

TRANSFORMING NATIONS THROUGH ENCULTURATION OF LIFELONG LEARNING

UNESCO's mission of lifelong learning is to see that all forms of education and learning, whether formal, non-formal or informal, are made available, recognised and valued in meeting the demands of individuals and communities throughout the world. Validating non-formal and informal learning can be seen as a way of breaking down the isolation of formal education and training systems and in strengthening the links to working life and society. This move towards lifelong learning is a requisite for any country wishing to move to a knowledge-based economy and society. Being the third pillar of human capital development, lifelong learning has been given high priority by Malaysia in its efforts to achieve Vision 2020.

In light of its drive to be a high-income economy, the International Lifelong Learning Conference (ICLLL) co-organised by MOHE, UKM and OUM, is indeed timely. It aims to bring together the various stakeholders involved in lifelong learning – experts, academics, researchers, practitioners, policy makers and lifelong learners themselves to discuss lifelong learning (LLL) issues emerging from current initiatives in the local and regional socio-economic setting. In this regard, conference participants will have the opportunity to view these issues in light of international research, practice and implementation.

Invited keynote speakers and presenters will provide new dimensions to our understanding of the evolving agendas in changing the future of lifelong learning to meet the needs of individuals, communities and society. Different perspectives and models and related educational and policy implications will be highlighted. This will allow participants to better understand the concepts and trends in lifelong learning related to their specific areas of interest from both local and international perspectives. In the process of assessing and evaluating this progress, participants will be able to renew and reshape visions of lifelong learning as one of the principal contributors towards the achievement of Malaysia's socio-economic goal.

Sub-Themes:

1. Laying the Foundation:
 - Nurturing the culture of lifelong learning
 - Learning communities for sustainable development
 - Empowering marginalised communities
 - Overcoming barriers and challenges
2. Lifelong Learning for National Development:
 - Driving human capital and human resource development
 - The role of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
 - Making lifelong learning relevant for the workplace
 - Current practices and future options
3. Policies and Implementation:
 - The roles of the government and private sector
 - Bridging the gap between formal and non-formal education
 - Measuring lifelong learning: Qualification framework, regulation and quality assurance
 - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL)
 - Funding and managing lifelong learning programmes
4. Realising Lifelong Learning for All:
 - Democratising lifelong learning: Ensuring access, opportunity and equity
 - Leveraging on technology for lifelong learning
 - Creating a conducive environment for lifelong learning