

# Virtual Seminar: 'Future Higher Education'

Convened by the Centre for Higher Education Research (CHER), Sunway University

**2nd December 2020, Wednesday,  
3.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. (Malaysia time)**

In today's world, Higher Education (HE) plays an increasingly important but changing role, as poignantly witnessed across the globe recently with COVID-19. Some of the global and national movements that impact HE include: massification and participation of larger numbers of individuals to meet equity and skill needs for current and future conditions, the importance of creativity and innovation for socioeconomic development, internationalisation, online learning and its variations in COVID-19 times, and the increasing shift towards automation. As HE faces challenges posed by these changes, what are the forms it could take, what are relevant modes of operation, who are the current and future students and their needs for successful academic participation and their lives on graduation, and what are the ways that HE can function to contribute positively?

The HE system as well as individual HE institutions must maintain currency to not only attract students and academic staff, but also to meet quality requirements as these are features that impact on national and global HE institutional rankings and ratings.

This seminar will provide the opportunity for our esteemed HE scholars to present and thus share their thoughts, studies and discussions about HE in dynamic regional and national contexts. The topics presented will discuss the impact of HE on societies, their economic bases, and the role of HE in such changing and dynamic environments.

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#	Programme	Time
1	<b>Participants' Online Registration</b>	2.45 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.
2	<b>Welcoming and Introduction Speech</b>	3.00 p.m. - 3.15 p.m.
3	<b>Session 1:</b>  <b>Glimpsing the Future of Higher Education: Contradictions, Complexities and Reality</b>  Speaker: <b>Prof. Dato' Dr. Norzaini Azman</b> Professor of Higher Education, Centre of Educational Leadership and Policy, Faculty of Education, UKM  Q&A	3.15 p.m. - 3.35 p.m.          3.35 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.
4	<b>Session 2:</b>  <b>COVID-19 Pandemic: Reshaping the Future of Higher Education with Endless Innovations</b>  Speaker: <b>Prof. Dr. Norazah Mohd. Nordin</b> Dean, Faculty of Education, UKM Professor of Learning Technologies and Innovation  Q&A	3.45 p.m. - 4.05 p.m.          4.05 p.m. - 4.15 p.m.
5	<b>Conclusion and Wrap Up</b>	4.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Please register at:

<https://forms.gle/eYqCkx1wDhu72DiW7>

**All are Invited to Participate**

**The seminar is free of charge (FOC) for all participants.**

Closing date for registration is Monday, 30th November 2020.

# Invited Speakers



**Prof. Dato' Dr. Norzaini Azman**  
Professor of Higher Education,  
Centre of Educational Leadership  
and Policy,  
Faculty of Education,  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia  
(UKM)

## Glimpsing the Future of Higher Education: Contradictions, Complexities and Reality.

The future of higher education should be forecasted using a multi-level structure as the bulk of mega-trends and driving forces are both international and regional in their nature. Arguably, in a globally connected world where economic, political, environmental, and health issues are becoming glaringly obvious, higher education plays an increasingly important role both as a leader and servant of society. This presentation will summarise some of the mega-trends that are impacting the future of higher education. These may include: participation of larger numbers of individuals to meet equity and skill needs for the present and the future, the importance of creativity, innovation and leadership for national development, internationalisation, online learning and its variations in COVID-19 times, and the increasing shift towards automation and social media. The presentation will also argue that that complex national and community issues seems to be thriving in emerging higher education systems and thus, highlight the more important roles of nation states in the future of higher education. The main discussion will be centered on some of future trends for the Malaysian higher education given its' specific features, cultural and structural contexts, and benefits.

Norzaini Azman is Professor of Higher Education at the Centre for Educational Leadership & Policy, Faculty of Education, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. She is also an Associate Research Fellow at the National Higher Education Research Institute (IPPTN) and a governance board member of the University College of Yayasan Pahang (UCYP). She is currently serving as the (2017-2021) Chair/President of the Malaysian Society for Research and Higher Education Policy Development (PenDaPaT). Her main research interests include higher education policy and governance, the academic profession, higher education and sustainability, and leadership in higher education.

