

ACADEMIC CONSORTIUM 21 INTERNATIONAL FORUM 2020**THEME: NEW PATHWAYS IN HIGHER EDUCATION TO MEET CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL CHANGE****6-10 DECEMBER 2020, BANGKOK, THAILAND**

Day 1 (Sunday, 6 December 2020)	
All day	Guest Arrivals
18:30 – 20:00	Welcome Reception
Day 2 (Monday, 7 December 2020)	
08:00 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 09:00	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks <i>Dr. Chongrak Wachrinrat, President of Kasetsart University, Thailand</i></p> <p>Opening Address <i>Dr. Krissanapong Kirtikara, Chairman of Kasetsart University Council, Thailand</i></p> <p>Address <i>Professor Hideki Kasuya, AC21 General Secretariat Director, Presidential Advisor</i></p> <p>Souvenir Presentation and Group Photo Session</p>
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Plenary Address: How University's Innovative Education, Research, Entrepreneurship can Impact Global Challenges and Economic Development</p> <p><i>Professor Bailian Li, Senior Vice Provost for Global Engagement, North Carolina State University, USA</i></p>
09:30 – 10:30	<p>Keynote 1: Establishing Core Mental Skills in University Degree Programs vs. Providing Vocational and Tailor-made Training to Fill Future Employment Gaps</p> <p><i>Clinical Professor Udom Kachintorn, Deputy Minister of Education, Thailand</i></p> <p>It is generally expected that universities need to prepare students for competitive jobs. The global changing (aging) workforce has led to increased demands for vocational and specified qualifications, e.g. in agricultural, construction industries, healthcare services, to name just a few. To what extent should universities respond by offering vocational training and tailor-made courses within their areas of strength while maintaining their major focus on academic degree programs and research?</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Refreshments
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Panel Session: Perspectives and Voices from AC21 Members (with Q&A)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Integrating Liberal and Professional Education – The Example of University College Freiburg” by <i>Mr. Paul Sterzel and Dr. Ursula Glunk, Managing Director and Academic Directors of University College Freiburg, University of Freiburg, Germany</i> - “Liberal Arts Education at Nagoya University” by <i>Professor Kato Kumiko, Graduate School of Humanities, Nagoya University, Japan</i> - “Practice of Emerging Engineering Education of Tongji University: From Ideas to Actions” by <i>Professor Yiru Huang, Dean of the Undergraduate School, Tongji University, China</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Keynote 2: Technology in Education Today and Tomorrow: A Case of Precision Agriculture Learning through Artificial Intelligence</p>

	<p><i>Professor Naoshi Kondo, Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Japan</i></p> <p>Technology in education comes in various forms, for example, online courses, mobile devices, flipped classrooms, cloud-based technology, virtual and augmented reality, and involves technology-focus subjects, namely STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), STEAM (STEM and art), and the Internet of Things. All of these are embraced to improve student engagement and to enhance authentic learning. What educational technology trends should universities look out for to encourage dynamic learning and motivate students . . . before, during, and after classroom hours?</p>
14:30 – 15:00	Refreshments
15:00 – 16:30	AC21 Steering Committee Meeting
18:00 – 20:00	Networking Banquet
Day 3 (Tuesday, 8 December 2020)	
08:00 – 08:30	Registration
09:00 – 10:00	<p>Keynote 3: Balancing between Liberal Arts Education and Professional Education</p> <p><i>Dr. Greg Watkins, Associate Director of The Structured Liberal Education, Stanford University, USA</i></p> <p>Liberal arts education has been proven to help develop cognitive skills, namely critical thinking, problem solving and creative thinking, which are the core skills needed throughout students' future careers. To what extent should universities provide liberal arts education: only in the first year or throughout students' professional degree programs?</p>
10:00 – 10:30	Refreshments
10:30 – 12:00	Parallel Sessions 1 (with Q&A)
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Keynote 4: Responding to Current Values and Goals of Higher Education Students</p> <p><i>Professor Hannele Niemi, Faculty of Behavioural Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland</i></p> <p>Due to economic problems, an increasing number of students have not been able to afford the high fees for degree courses and have chosen to drop out or to opt for online programs, many of which are available through accredited and respected institutions of higher learning. This has turned into a popular trend in recent years. Indeed, some students have been inspired by famous university dropouts who have become successful entrepreneurs. In light of the predictions that higher education will experience massive university closures in the near future: what can universities do to survive this modern trend, particularly those in countries demographic shifts, such as an aging population?</p>
14:00 – 14:30	Refreshments
14:30 – 16:00	Parallel Sessions 2 (with Q&A)
16:00 – 16:30	Conference Closing
16:30 – 17:00	Campus Tour
18:00 – 21:00	Dinner and Cultural Shows

Day 4 (Wednesday, 9 December 2020)	
08:30 – 10:30	AC21 General Assembly
10:30 – 16:30	Conference Cultural Excursion Two options are available: 1) Bangkok City, or 2) Ayutthaya Historical Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) (about 1.5-hour drive)
Day 5 (Thursday, 10 December 2020)	
All day	Guest Departure