

**International Centre for Higher Education
Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO**

and

**Mbarara University of Science and Technology,
Uganda**

Cooperation Framework Agreement on

International Institute of Online Education

July 2021

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 improve the access to and quality of higher education in developing countries in Asia and Africa, under the auspices of UNESCO, the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation, hereinafter referred to as "**UNESCO-ICHEI**" and Mbarara University of Science and Technology, hereinafter referred to as "**MUST**", upon friendly negotiations and with good faith, agree to jointly build the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) project, together with UNESCO-ICHEI's other partner universities in Asia Pacific and Africa as well as UNESCO-ICHEI's partner universities and enterprises in China. IIOE aims to promote the establishment of a cooperative development mechanism between countries through personnel training and exchanges, under the guidance of the Belt & Road Initiative and in keeping with the Silk Road spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusion, mutual learning, and mutual benefit.



To clarify the rights, responsibilities, and obligations, both parties agree to enter into the following agreement.

Article 1 - Background

Considering the challenges and opportunities faced by developing countries in Asia-Pacific and Africa in higher education, adhering to the mission and vision of UNESCO, UNESCO-ICHEI and MUST will, together with UNESCO-ICHEI's other partner universities in Asia Pacific and Africa as well as UNESCO-ICHEI's partner universities and enterprises in China, jointly build the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) with the aims of:

- i. developing ICT-related competencies of teachers in the partner universities in developing countries;
- ii. building the capacity of partner universities for blended and online learning; and
- iii. providing online courses to provide more professional development opportunities for female teachers in partner universities.



Article 2 - Parties to the Agreement

UNESCO-ICHEI is the primary initiator of IIOE that shall provide full support for the communication among MUST and all stakeholders involved in the IIOE project and build a platform for exchange to ensure the smooth implementation of IIOE. MUST is the joint initiator of IIOE that shall be responsible for the implementation of IIOE in its university.

Article 3 - Rights and Responsibilities of UNESCO-ICHEI

3.1 It shall take the lead in advancing the IIOE project, coordinate among MUST and other stakeholders of IIOE, and provide support for the successful and long-term implementation of the project;

3.2 It shall ensure that the IIOE quality assurance system be compatible with the national and institutional quality assurance systems of MUST, and to support the capacity building of quality assurance of MUST;

3.3 It shall build the IIOE online learning platform and be responsible for its design, operation, and maintenance; the online learning platform will be open to teachers of MUST;

3.4 It shall provide online courses to MUST through the IIOE platform;



3.5 It shall regularly organize online, offline, or blended learning training workshops and provide professional training to teachers of MUST;

3.6 UNESCO-ICHEI shall build communication channels for MUST with partner enterprises of UNESCO-ICHEI to increase possibility of sustainable cooperation.

3.7 It shall organize consultative meetings for all parties and build a platform to facilitate exchange of ideas and information during the implementation of IIOE.

3.8 For the purpose of research, UNESCO-ICHEI may collect the learning behavioral data of the teachers of MUST on the IIOE platform, and at the same time, UNESCO-ICHEI, shall commit itself to strictly protect their personal information.

3.9 Other matters where UNESCO-ICHEI shall provide support for MUST during the implementation of IIOE.

Article 4 - Rights and Responsibilities of MUST

4.1 MUST shall be responsible for the promotion and implementation of IIOE in its university, and prepare the basic conditions for implementation, including but not limited to space, equipment and devices, necessary teaching supporting facilities, hardware and software (Basic requirement of hardware and



software for IIOE is illustrated in Annex I);

4.2 It shall formulate relevant rules and regulations to promote active participation in developing and implementing online and blended learning activities;

4.3 It shall cooperate with UNESCO-ICHEI to develop and/or improve quality assurance and monitoring framework related to online and blended learning;

4.4 MUST teachers will have access to the online course resources provided by UNESCO-ICHEI via the IIOE platform. MUST shall guarantee that the online course resources will only be used for MUST's teaching and learning; MUST shall not provide the online course resources to a third party or edit the online course resources unless authorized by UNESCO-ICHEI;

4.5 It shall designate responsible persons for the implementation of IIOE in its institution;

4.6 It shall develop mechanisms to regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of IIOE in its institution.

4.7 It shall actively participate in the training workshops on IIOE organized by UNESCO-ICHEI;

4.8 Under the framework of IIOE, MUST shall encourage the filming and recording of online course resources at its university. MUST agrees that the recorded courses may be shared among



other IIOE partner universities via the platform through mutual agreements, with the latter agreeing not to use them for commercial purposes, while keeping in mind Intellectual Property Issues and the consent of all parties involved.

4.9 It shall provide annual activity report of IIOE and provide suggestions on the upgrading and improvement of IIOE to UNESCO-ICHEI;

4.10 Other matters where MUST shall provide support for UNESCO-ICHEI during the implementation of IIOE.

Article 5 – Settlement of Dispute

The goal of this Agreement is to clarify both Parties' willingness to collaborate on the project in specific formats and terms. Because the collaboration between UNESCO-ICHEI and MUST is non-profit, any dispute arising from the execution of this agreement will be resolved through friendly negotiation.

Article 6 – Communication Channels

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

UNESCO-ICHEI: International Centre for Higher Education



Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO

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Focal Point: Mr. De'an Chen, Programme Officer

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Email: chendean@ichei.org

MUST: Mbarara University of Science and Technology

Address: P.O. Box 1410, Mbarara, Uganda

Focal Point: Prof. Nixon Kamukama (Deputy Vice Chancellor-
Academic Affairs)

Telephone: +256772447066

Email: nkamukama@must.ac.ug

dvc.aa@must.ac.ug

Article 7 – Validity of this Agreement

7.1 This Agreement is made in two copies and each Party holds one with equal authentication upon the seal and signature by both Parties.

7.2 The duration of this Agreement is five years. Upon its expiration, this Agreement can be renewed through negotiations.



7.3 In the event of termination of this Agreement, either party shall deliver a written notice to the other Party three months in advance.

7.4 Any amendment to the Agreement shall not be affected without exchange of views and consent in writing.


Article 8 – Version of this Agreement

This Agreement is signed in Chinese and English and both versions have the same legal effect.



**International Centre for
Higher Education**

**Innovation under the
auspices of UNESCO**



LI Ming

Director

Date: 2024.8.20

**Mbarara University of Science and
Technology, Uganda**



Prof. Celestino Obua

Vice Chancellor

Date: 19/7/2021



Mr. Melchior Byaruhanga

University Secretary

Date: 19/7/2021



Mr. Mugumya Timothy Ndiana

Legal Officer

Date: 19/7/2021

Annex:

Basic Requirements of Hardware and Software for HIOE

Network bandwidth: 10MB/s

Computer configuration:

OS	Windows 7 or above
Processor	Intel Core i3, 3rd Generation or above
RAM	4GB or above
Hard disk	100GB (SSD/SATA) or above
Browser	Chrome, Firefox

Videos format MP4 with H.264; Suggested resolution: 1080P

