



ASIAN BASED. GLOBAL REACH

# 4th Education Nation Conference

17th – 19th April 2017

Kuala Lumpur

## COLLOCATED EVENTS



### **Pre-Conference Workshop**

How Students Learn Best?  
An Evidence-Based Approach  
17th & 18th April 2017



### **Main Conference 1**

4th Education Nation Conference  
- Higher Education  
19th April 2017



### **Main Conference 2**

4th Education Nation Conference  
- Schools  
19th April 2017

# PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

## How Students Learn Best? An Evidence-Based Approach

17th & 18th April 2017

### Event Overview

What constitutes good teaching has long been a contested issue in the educational literature. Over the decades, we have seen much by way of periodic radical reframing, often in terms of a pendulum between traditional and progressive approaches. Interestingly, the famous management guru Peter Drucker once commented:

“Teaching is the only major occupation of man for which we have not yet developed tools that make an average person capable of competence and performance. In teaching, we rely on the ‘naturals’, the ones who somehow know how to teach.”

However, much is changing in terms of our heightened understanding of how people learn and what teaching methods work best. In essence, we are moving, albeit slowly, towards an evidence-based approach to teaching, much like engineering and medicine as done. In the present context of demand for high quality, flexible educational provision, but with decreasing costs, there is a real challenge for teaching professionals.

This workshop addresses that challenge through developing creative teachers who can utilize the various knowledge bases relating to human learning as well as the affordances of free/low cost user-friendly technology tools. Quite simply, teachers/trainers will need to be able to design and facilitate learning experiences that have high impact in terms of maximizing attainment opportunities for learners across a range of learning modes (e.g., face-to-face, blended, online). The ability to do this at an adaptive expert level is what I refer to as Creative Teaching Competence – a gold standard in Teaching Expertise.

The two-day programme introduces the Creative Teaching Framework (CTF), which is a pedagogic methodology for the design and facilitation of learning experiences that have high predictive capability for effective and efficient student learning.

### Key Takeaways

- Comprehend on the concept, rationale and usefulness of Evidence-Based Practice as an essential Pedagogic Literacy
- Recognize how the strategic use of the highly effective methods and cognitive scientific principles can significantly enhance the student learning experience and attainment opportunities
- Use evidence-based practice in designing learning experiences that have high predictive capability for effective and efficient learning outcomes
- Infuse (select and use) technology tools that enhance effectiveness and efficiency in learning across different delivery modes (e.g., face-to-face, blended, online)
- Grasp what creative teaching entails (Creative Teaching Competence) and how to develop it
- Utilize Evidence-Based Reflective Practice to diagnose learning effectiveness and improve teaching quality

### Your Expert Trainer



#### Dennis Sale

Author of the ‘Creative Teaching: An Evidence-Based Approach’ (Springer, 2015) & ‘The Challenge of Reframing Engineering Education’ (Springer, 2014)

Dennis Sale is presently Senior Education Advisor at Singapore Polytechnic. He has previously worked across all sectors of the British educational system. This has included secondary, tertiary and university sectors, as well as extensive work on teacher education programmes from basic competency level to the Master’s degree. Over the past 25 years Dennis has been predominantly involved in training, coaching and assessing teaching professionals in many countries and a wide variety of cultural contexts.

His specialist areas include Creative Teaching, Curriculum Development and Blended Learning. He has invented effective and practical models in these areas, provided a wide range of consultancies for both public and private sector organizations, and conducted numerous workshops in many countries. Dennis presently has a portfolio of 100+ consultancies, and has presented over 70 papers at various international conferences.

Dennis is the author of ‘Creative Teaching: An Evidence-Based Approach’ (Springer, 2015), which is the first book to systematically unpack the underpinning syntax of creative teaching, identifying the core pedagogic principles and neuro-psychological correlates. He also authored ‘The Challenge of Reframing Engineering Education’ (Springer, 2014), which documents the large scale implementation of the Conceive-Design-Implement-Operate (CDIO) Engineering Education Framework from inception to a 3-year programme evaluation. His work included all aspects of curriculum development, in which he produced key strategies and resources for teaching, assessment and programme evaluation.

