International Conference 2026

ADVANCING EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT: TOWARD AI-DRIVEN PRACTICE AND INNOVATION

SEAMEO RETRAC, October 14-15, 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 14, 2026	
08:00 – 08:30	**REGISTRATION**
08:30 – 09:15	**OPENING CEREMONY** ❖ **Introduction of Delegates and Opening Ceremony Agenda** ❖ **Welcome Remarks** ▪ **Ms. Le Thi Thuy Duong** Director, SEAMEO Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC), Vietnam ▪ **Dr. Randall Martin** Executive Director, British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), Canada ▪ **Dr. Chelsey Laird** Advisor, Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Canada **Group photo**
09:15 – 10:00	**Keynote Speech** *(International Hall)* **AI Adoption in Higher Education** **Dr. Justin Williams,** Associate Vice President, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Canada **Moderator: Dr. Jeff Zabudsky,** President, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Canada **Q&A**
10:00 – 10:15	**Refreshment**

WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 14, 2026

10:15 – 11:15	**Plenary Session 1** **EDUCATIONAL POLICY, LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION** **Moderator:** **Dr. Chelsey Laird,** Advisor, Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Canada 1. **Artificial Leadership: Thinking about AI in Institutional Administration** *Dr. Ralf St. Clair, University of Victoria, Canada* 2. **The Employability Paradox: Artificial Intelligence's Effect on Critical Thinking and Cross-Cultural Competencies** *Dr. Dennis C McCornac, Georgetown University, Qatar* 3. **From Knowing to Doing: Design Principles for Simulation-Based Learning Across Feedback Paradigms** *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Huy Pham, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Vietnam* 4. **Closing the Loop: AI-Driven Leadership Across the Global Student-to-Talent Pipeline** *Prof. Dr. Martin Bürkle, Schiller International University, Germany* **Q&A**
11:15 – 12:00	**Plenary Session 2** **QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION** **Moderator:** **Dr. Pengchi Zhang,** Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore 1. **From Data to Quality: An AI-Enabled Internal Quality Assurance Framework for Evidence-Based Leadership in Higher Education** *Ms. Ngo Dinh Hoang Diem, Lac Hong University, Vietnam* 2. **Leading Research Transformation in the AI Era: Reframing STEM Innovation for Equity, Cultural Diversity, Sustainability and Regional Impact** *Dr. Rusmawati Othman, SEAMEO RECSAM, Malaysia* 3. **Data-Driven Internal Quality Assurance Management in Higher Education: A Case Study of Can Tho University** *Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao, Can Tho University, Vietnam* **Q&A**
12:00 – 13:30	**Lunch Break**

WEDNESDAY – OCTOBER 14, 2026

14:00 – 15:00	**Plenary Session 3** **TEACHING, LEARNING & INCLUSION IN THE AI AND DIGITALIZATION ERA** **Moderator:** **Dr. Dennis C. McCornac,** Georgetown University, Qatar 1. **The Three-Phase Case Sequence: Integrating AI and Inclusive Pedagogy** *Dr. Jane Ali, Canada* 2. **Designing AI-Enhanced Experiential Learning in Applied Science Education: A Multi-Disciplinary Study** *Dr. Pengchi Zhang, School of Applied Science, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore* 3. **Rethinking Technology Education in the AI Era: Human Agency, Ethical Judgment, and Curriculum Transformation** *Dr. Choon-Sig Lee, Gyeongin National University of Education, Republic of Korea* 4. **Designing AI for Critical Thinking: A Question-Based Agent for Personalized Learning in Higher Education** *Dr. Hanh Pho, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Vietnam* **Q&A**
15:00 – 15:15	**Refreshment**
15:15 – 16:30	**Plenary Session 4** **TEACHING, LEARNING & INCLUSION IN THE AI AND DIGITALIZATION ERA** *(Cont')* **Moderator:** **Ms. Jamilah Kadir,** Director, SEAMEO SEN, Malaysia 1. **AI as a Cognitive Partner: Exploring the Impact of Generative AI Dependence on Divergent Thinking Among University Students** *Prof. Dr. Binu Thomas, Department of Computer Applications (Aided), Marian College Kuttikkanam (Autonomous), Kerala, India* 2. **From AI Detection to Inquiry Governance: The ALPE Framework for Quality Assurance in AI-Mediated Higher Education** *Assoc. Prof. Dr. Franklin Garvida, José Rizal University, Philippines* 3. **ChatGPT Feedback Literacy, Feedback Engagement, and Perceived Writing Improvement among First-Year English Majors at Vinh Long University of Technology Education** *Mr. Pham Minh Trung, Vinh Long University of Technology Education, Vietnam* 4. **Herbarium Digitisation Database Development as a Teaching and Learning Tools: The Case of Herbarium SEAMEO BIOTROP (BIOT)** *Prof. Dr. Edi Santosa, SEAMEO BIOTROP, Indonesia* **Q&A**

