



**International Centre for Higher Education  
Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO  
(UNESCO-ICHEI)**

**and**

**University of Kindu**

**Cooperation Framework Agreement on**

**International Institute of Online Education  
(IIOE)**

## **PREAMBLE**

**International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI), Shenzhen, China (Party A)**

and

**University of Kindu, Maniema Province, Democratic Republic of Congo (Party B).**

In order to facilitate the realization of the goals set forth in the *Education 2030 Framework for Action* and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (UN SDG4) -- “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”, to promote the application of information communication technologies (ICTs) in higher education, and to improve the access to and quality of higher education in low- and middle-income countries in Asia, Africa, and other regions, Party A and Party B, upon friendly negotiations and with good faith, agree to jointly implement the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) project, together with Party A’s other partner universities in Asia, Africa, and other regions, as well as Party A’s partner universities and enterprises in China. The IIOE project, under the guidance of the Belt & Road Initiative proposed by China and upholding the Silk Road spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning, and mutual benefit, aims to promote the establishment of a cooperative development mechanism between countries through personnel training and exchanges. To clarify the rights, responsibilities, and obligations, both parties agree to enter into the following agreement.

## **ARTICLE I BACKGROUND**

Considering the challenges and opportunities faced by low- and middle-income countries in Asia, Africa, and other regions in higher education, and adhering to the mission and vision of UNESCO, Party A and Party B will, together with Party A’s other partner universities in Asia, Africa, and other regions, as well as Party A’s partner universities and enterprises in China, jointly implement the IIOE project with the aims of:

1. developing ICT-related competencies of faculty and staff members in the partner universities in low- and middle-income countries,
2. building the capacity of partner universities in online and blended learning, and
3. providing online courses to offer more professional development opportunities for female faculty and staff members in partner universities.

## **ARTICLE II PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT**

Party A is the primary initiator of IIOE that shall provide full support for the communication between Party B and all stakeholders involved in the IIOE project and build a platform for exchange to ensure the smooth implementation of IIOE. Party B is the partner institution of IIOE that shall be responsible for the implementation of IIOE project in its university.

## **ARTICLE III RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTY A**

1. Party A shall take the lead in advancing the IIOE project, coordinate among Party B and other stakeholders of IIOE, and provide strong support for the long-term implementation of the IIOE project.
2. Party A shall build and maintain the quality assurance system and mechanisms of IIOE and maintain effective communication with Party B to ensure that the IIOE quality assurance system and mechanisms are compatible with quality assurance systems in the country of Party B, as appropriate.
3. Party A shall provide the IIOE online learning platform and be responsible for its design, operation, and maintenance; the online learning platform will be open to faculty and staff members of Party B.
4. Party A shall provide online course resources to Party B through the IIOE platform, including discipline-related courses, technical and vocational courses, and courses on ICT application in higher education.
5. Party A shall regularly organise training workshops and provide professional training to faculty and staff members of Party B.
6. Party A shall open communication channels between its partner enterprises and Party B to facilitate possible sustainable cooperation.
7. Party A shall organise consultative meetings for all parties and build a platform to facilitate exchange of ideas and information during the implementation of IIOE project.
8. Upon acknowledgement, Party A may collect users' registration and site usage data for the purposes of research, monitoring and evaluation, and platform improvement. Party A shall commit itself to strictly protecting the privacy of all personal information.
9. Other matters where Party A shall provide support for Party B during the implementation of IIOE project.

#### **ARTICLE IV RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTY B**

1. Party B shall be responsible for the promotion and implementation of IIOE in its university, and set up the basic conditions for implementation, including but not limited to a person of contact and necessary teaching supporting facilities.
2. Party B shall formulate relevant rules and regulations to promote active participation in developing and implementing online and blended learning activities.
3. Party B shall cooperate with Party A to develop and/or improve quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation framework related to online and blended teaching and learning.
4. Faculty and staff members of Party B shall have access to the online course resources provided by Party A through the IIOE platform. Party B shall guarantee that the online course resources will only be used for teaching and learning of Party B; without authorization by Party A, Party B shall not provide the online course resources to a third party nor edit the online course resources.
5. Party B shall develop a set of mechanisms, as appropriate, to regularly monitor and evaluate course design and implementation.
6. Party B shall invite competent faculty and staff members to participate or contribute to training, webinars, and other activities organised by Party A.
7. Party B shall encourage the development, filming and recording of online course resources at its university under the framework of IIOE. Party B agrees that the recorded courses may be shared among other IIOE partner universities through the platform, while the latter shall not use them for commercial purposes.
8. Party B shall submit IIOE Implementation Annual Report with a template provided by Party A.
9. Other matters where Part B shall provide support for Party A during the implementation of IIOE project.

#### **ARTICLE V SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to clarify the willingness of both Parties to collaborate on the project in specific formats and terms. Since the cooperation between Party A and Party B is in nature non-profit, any dispute arising from the execution of this agreement shall be settled through friendly negotiation.

## ARTICLE VI COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Both Parties agree on the following channels of communication to implement the arrangement as stipulated in this Agreement smoothly:

### **Party A: International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO**

Address: 1088 Xueyuan Rd, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, China

Coordinator: Ms. Xin YUAN, Programme Officer, Global Partnership and Programme Office

Telephone: +86 18575532283

Email: [yuanx@ichei.org](mailto:yuanx@ichei.org)

IIOE Secretariat Email: [iioe@ichei.org](mailto:iioe@ichei.org)

### **Party B: University of Kindu**

Address: 3W6G+F6R, Kindu, Maniema Province, RD Congo

Coordinator: KIMENYA MUWAILWA Déogratias

Telephone: +243818270427

Email: [deogratiaskimenya@gmail.com](mailto:deogratiaskimenya@gmail.com)

Any change made to the above contact information shall be communicated to the other party at least one month in advance. All related files should be transferred to the new person of contact when appointed.

## ARTICLE VII VALIDITY OF THIS AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made in duplicate, and each Party holds one with equal authentication upon the stamp and signature by both Parties. The duration of this Agreement is five years, automatically renewable for one or several terms of the same duration. In the event of termination of this Agreement, either party shall deliver a written notice to the other Party three months in advance. No amendment to the Agreement shall be made without exchange of views and consent in writing between both parties.

International Centre for Higher Education  
Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO  
(UNESCO-ICHEI), Shenzhen, China

The University of Kindu, Maniema Province,  
Democratic Republic of Congo



*Musailwa Déogratias*