He is presently involved in researching and evaluating models of blended learning (e.g., Flipped Classroom) from an evidence-based approach.

### Who Should Attend?

Teachers, Trainers, Lecturers, Education Managers/Leaders, Curriculum Designers and persons with a role or interest in enhancing teaching quality from K-12 and higher education sectors

# AGENDA

## Module 1: Pedagogic Literacy (Evidence Based Teaching)

This module introduces the concept of Pedagogic Literacy and its importance for teacher professionalism. It explains how teaching is finally moving out of an 'Educational Jurassic Park', driven more by fashion and fad, towards validated evidence bases on how humans learn and what teaching methods work best. Key learning areas include:

- Reasons for teaching lagging behind other professions in becoming an evidence-based profession
- Significant factors leading to a re framing of what constitutes effective and efficient teaching
- An exploration of the components of a sound Pedagogic Literacy

## Module 2: Creative Design Heuristics for high impact learning experiences

Understanding is an important component of effective learning. It involves conscious (as well as subconscious and unconscious) mental processing in making connections between knowledge being coded in Long Terms memory; that process we typically refer to as thinking. Ultimately, our long-term memory, which contains the mental schemata's essential for good understanding is what is left after the thinking process. Hence memory and thinking are one dynamic, multifaceted cognitive enterprise in the learning stakes.

However, it is the use of understanding in good deliberate practice that develops skills and ultimately competence. In this module, the learning focus is on how to use Pedagogic Literacy, in the form of evidence-based practice, to the actual design of learning experiences. Key learning areas include:

- Effective and efficient blending of high effect methods and cognitive scientific principles
- How creative teaching differs from effective and efficient teaching?
- How to develop competence in creative blending? – Getting into great SHAPE

## Course Schedule

0830 - 0900	- Registration
0900 - 1030	- Course Begins
1030 - 1050	- Refreshment & Networking Break
1050 - 1300	- Course Resumes
1300 - 1400	- Lunch
1400 - 1530	- Course Resumes
1530 - 1545	- Refreshment & Networking Break
1545 - 1630	- Course Resumes / End

## Module 3: Infusion of Technology tools based on Pedagogic Affordances

The use of technology in education is far from new. However, its impact in educational institutions has been far from successful, as compared to other vocational sectors. There have been a number of reasons for this, apart from over-hyping and unrealistic expectations in the first place. More practical reasons include a lack of workability and over complexity of the technologies. Even more fundamentally, there has been a lack of pedagogic focus in their use.

Technology does not change the way the brain works, and it does not make for a great lesson simply by inclusion. Furthermore, technology in education has no novelty effect either for attention grabbing in the technology rich world of today's students. However, what technology can do is to make a great lesson even more effective and efficient. It can also make it more interesting and engaging. However, this all rests on good pedagogic design, which is the key underpinning basis for this workshop. Key learning areas include:

- The basis of the relative failure of technology in education
- An evidence based frame on using technology for teaching and learning
- How to select technology tools that have high affordance in terms of enhancing specific aspects of the learning process?
- A guiding heuristic for high impact e-tool selection
- How to effectively and efficiently blend technology tools into the overall instructional strategy?

## Module 4: Evidence-Based Reflective Practice

Reflective Practice has a long history in the educational literature as a means to improve teaching quality. However, reflecting on practice may have little positive impact if the process of reflection is not guided by an evidence-based frame on what is good practice and a thinking model based on sound cognitive heuristics (e.g., good thinking). In their absence, reflective practice is just as Hattie in Visible Learning (2009) described:

The current penchant for "reflective teaching" too often ignores that such reflection needs to be based on evidence and not post-hoc justification. (p.241)

This module demonstrates what reflective practice entails from an evidence-based approach, and how it can be used as a powerful diagnostic and predictive tool in creating high impact learning experiences, irrespective of delivery mode. Key learning areas include:

- The reasons why Reflective Practice has been disappointing in practice for many teachers
- What is different about Evidence-Based Reflective Practice and how does this work as a diagnostic and predictive tool?
- How to use Evidence-Based Reflective Practice?