## COVID-19 Pandemic: Reshaping the Future of Higher Education with Endless Innovations

The global COVID-19 pandemic is such a challenge that has led to a disruption of higher education systems all over the world on a scale we have never seen before. Due to the rapid acceleration of digitalization in education, educators are compelled to adapt to new and unfamiliar circumstances in order to continue providing effective and efficient education for learners. This includes the moving of face-to-face teaching to online learning as well as creating new ideas and innovations in educational practices. With tens of millions of students across the world forced to stay home from school, this presentation focuses on how can we assure that they get the best possible education. Technology will become easier to integrate with what educators are trying to accomplish. In sum, the emergence of the new ideas and innovations in higher education would lead to the "Reshaping the Future of Higher Education with Endless Innovations."

Dr. Norazah Nordin is a Professor of Learning Technologies and Innovation, and currently the Dean of Faculty of Education, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Her research areas include Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC), Mobile Learning, ICT in Lifelong Learning, and Instructional Design in Digital Learning. The projects that she leads include the development of Higher Education Active Learning Spaces (HEALS), a collaborative research project with the Australian Innovative University Network. The most current projects that she leads are Learning Design in the 4th Industrial Revolution and the 4IR Cross-Creative Learning Innovation for Autism. She is a University Council member of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Lifelong Learning Hub and an active member of the ASEM Research Network 1, Development of ICT Skills and the Culture of e-Learning in Lifelong Learning. She is also an Editorial Board member of the Internet and Higher Education Journal, the third best, Quartile One, Web of Science Journal.



**Prof. Dato' Dr. Norazah Nordin**  
Dean, Faculty of Education,  
Universiti Kebangsaan  
Malaysia (UKM)

Professor of Learning  
Technologies and Innovation

# Session Speakers



**Prof. Glenda Crosling**  
Head of Centre, Centre for Higher Education Research (CHER), Sunway University

## Future Higher Education: An Introduction

**Professor Glenda Crosling** is Head of Centre for Higher Education Research (CHER) at Sunway University, Malaysia and previously, Dean of Academic Enhancement. Prior to this, she was Director of Education Quality and Innovation at Monash University Malaysia. She has international experience in higher education quality and enhancement at the levels of organisational structure and directions, curriculum, students, teachers and assessment. Glenda has been invited Expert Panel Chair and Member for the Malaysian Qualifications Agency, producing national educational guidelines and policies. As well as positions in universities in Australia and Malaysia, Glenda has been visiting academic at universities in Thailand, China, Singapore, and Hong Kong, conference adviser for Michigan State University, Dubai, and invited on quality panels in Oman. She has published numerous books, chapters, and journal articles on quality educational approaches and innovation, and regularly reviews articles for international journals..



**Dr. Graeme Atherton**  
Adjunct Professor, Centre for Higher Education Research (CHER), Sunway University

## Future Higher Education: Conclusion and Way Forward

**Dr. Graeme Atherton** founded and leads both AccessHE and the National Education Opportunities Network (NEON) in the UK. He has extensive experience producing higher education policy reports in the international context. He holds visiting professorships at three different universities including Sunway University in Kuala Lumpur. He is an Adjunct Professor of the CHER at Sunway University. He has produced over 100 other publications and conference papers looking at higher education participation, research and policy. This body of work includes research undertaken in over 15 different countries and chapters in 4 different annual Going Global publications. He has undertaken international HE policy work in association with various organisations, including European Commission, British Council, British Academy, Pearson, UNESCO, and Asia-Europe Foundation. He is also a member of the board of the European Access Network and the OECD Higher Education Stakeholders Forum an ex-chair of the Global Access and Post-Secondary Education (GAPS) Network.

**All are Invited to Participate**

For enquiries, please contact:

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**The seminar is free of charge (FOC) for all participants.**

Please register at:

<https://forms.gle/eYqCkx1wDhu72DiW7>

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