislative Assembly and Former Minister of Education, Govt of Kerala

3. **Adv. K. Sivadasan Nair ,** Member, Kerala state Legislative Assembly,

Key Questions

1. Have academic stakeholders in Kerala fully grasped the opportunities and challenges of TNE? If not, how can the penetration of understanding be improved?

2. Will Kerala colleges convert themselves to teaching shops?

3. What are likely to be the key concerns about TNE in Kerala?

    a. Social justice (reservation policies and branch campuses)

    b. Quality control (who controls quality and how)

    c. Allowing foreign faculty and students in the state

    d. Role of private sector

4. How can Kerala take advantage of TNE while addressing legitimate concerns?

    a. How to engage student community

    b. How to engage teaching community

    c. How to engage private sector

Technical Session VII: *Role of Private Sector in Transnational Education*

Saturday 4th January 2014(4:30-6:30 p.m.)

Session Outline

Emerging scenarios of TNE will be both an opportunity and challenge to the private sector in general and private actors in higher education in particular. Private sector has a huge role to play in TNE both by supporting new innovations as well as increasing its acceptability by interventions in the job market. The session will look at what are the key ways in which private sector can assist TNE and what opportunities are there for the private sector.

Chair: Dr. M. C. Dileep Kumar

Vice Chancellor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady

Panel

1. **Dr.Joppe Cramwinckel, Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, Geneva, Switzerland**

2. **Prof. S. Rajeev, Asian School of Business, Thiruvananthapuram**

3. **Mr. G. Vijayaraghavan, Member, Kerala State Planning Board**

4. **Dr. G. Vishwanathan, Founder and Chancellor, VIT, Chennai**

Global Questions

1. What is the role of Private sector to tap the opportunities arising out of MOOC?

2. Will job market accept the transnational education?

3. Will the industry get into the MOOC world, offering real life courses on engineering and other topics, competing with academic institutions?

4. How can private sector be a driving force to promote better global education using the TNE vehicle?

National Questions

1. Can IBCs be created as part of corporate social responsibility?

2. Can private sector bring revolution by accepting MOOC qualifications?

3. Will Indian private sector institutions lead in projecting Indian educational experience elsewhere?

4. What policy support can be given to Indian private sector to promote their role in TNE in India?

Kerala Questions

1. How can the potential of the vibrant private sector in Kerala be harnessed to promote TNE?

2. What threats does the MOOC model, where the burden of education shifts from the student to the university, pose to the higher education financial model in Kerala?

3. What new opportunities exist for private sector to benefit from TNE in Kerala?

4. How can private sector in Kerala be motivated to bring IBCs to Kerala taking advantage of the new regulations?

Special Session: *International Branch Campuses and other Forms of Educational Collaboration*

Sunday 7th January 2014 (9:30–11:00 a.m.)

Session Outline

In this session, there will be four lectures, on diverse topics but each linked to transnational education. The session will present global experience in three different topics and the objective is to raise awareness and learn lessons.

Chair: **Dr .K. Jayakumar**

Vice Chancellor, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University

Speakers

1. **Prof. Brian G McAdoo**, Professor of Science and College Rector, Yale- NUS College, Singapore

2. **Dr. Mahesh Pradhan**, Head, UNEP's Environmental Education Training Unit (EETU), UN Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

3. **Dr Scott Simkins,** Director, Academy for Teaching and Learning, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

&

Dr Leslie Boney, Vice President for International Community and Economic Engagement, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

4. **Dr. Guenther Straub**, Professor, Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Lecture on the Yale-NUS Centre: The lecture will present the experience of the Yale-NUS Centre, highlighting the technical and administrative arrangements relating to the centre. The lecture will also elaborate on what were the key concerns in both home institution and host institutions as they set up the centre, what are the key benefits that they are already observing and what are the key challenges they are facing? Is this model ripe for replication elsewhere?

University Networks – CNRD: The Centre for Natural Resources and Development is a network of 11 universities established under the leadership of the Cologne University of Applied sciences and

supported by DAAD. The presentation will cover the basic set of the network and what academic activities are undertaken as part of the network. Key discussion points will be the benefits and challenges of such a global network, reference to other similar networks and what role such networks can play in promoting TNE?

University as Training Tool – GUPES: The Global University Partnership for Environmental Sustainability is an educational network created by UNEP under the Education for Sustainable Development Decade 2004-2014. The presentation will cover ESD, key features of GUPES, activities and key achievements. Key discussion points will be how can universities in India be part of the GUPES network and what experiences can be exchanged. What role does a network like GUPES have in promoting TNE?

The North Carolina Universities representatives will outline a co-operation programme with the Universities in Kerala.

Plenary Session: *General Exchange of views and finalising the Thiruvananthapuram Declaration on Transnational Education*

Session Outline

This is a session for delegates to have an exchange of views. A draft declaration on transnational education calling upon global, national and Kerala actors to fully grasp the significance of the revolutionary changes taking place in the area of TNE and the policy makers to create appropriate policy regimes to create a win-win situation for all will be circulated on end of day 2. This draft will be based on the deliberations of the first two days. This session will discuss the draft and finalise the same, which can then be presented to the Governor in the afternoon session.

Chair: Dr. Sheena Shukkur

Pro Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University

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The Kerala State Higher Education Council

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