# MAIN CONFERENCE 1

## 4th Education Nation Conference - Higher Education

### An Emphasis on the 'how'

19th April 2017

#### Event Overview

The Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015–2025 (Higher Education) was launched in April 2015 with the aim to produce holistic and balanced graduates with an entrepreneurial mindset. Ten shifts were identified as a support to the realisation of the blueprint; Holistic, entrepreneurial and balanced graduates, Talent excellence, Nation of lifelong learners, Quality TVET graduates, Financial sustainability, Empowered governance, Innovation ecosystem, Global prominence, Globalised online learning and lastly, Transformed higher education delivery.

As usual, any new policy is subject to praises and critics. However, the blueprint which was based on the views collected from 10,500 stakeholders, is here, and it depends collectively on each stakeholder to either 'make it' or 'break it'. If every stakeholder knows and plays their part well instead of finger-pointing, we will be on our way to the much-needed transformation in education.

The '4<sup>th</sup> Education Nation Conference – Higher Education' aims to discover the 'how' in making it happen.

#### Key Takeaways

- Exploring the best practices in contributing to the aspirations of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025
- Practical strategies in producing balanced graduate
- Assessing the challenges and opportunities in implementing e-learning
- Rebranding Technical & Vocational Education (TVE)

#### Who Should Attend?

Board of Directors, Council Members, Vice Chancellors, Presidents, CEOs, Registrars, Deans, Directors, Senior Managers, Managers and Lecturers from higher learning institutions

#### Distinguished Panel Members & Speakers



**Datin Paduka Ir. Dr. Siti Hamisah Tapsir**  
*Deputy Director General of Higher Education (Public HEIs)*  
*Department of Higher Education*  
**Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia**



**Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali**  
*Senior Advisor*  
**Open University Malaysia**



**Tan Sri Professor Dr Mohd. Amin Jalaludin**  
*Vice-Chancellor*  
**University of Malaya**



**Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff**  
*Vice Chancellor & President*  
**UCSI University**



**Professor Ron Edwards**  
*Vice Chancellor*  
**Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (A.P.U)**



**Paul Gagnon**  
*Director of E-Learning & IT Systems and Services,*  
*Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine*  
**Nanyang Technological University, Singapore**



**Dato' Prof. Ir. Dr Kamal Nasharuddin Mustapha**  
*Vice-Chancellor*  
**Universiti Tenaga Nasional**



**Prof. Datuk Dr Ahmad Rafi Mohamed Eshaq**  
*President / CEO*  
**Multimedia University**



**Eunsang Cho**  
*Programme Specialist & Team Leader*  
**UNESCO, Bangkok**

# AGENDA

08:30 Registration

09:00 Commencement of Conference

## 09:10 Session One: Panel Discussion

### How can higher education institutions contribute to the aspirations of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education)?

- Redesigning governance in higher education institutions
- What will it take to increase the number of universities in Asia and global ranking?
- Encouraging participation in online/blended learning environment
- Intensifying internationalisation – What needs to be done?
- How to best work out the collaboration between private and public universities?

Panel Members:

**Datin Paduka Ir. Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir**, Deputy Director General of Higher Education (Public HEIs)  
Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia  
**Prof. Emeritus Tan Sri Anuwar Ali**, Senior Advisor, Open University Malaysia  
**Tan Sri Professor Dr Mohd. Amin Jalaludin**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Malaya  
**Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff**, Vice Chancellor & President, UCSI University

10:50 Mid-Morning Networking Break

## 11:20 Session Two: Panel Discussion

### The making of a holistic graduate – Does the duty lie on the higher education institutions?

- Nurturing well-rounded individuals
- Should lecturers focus on achieving their KPIs or preparing graduates for the working environment?
- Are universities and colleges spoon-feeding our graduates?
- How to make the industries involved?
- Shifting the salaried job mindset of our graduates to entrepreneurial mindset

Panel Members:

**Professor Ron Edwards**, Vice Chancellor, Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (A.P.U)  
**Dato' Prof. Ir. Dr Kamal Nasharuddin Mustapha**, Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Tenaga Nasional  
**Prof. Datuk Dr Ahmad Rafi Mohamed Eshaq**, President / CEO, Multimedia University

