2nd ITU-ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Developing skills for the digital era

Atlanta, Georgia, United States
2-3 December 2019

PROGRAMME

Monday, 2 December 2019

08:00 – 09:30   **Registration**

09:30 – 10:00   **Opening ceremony**

- Rafael L. Bras, Provost, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
- Susan Teltscher, Head, Capacity and Digital Skills Development, ITU

10:00 – 10:30   **Keynote address: "Creating Ambassadors of Planet Earth: Where Virtual Reality, Serious Gaming, and Artificial Intelligence Meet Education."**

- Max Louwerse, Professor of Cognitive Psychology and Artificial Intelligence, Tilburg University, Netherlands

10:30 – 11:00   **Group photo and coffee break**

11:00 – 12:30   **Session 1: Getting ready for the digital transformation: the role of academic institutions**

The world is undergoing a major digital transformation, driven by artificial intelligence, robotics, big data analytics and the Internet of Things. This session looks at the role of universities in shaping this transformation, what new skills are required in the digital era, and how universities are changing their programmes to embrace these emerging topics and technology trends. Some of the issues to be addressed in the session are:

- Understanding the digital transformation and the role of academic institutions in shaping the future digital ecosystem
- The sets of skills required in the new digital era
- New academic programmes and changes in the curriculum to better prepare 21st century students

Moderator: Michael Best, Associate Professor, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Panelists:

- Richard DeMillo, Executive Director, Center for 21st Century Universities, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
- Martin Hilbert, Professor, Department of Communication, University of California (UC) Davis, USA
- Amit Joshi, Professor of Digital Marketing and Strategy and Fellow, Global Center for Digital Business Transformation, IMD, Switzerland
- Beth Kolko, Professor, Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington, USA

12:30 – 14:00   **Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 2: How academic institutions are being digitally transformed**

Academic institutions are undergoing major changes to adapt to the digital environment. This session will focus on the major areas of change and present concrete examples from Universities across the world that have started to digitally transform their institutions. Some of the issues to be covered are:

- Digital strategies for Universities
- Digital technologies for research, teaching and learning
- New governance models

Moderator: Anthony Giannoumis, Professor, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway

Panelists:

- Charles Isbell, Dean, College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
- Debbie Carraway, Director of Information Technology, North Carolina State University, USA
- Larry Cooperman, Senior International Representative, University of California (UC) Irvine, USA

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00 – 17:30 **Session 3: Challenges faced by the 21st century University**

Responding and adapting to the rapid technological change is a challenge for all organizations, including Universities. How can academic institutions ensure they remain relevant in the future and continue as leaders in research and teaching? This session will feature a debate among academics on some of the main challenges they are facing in the face of the digital transformation. Some of the issues to be covered are:

- Advent of the virtual university and implications for the traditional classroom
- Use of open source educational content
- Monitoring digital literacy
- Role of social networks in University education

Moderator: Gaidi Faraj, Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs, African Leadership University (ALU), Rwanda

Panelists:

- Anthony Giannoumis, Professor, Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences, Norway
- Mart Laanpere, Senior Researcher, Tallinn University, Estonia
- Grainne Conole, Head of Open Education, Dublin City University, Ireland
- Agnes Kukulska-Hulme, Professor of Learning Technology and Communication, Institute of Educational Technology, The Open University, UK

18:00 **Reception at GTRI**

Tuesday, 3 December 2019

09:00 – 10:30 **Session 4: Developing a workforce fit for purpose: the importance of academia- industry collaboration**

Advances in technology are rapidly changing the workplace and a different set of skills will be required in tomorrow's digital economy. The business community is facing a shortage of skilled workers which will increase significantly in the future in view of the changing digital environment. Universities are expected to produce graduates that have the sets of competencies needed for a digital economy and society, and are aligned to the skills needs of industry. In order to do that, Universities need to have an understanding of these industry skills needs and tailor their educational system needs to the needs of industry. This session will address the following issues:

- Which are the most important workforce skills required by industry in the digital economy?
- How can academic institutions be adapted to respond to the needs of the digital economy?
- What forms of collaboration and/or partnerships should take place between industry and academia to ensure that the competencies of University graduates are aligned to the needs of industry?
- How can Universities be more proactive and participate more in defining the skills needs of the future?

Moderator: Ayanna Howard, Professor, School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Panelists:

- Gaidi Faraj, Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs, African Leadership University (ALU), Rwanda
- Marco Lorenzatti, University of Blas Pascal, Argentina
- Mustapha Benjillali, Associate Professor, INPT, Morocco
- Michael C. Huffman, Director, Office of Continuing and Professional Education, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session 5: Universities as drivers of AI research and innovation**

Universities play a key role as drivers of cutting edge research and innovation. At the same time, large technology companies are also heavily investing in the field of research and development, in particular in the field of AI and machine learning. The session looks at the role of universities in driving AI research, and presents concrete examples of AI labs and incubators as platforms for technology start-ups. Some issues covered are:

- How universities can become key drivers of AI research and innovation
- Successful examples of universities' AI labs, including start-up companies, and challenges to be addressed

- Academia-industry partnerships in the field of AI

Moderator: Max Louwerse, Professor of Cognitive Psychology and Artificial Intelligence, Tilburg University, Netherlands

Panelists:

- Ayanna Howard, Professor, School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
- Kiran Trivedi, Associate Professor, Department of Electronics & Communication, SS Engineering College, Gujarat Technological University, India
- Karl Ricanek, Professor of Computer Science, University of North Carolina Wilmington, USA
- Lav Varshney, Principal Research Scientist, Salesforce Research and Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois, USA

12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch break**

14:00 – 15:30 Session 6: How the digital transformation is changing academic programmes: the example of e-health

This session will discuss new academic programmes that are emerging in view of digital developments, in particular new interdisciplinary programmes. The example of e-health will be presented, featuring speakers from different disciplines (health/medicine, technology/IT, public policy, etc.). Universities active in the use of digital human capacity augmentation in the training of health practitioners and in the delivery of health services will share their experiences.

Moderator: Mike Nxele, Senior Capacity and Skills Development Officer, ITU

Panelists:

- Leanne M. Currie, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Nursing, Canada
- Liu Yun, Professor, School of Basic Medical Sciences, Fudan University, China
- Philippe Sabatier, Professor and Director of BioHealth Computing Schools, Grenoble Alpes University, France

15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee break**

16:00 – 17:30 Session 7: Strengthening ITU-academia partnerships

This session will discuss ways and means of how ITU and the academic community can strengthen their collaboration to develop capacities and skills for the digital transformation. It will present examples of successful collaboration as well as discuss proposals for future partnership opportunities.

Moderator: Michael Best, Associate Professor, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Panelists:

- Susan Teltscher, Head, Capacity and Skills Development Division, ITU
- Jian Song, Professor, Department of Electronic Engineering, Tsinghua University, China
- Alain Louchez, Managing Director, Center for the Development and Application of Internet-of-Things Technologies (CDAIT), Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
- Marco Lorenzatti, University of Blas Pascal, Argentina
- Mustapha Benjillali, Associate Professor, INPT, Morocco
- Michael C. Huffman, Director, Office of Continuing and Professional Education, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

17:30 – 18:00   Final conclusions and closing ceremony