Wondering what's in store for PCF9?

Participate in the PCF9 Online Forum from 17 June to 12 July 2019.

By sharing your experiences, you can engage in lively discussions with preeminent experts, explore emerging issues and help guide discussion topics for PCF9. The Online Forum is the perfect opportunity to get ready for PCF9 or stay connected if you're unable to join us this September.

The theme of PCF9 is 'Innovations for Quality Education and Lifelong Learning.' This Online Forum will be comprised of four sessions, based on the sub-themes of PCF9:

- Employability
- Equity and Inclusion
- Opening up Education
- Technology

To join the Online Forum, please select at least one session and complete the registration form.

Employability

Workplaces must constantly update practices and processes to respond to global challenges. At the same time, employees must routinely upskill and learn. This online session will examine challenges related to preparing people for the workplace. It will consider the changing nature of work, including what it means to be 'employable' in offering solutions to global challenges. Participants will discuss how education and training systems need to adapt so people can keep pace with changing workplaces and maintain their employability. Participants will consider the mindset and skills educators themselves need to support the development of this lifelong learning.

Equity and Inclusion

At the heart of open and distance learning practice is the different interactions between teachers and students. These interactions are significantly mediated through the design and implementation of educational resources. Educational resources can be readily available and accessible ('open') or not ('closed'). Students' personal circumstances influence their studying experiences. Teachers' practices are influenced by the support staff and structures within their institutions. Other external influences include quality assurance policies, innovations in educational technologies and institutions, and cultural norms and practices in relation to lifelong learning. The UN Sustainable Development Goals also have an overarching influence. All these factors and their relationships will be discussed during this online session.

Opening Up Education

'Opening up education' is a broad concept first popularised with the establishment of the UK Open University. The movement now encompasses open educational resources (OER), open science, open educational practice (OEP), Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), open pedagogy, open textbooks, as well as traditional open entry, flexible learning. This session will focus on how these approaches can be used to improve access to education at all levels, especially for lifelong learners. Improved access can be achieved by using any of the forms of open education and institutional models of flexible learning, such as public-private partnership, accrediting informal learning and the use of technology to support online, flexible learning. The online session aims to explore new models of learning and evaluate the implementation of existing approaches to foster open education.

Technology

Advances in emerging technologies continue to drive innovation across education institutions and in the workplace. The knowledge and use of these technologies, as well as technology-enabled learning and upskilling are imperative for self-improvement and professional advancement. Individuals now need to embrace lifelong learning to remain relevant in their workplaces. Many institutions are not only focused on providing high quality learning resources but also on equipping learners with the knowledge and skills needed to blend appropriate technologies and online resources to attain lifelong learning. Has the evolution of new technologies and learning platforms like MOOCs, augmented and virtual reality learning environments and microlearning been successful in realizing flexible, personalised, work-based learning? How can you train individuals to become lifelong learners? Is the use of technology in education all it takes? Has this debate over-emphasised the potential of technology in lifelong learning? This online session will seek to answer these questions.