The International Forums of the Academic Consortium for the 21st Century (AC21) are the most prominent events of the international AC21 network that brings together leaders from both AC21 member and non-member universities and institutions to discuss issues of current global interest. The Biennial AC21 International Forums have been organized by AC21 member universities since the AC21 network was established in 2002.

Kasetsart University is honored to organize the 10th AC21 International Forum that will take place from 6-10 December 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand, under the theme "New Pathways in Higher Education to Meet Challenges of Global Change". The forum will feature a plenary address on "How University's Innovative Education, Research, Entrepreneurship can Impact Global Challenges and Economic Development" by Professor Bailian Li, Senior Vice Provost for Global Engagement, North Carolina State University, USA.

Each of the following tracks will be introduced by a one-hour keynote address:

1. *Curricular changes and new program development* – This track addresses global demographic workforce changes (such as aging), which has increased demands for vocational and specified qualifications, e.g. in agricultural sectors, construction industries, and healthcare services, to name only a few. It is therefore important to address the extent to which universities should respond by offering vocational training and tailor-made courses in their areas of strength, while simultaneously maintaining their primary focus on academic degree programs and research.

   - Keynote 1: "Establishing Core Mental Skills in University Degree Programs vs. Providing" by Clinical Professor Udom Kachintorn, Deputy Minister of Education, Thailand;

2. *The role of technology in education today and into the future* – In this track, awareness is raised with regard to the educational technology trends that universities should embrace to improve students' engagement and motive dynamic learning. Technology in education comes in various forms, most notably, online courses, mobile devices, flipped classrooms, cloud-based technology, virtual and augmented reality, and it involves technology-focused subjects, particularly STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), STEAM (STEM and art), the Internet of Things, and AI.

   - Keynote 2: "Technology in Education Today and Tomorrow: A Case of Precision Agriculture" by Professor Naoshi Kondo, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Japan

3. *Integrating liberal arts education with professional education* – The extent to

3.  *Integrating liberal arts education with professional education* – The extent to which universities should provide liberal arts education, and whether it should be provided only in the first year as part of general education or throughout their professional degree programs, will be discussed under this track. It is widely accepted liberal arts education continues to be critically important because it develops both communication and cognitive skills (e.g. critical thinking, problem solving, and situational judgment), which are core skills needed throughout students' careers.

    *   Keynote 3: "Balancing between Liberal Arts Education and Professional Education" by Dr. Greg Watkins, Associate Director of The Structured Liberal Education, Stanford University, USA

4.  *Changing perspectives of higher education students* – This track will discuss strategies university leaders can use to deal with the predicted massive university closures. In part, declining enrollments are due to diminishing interest in traditional degree programs and increasing preferences for online learning programs, partly inspired by famous university dropouts who have become successful entrepreneurs.

    *   Keynote 4: "Responding to Current Values and Goals of Higher Education Students" by Professor Hannele Niemi, Faculty of Behavioural Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland

Abstracts for individual presentations corresponding to the above-mentioned tracks from academics, administrators, and postgraduate students of AC21 member universities/institutions are welcome. Each abstract of 200-250 words, written in English, outlining the contribution made to the international forum's theme and to one of these tracks, together with a short bio data of 100-150 words, may be submitted in *.doc* or similar format (not *pdf*) by email to:  fro@ku.th (please cc: chamaipak.t@ku.th) by 30 April 2020.

All proposals will be peer-reviewed, and authors will be notified of the results by 31 May 2020.

Thank you very much for your interest in participating in the 10th AC21 international forum.

We look forward to meeting you in Bangkok!