13:05 Networking Lunch

## 14:15 Session Three: Case Study

### Successful implementation of e-learning in higher learning environment

- The trigger factors for e-learning
- Overcoming challenges in design and implementation
- Involvement of stakeholders and students
- Ensuring the sustainability of the technology

**Paul Gagnon**, Director of E-Learning & IT Systems and Services, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

## 15:15 Session Four: Case Study

### Technical and vocational education (TVE) – A fresh perspective

- Rebranding TVE programs to remove negative stigma
- Enhance its role in developing skills for employability
- Promoting entrepreneurship in young minds
- Improving the quality of teachers and trainers in the field

**Eunsang Cho**, Programme Specialist & Team Leader, UNESCO, Bangkok

16:15 Closing Remarks

16:30 Farewell Coffee & End of Conference

# MAIN CONFERENCE 2

## 4th Education Nation Conference -Schools

### Making the change

19th April 2017

#### Event Overview

We are moving into the fourth year of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013 – 2025 implementation. This year also marks the second year of Wave 2 (2016 – 2020) initiatives of the blueprint. The emphasis of Wave 2 is to introduce structural changes while accelerating the improvements made during Wave 1 (2013 – 2015).

Changes will be further intensified with the quality enhancement for teachers and school leaders, revised primary curriculum and a new secondary curriculum, utilisation of ICT, transformation in the ministry, and promoting the involvement of parents and community in schools.

The process can be frightening and the fear of the unknown can be present, nonetheless, as Walter Anderson, a famous painter said, “Nothing diminishes anxiety faster than action”; we have to move forward to discover the outcome.

The ‘4<sup>th</sup> Education Nation Conference – Schools’ aims to encourage the stakeholders to make the necessary changes.

#### Key Takeaways

- Towards achieving the aspirations of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013 – 2025
- Discovering strategies to increase parents and community involvement
- Understanding the effectiveness of blended learning
- Boosting teaching effectiveness

#### Who Should Attend?

Board of Directors, Council Members, Presidents, CEOs, Heads, Directors, Senior Managers, Managers and academicians from early childhood education institutions and schools

#### Distinguished Panel Members & Speakers



**Datuk Lok Yim Pheng**, *Commissioner, SUHAKAM*  
(Former Secretary General of National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP))



**Datin Noor Azimah Abdul Rahim**  
*Chairman*  
**Parent Action Group for Education (PAGE)**



**Dr Jessie Png**  
*Assistant Dean/Practicum, Office of Teacher Education*  
**National Institute of Education, Singapore**

# AGENDA

08:30 Registration

09:00 Commencement of Conference

09:10 **Session One: Panel Discussion**

**How can schools contribute to the aspirations of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013 – 2025?**

- Achieving quality education of an international standard
- Traits of highly effective school leaders
- The highlights on teacher quality and upskilling
- Character building and nurturing thinking and leadership skills in students
- Focusing on unity and fostering stronger bonds among students

Panel Member:

**Datuk Lok Yim Pheng**, *Commissioner,*  
**SUHAKAM**

*(Former Secretary General of National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP))*

10:50 Mid-Morning Networking Break

11:20 **Session Two: Panel Discussion**

**Encouraging parents and community involvement in schools**

- How parental involvement affects student achievement?
- Changing the parents' and the schools' mindset
- Practical ways in getting the involvement of the parents
- Getting the community involved too

**Datin Noor Azimah Abdul Rahim**, *Chairman*  
**Parent Action Group for Education (PAGE)**

13:05 Networking Lunch

14:15 **Session Three: Case Study**

**Blended learning – Making learning fun**

- Making technology an essential part of the classroom experience
- Leveraging on its flexibility and personalisation
- Pitfalls to avoid while transitioning from traditional teaching methods to blended learning
- Getting the buy-ins from the educators

15:15 **Session Four**

**Training world-class teachers**

- Attracting the best and the brightest
- What makes a world-class teacher?
- Designing and delivering high-quality training
- Boosting teacher effectiveness through continuous improvement and development

**Dr Jessie Png**, *Assistant Dean/Practicum, Office of Teacher Education*  
**National Institute of Education, Singapore**

16:15 Closing Remarks

16:30 Farewell Coffee & End of Conference