END OF DAY 1

THURSDAY – OCTOBER 15, 2026

08:30 – 09:15	**Keynote Speech** *(International Hall)* **Human-Led, AI-Enhanced: Transformational Higher Education Leadership and Management Through Applied and Responsible AI** **Dr. Airini,** President & Vice-Chancellor, Thompson Rivers University, Canada **Moderator: Dr. Randall Martin**, Executive Director, British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), Canada **Q&A**
09:15 – 10:15	**Plenary Session 5** **LEADERSHIP AND TRANSFORMATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION** **Moderator: Dr. Hanh Pho**, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Vietnam 1. **AI Will Change How Universities Operate, Leaders Must Decide What Cannot Change: Keeping Mission at the Center of AI Ethical Transformation** *Dr. Hubert Benitez, Saint Peter's University, USA* 2. **Enduring Partnerships through the Human Factor** *Dr. Raynie Wood, ABIE, Canada* 3. **Leadership in an AI-World – What Leadership Choices Do We Need to Make Because of AI, Transnational Education, and Lifelong Learning** *Ms. Mariam Riza, Instructure (maker of Canvas & Parchment)* 4. **Leveraging AI-Integrated Robotics to Transform Higher Education Leadership and Workforce Readiness** *Mr. Andy Lee, Innovation First International, Hong Kong* **Q&A**
10:15 – 10:30	**Refreshment**
10:30 – 11:30	**Plenary Session 6** **FROM LEADERSHIP & FACULTY READINESS TO TEACHING PRACTICES** **Moderator: Dr. Chelsey Laird,** Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Canada 1. **Blended Thinking Intelligence to Enhance Faculty readiness for Skillful Purposeful Thinking in AI era** *Dr. Raymond Tsoi, TSOI-BTI Consulting, Singapore* 2. **Generative AI-Enhanced Role Play for Interactive and Authentic Learning in Higher Education** *Dr. Thanh Pham, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Vietnam* 3. **Leadership Practices and the Implementation of English Medium Instruction in Taiwanese Higher Education: A Qualitative Case Study** *Mr. Chun-Wen Kung, National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan* 4. **How University Lecturers Adapt to Students' Use of Generative AI: Pedagogical, Ethical, and Supervisory Responses** *Ms. Cahya Kusuma Ratih, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, Indonesia* **Q&A**
11: 30 – 13:30	**Lunch Break**

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 15, 2026	
13:30 – 14:15	**Keynote Speech** *(International Hall)* **The GEDI Paradox: Navigating Interdisciplinary Curriculum and Automated Bias in the AI Age** **Dr. Lai Suat Yan,** Coordinator, Master of Gender Studies Program, Universiti Malaya (UM), Malaysia **Moderator: Dr. Hubert Benitez,** President, Saint Peter's University, USA **Q&A**
14:15 – 15:00	**Plenary Session 7** **FROM LEADERSHIP & FACULTY READINESS TO TEACHING PRACTICES *(Cont')*** **Moderator: Dr. Raymond Tsoi,** TSOI-BTI Consulting, Singapore 1. **AI as a Strategic Sector: Language for Specific Purposes as Infrastructure for Talent Development** *Dr. Jennifer MacDonald, Languages Canada, Canada* 2. **A Proposed Management Model for Digital Competence Development of University Academics in the Artificial Intelligence Era** *Mr. Ngo Minh Quan, Best Start English Center, Vietnam* 3. **Deliberate AI-Assisted Programming: A Five Stage Classroom Workflow and Platform for First Year Computing** *Mr. Thong Huynh, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Vietnam* **Q&A**
15:00 – 15:15	**Refreshment**
15:15 – 16:00	**Plenary Session 8** **CURRICULUM DESIGN & LEARNING ASSESSMENT WITH EMERGING, INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES** **Moderator: Dr. Jane Ali,** Canada 1. **Measuring Learning in the AI Era: Rethinking Authentic Assessment for Higher Education** *Dr. Nguyen Thi Van Anh, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Vietnam* 2. **Generative AI Adoption on Workplace Productivity: The Mediating Role of AI-Induced Metacognitive Laziness** *Asst. Prof. Norliza M. Nordan, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Philippines* 3. **From Safety Culture to AI Readiness: Adapting Aviation's Operational Practices for Faculty AI Governance in Higher Education** *Ms. Nguyen Thuy Hang, Vietnam Aerospace University, Vietnam* **Q&A**
16:00 – 16:30	**CLOSING CEREMONY**