



Professor John Lee Chi-Kin, Vice President (Academic) and Provost and Chair Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, joined the University (the then Hong Kong Institute of Education) in 2010. His research interests focus on curriculum and instruction, geographical and environmental education, and school improvement. He is active in leading and securing education research and development projects and has a solid track record in securing external grants. One of his projects (together with Prof Jim Chi-yung, Dr Alice Chow Sin-yin and team), "Tree Assessment for Life Education (TALE) Project", has won a Silver Medal in the first-ever virtual edition of Geneva's Inventions Expo held in March 2021 and won a Gold Medal and Special Award in the International Invention Innovation Competition in Canada (iCAN) in August 2021. He is the recipient of the President's Award of Outstanding Performance in Knowledge Transfer (Team Award) in 2016/17. He has served as the Editor of The International Journal of Children's Spirituality (IJCS) and Executive Editor of Teachers and Teaching as well as editorial board members or advisory editors of many local, regional and international journals. He is also a prolific writer who has edited and written more than 25 books, and published over 100 journal articles and book chapters.

Professor Lee has actively participated in education and social service in Hong Kong, mainland China and overseas. He served as the UNESCO consultant of an environmental education project in China, an executive governing board member of International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement and a technology support committee member of International Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies and etc. He had led a team of colleagues, appointed by the World Bank, to serve as the Consultant for the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training's Enhancing Teacher Education Program in 2017-2018. He has also held many visiting/guest/adjunct professorships at universities overseas and in mainland China. He has served as the Changjiang Chair Professor conferred by the Ministry of Education, the People's Republic of China.

Professor Lee is also the UNESCO Chair in Regional Education Development and Lifelong Learning, The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Research Fellow, Director of the Centre for Religious and Spirituality Education, Co-Director (Research) of the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and Co-Director of the Centre for Education in Environmental Sustainability at EdUHK.

Education Beyond 21st Century

Professor John Lee Chi-Kin

UNESCO Chair in Regional Education Development and Lifelong Learning

Chair Professor of Curriculum and Instruction

The Education University of Hong Kong

Abstract

Over the past decade, education has been evolving and reshaping by ever-changing technology and innovations as well as challenges such as the impact of COVID-19, taking into account the new trend of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Metadata. In November 2021, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 2021) released a report titled ***“Reimagining our futures together: a new social contract for education”***, which presents a forward-looking vision of what education and learning might yet become in our shared future as we look to 2050 and beyond. The report stated that “Education must additionally play a role in steering technological innovation and the digital transformation of societies.” (p.80), in which education and technology are mutually interacting and sharing the fruits of development.

Technological innovation, however, has its limits. Scientific and technological innovation in the education of students as well as regional and international educators could be compromised by insufficient resources and lack of systematic hardware follow-up. In some cases, the use of technological innovation in education might be developed without proper guidance and adequate provision of training.

As the UNESCO Chair in Regional Education Development and Lifelong Learning, Professor John Lee personally views that teachers play a variety of yet significant roles in the education beyond the 21st century, including facilitator, values educator, decision-maker, curriculum developer, etc. Teacher education needs to face the challenge to how to nurture teachers with strong professionalism, *repertoire* of teaching strategies and technology.

The keynote speech will cover **i.** Futures of Education from Chinese education perspectives; **ii.** Challenges and potentials facing by educators in Hong Kong and in the region; and **iii.** Importance and roles of teachers in schooling and educational delivery.

Disclaimer: The keynote speaker Professor John LEE Chi-Kin is responsible for the choice and presentation of views contained in this speech and for opinions expressed therein, which are not necessarily those of UNESCO and The Education University of Hong Kong and do not commit respective Organisations. Please note that all comments, remarks, words used in this keynote speech are made without seditious intentions.