Project Overview

Building the Capacity of HEIs in Asia-Pacific for Blended Learning to Enhance Student Engagement and Outcomes
Main Aim

This two-year UNESCO-commissioned project aims to develop and disseminate a toolkit for building the capacity of higher education institutions in Asia-Pacific to sustain and scale up innovative blended learning practices in the HEI. The toolkit will support the leaders of HEIs in Asia-Pacific to revisit and refine their strategic planning processes and plans for blended learning.
Specific Objectives

• Develop a framework for building the capacity of HEIs for blended learning by a team of blended learning experts and leaders from selected HEIs in Asia-Pacific.

• Incorporate case studies from the selected HEIs to demonstrate how the framework and its dimensions are operationalised.

• Construct a set of rubrics for HEI leaders to self-assess, reflect and plan for blended learning in their own institutions.

• Disseminate the toolkit to HEIs and policymakers in the Asia-Pacific, and build their capacity of using it.
Beneficiaries

• The direct beneficiaries are the HEIs in the Asia-Pacific region. The priority group in these institutions are the academic and teaching staff, and their leaders.

• The students are the indirect beneficiaries who will benefit from the enhanced capacity of the HEIs to facilitate their learning and prepare them for knowledge societies and economies.

• Although the HEIs are the target group of the project, the national governments of these institutions are partners in and beneficiaries of this project. This initiative will assist governments in their objectives of capacity building as they reform and re-align their national higher education systems, and in their drive to improve the quality of curriculum and teaching and learning practices.
Main Components & Activities

This project includes four phases of activities:

(1) Planning and organisation of expert meeting (April - June 2015),
(2) Construction of toolkit (July 2015 – January 2016),
(3) Feedback and revision of toolkit (February - April 2016), and
Phase 1: Expert Meeting

This phase involves planning for and organisation of the expert meeting to plan for the construction of the toolkit. More specifically, the experts will:

• discuss and share effective blended learning practices and policies in HEIs;

• conduct a needs and situation analysis of the existing state of blended learning;

• discuss the components of the toolkit for HEIs;

• assign the tasks to be accomplished by and set a timeline for each of the nine HEIs involved in this project, UNESCO and other potential partners; and

• develop a network of partners, including HEIs, to work with one another and with other HEI stakeholders to sustain and scale up blended learning practices in the Asia-Pacific.
Phase 2: Construction of Toolkit

• HKIEd will coordinate this phase of the project by (a) providing an overview and explain the framework of the toolkit, (b) compiling and weaving together the completed output of the experts and the project team, and (c) preparing the draft toolkit to be disseminated to selected HEI leaders and policymakers for feedback.

• Based on the timeline, the other eight HEIs, UNESCO and other partners are expected to send the completed tasks to HKIEd before the deadlines.

• The toolkit will be made available online (privately) that includes the framework for capacity building, promising practices and lessons learnt for each of the dimensions, templates and tools for strategic planning, and blended learning practices and resources.
Phase 3: Feedback & Revision of Toolkit

• This phase is about the feedback, revision and refinement of the toolkit for building the blended learning capacity of HEIs.

• UNESCO will make the draft toolkit available to HEI leaders and policymakers from at least ten of its member states for feedback. Based on the feedback from these stakeholders, HKIEd will coordinate the revision and refinement of the toolkit with input and support from the other eight HEIs, UNESCO and other partners.

• The final version of the toolkit (although there may be ongoing revisions and refinements) will be made available online and as a book at the end of this phase (30 April 2016), ready for dissemination to all the member states of UNESCO Bangkok.
Phase 4: Dissemination of Toolkit

• Dissemination of the toolkit via regional workshops, seminars and high officials’ meetings;

• Regional partners for dissemination of toolkit (British Council, Microsoft and SEAMEO have expressed interest);

• Local partners for dissemination of toolkit (e.g. Tsinghua University may take the lead in China with the HEIs using its LMS);

• Sources of funding for dissemination of toolkit; and

• Translation and localisation of toolkit for dissemination.
Coordinators and Key Partners

• Coordinators: UNESCO and the Faculty of Education & Human Development, HKIEd

• Key Partners:
  – Chiang Mai University
  – East China Normal University
  – Seoul National University
  – Taylor’s Education Group
  – Tsinghua University
  – Universitas Negeri Jakarta
  – Universiti Sains Malaysia
  – University of Western Australia

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