

Keynote Session-I

Future Trends in Vocational Education and Training and World of Work



- ▶ **Keynote**
**Emerging Trends in
World of Work impacting TVET**
- ▶ **Keynote Speaker - I**
Dr. Steven Mckee

ABSTRACT

The global pandemic of 2020/21 has presented the educational community with the greatest challenges in a generation. Never before has global education been disrupted on such a scale (over 1.5 billion students out of school globally). Many students and countries have experienced serious disruptions to educational continuity and these effects may be felt for years. Multiple sectors of the economy have also faced slowdowns or even closures raising unemployment in these areas to critical levels. We do not know if and when their jobs may be coming back, and they may need to find employment elsewhere. Schools and Governments have tried to respond to the limitations of COVID restrictions and to keep learning moving forward while ensuring the safety of their teachers, staff, and students. Weaknesses in our global education system have manifested and we found that we were underprepared, and our educational systems were not flexible enough to adjust quickly. Great burdens have been placed on institutions and individual teachers as to how best to cope with a fluid situation with minimal assistance and guidelines.

Over the past year there have had many discussions in the educational community, we have learned much, and we have taken what actions we could. It is being realized that solutions like digital learning are not a quick fix but it is better to view it as a long-term solution that needs proper planning, implementation and support. Although emergency steps were taken by many countries it was merely a band aid to mitigate school closures. Now the world is turning their attention to seeking new solutions that might provide a more robust education system that can be more flexible during times of crisis and to deliver a better education for all. Many are looking towards digital and online learning as a potential tool that can help deal with these problems. Educational development has already started to include digital learning solutions quite some time ago but it has yet to become a key part of the system. Now it may be the time to look at more comprehensive solutions and move education firmly into the digital age. The pandemic has served to focus educational leaders' attention on the issue of educational transformation through digital learning. This has slowly been occurring before and now the trend is accelerated. Many are now considering whether to make digital and online learning a permanent feature which may become a new pillar of educational delivery. If so, this has the potential

to transform the educational landscape and shape how schools operate and where and when people learn.

What we must make certain is that digital and online learning is implemented in a way that improves and expands the educational experience. The promise of this type of learning lies not only in assisting to manage the restrictions and economic and educational fallout of the COVID crisis but to transform education to make it better. In this session we shall look into the broad issues facing education at this time of transformation. Dr. McKee will share his insights from discussions with educational leaders around the world and to offer useful insight as to how this transformation can be managed and planned for. This session will also share a roadmap with suggestions and frameworks on how educational institutions can enter into or expand their digital presence and activities that can improve and enable both digital and online learning.

BRIEF CV

Dr. Steven McKeen has been involved in international educational development continuously since 1974. He initiated his career by working on some of the first educational development projects funded by the world bank and has continued to be active in the educational development. He is also President and Founder of Labtech International founded in 1985. Dr. McKee has been involved in International educational development continuously since 1974. He started his career by working on some of the first educational development projects funded by the World Bank and has continued to be active in educational development at regional, national and local levels. In November of 2018 he was elected as the President of the Worlddidac association.