

AIUTA Asia International Conference 2025



More Details



Theme: Lifelong Learning for Older Adults in the Digital Age



1 - 2 April 2025

Conference

1 April

Field Visit


2 April



Hong Kong SAR,
China



Organisers:

 International Association of
Universities of the Third Age

 LI PACE
香港都會大學 李嘉誠專業進修學院
Hong Kong Metropolitan University
Li Ka Shing School of Professional and
Continuing Education



中国老年大学协会
China Association of the Universities For The Aged

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賽馬會智齡匯
JOCKEY CLUB SMART AGEING HUB



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Message from the President of International Association of Universities of the Third Age (AIUTA)



It is an honour for AIUTA (The International Association of the Universities of Third Age) to participate in this wonderful initiative from Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education with broad participation by U3As in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

The theme of this International Conference: "Life Long Learning for Older Adults in the Digital Age" highlights one of the priorities for AIUTA U3A's in the 21st century. The need to develop deeper into ongoing and digital lifelong learning and to focus on digital training for older adults is a key in the reduction of social exclusion among the older segments of the population. Recognising the value that corresponds to older adults' inescapable need for their active integration as citizens, digital tools appear as an unquestionable priority. In this respect, AIUTA U3A's have clearly assumed

the role of spreading this message on all continents, taking a new initiative "AIUTA CONNECT" with Artificial Intelligence AI as its latest focus. Digital integration is an essential goal and also our commitment to adapt older adults' ongoing education to advances in new technologies.

It is an ambitious aim which requires the participation of all U3As, gathered in this AIUTA ASIA International Conference. We, as AIUTA, warmly thank all speakers and participants from Asia Pacific and other regions to contribute to a fruitful outcome and fulfilment of our goal to disseminate lifelong learning for all.

I look forward to seeing you soon in Hong Kong.

Prof. François Vellas
President of AIUTA

Message from the President of Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU)



It is my distinct honour and pleasure to welcome all of you to the AIUTA Asia Conference 2025, held at Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU) on our Kwai Hing Campus. As President of HKMU, I'm excited to see such a diverse and distinguished group of attendees gathered here to discuss and advance the field of learning for older adults.

Like other developed regions, Hong Kong is experiencing a significant demographic shift. Our ageing population presents both challenges and opportunities that we must address with urgency and innovation. The theme of this year's conference, "Lifelong Learning for Older Adults in the Digital Age", is particularly timely and relevant. It highlights the importance of equipping older adults with the skills and knowledge they need in an increasingly digital world. It also underscores how technology can enhance learning and improve the quality of life of older adults at home and in the community.

At HKMU, "Education for all" is our mission. Our Elder Academy, operated by the Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education, has been at

the forefront of providing educational opportunities tailored to the needs of older adults. It is encouraging to witness the intergenerational learning taking place on our campus, which benefits both young and senior students. I hope that you will be inspired by the examples we showcase during the Conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank AIUTA for entrusting us to co-host this important Conference, which I hope will serve as a platform for all participants to share best practices and initiate new collaboration and research. I am confident that this Conference will be a fruitful and inspiring experience for all of you. May it serve as a catalyst for innovative ideas and lasting partnerships that will benefit older adult learners worldwide.

Thank you for being here, and I wish you a memorable and enjoyable time in Hong Kong.

Prof. Paul Lam Kwan-sing
President of HKMU

Message from the Dean of Hong Kong Metropolitan University Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education (HKMU LiPACE)



I am pleased to extend my cordial welcome to all of you for attending the AIUTA Asia Conference held in Kwai Hing Campus.

As the hosting School of this Conference, we are particularly delighted to introduce to you our work in providing learning opportunities for older adults in the community under the banner of the Elder Academy at Hong Kong Metropolitan University (EAMU). Every year, close to 2,000 learners are enrolled in our courses and many more participate in workshops and activities under specific themes such as intergenerational learning and grandparent-grandchildren learning. Since its establishment in 2009, EAMU has already served more than 15,000 learners and its dedicated educational provision is leading the university sector elder academies in HK.

Through this Conference, we would like to highlight our close working relationship with peers who are engaged in older adults learning in China and the neighboring East and Southeast Asia regions. Our collaborations span course sharing, senior's virtual meetings and joint research projects.

As we welcome participants from outside our region to this Conference, we hope to create new bridges for experience sharing and potential collaborations so that we may learn from each other to enrich the way we deliver learning experience to the older adult learner constituency.

I hope you will enjoy this Conference and I wish you a wonderful time in HK touring our beautiful city!

Dr. Benjamin Chan Tak-yuen
Dean of HKMU LiPACE

About the Conference

Conference Focus

This conference explores the adoption of technology to promote active ageing and seniors learning in China, Hong Kong (HK) and APAC region. Societies of the region are undergoing rapid demographic transition to “aged societies” where the importance of keeping seniors in good health and actively engaged with the community through lifelong learning have become

government policy priorities. Against this backdrop, learning to use mobile applications and health technology for the elderly has injected a new vigor into programming for seniors. The conceptualization of the ageing process has also received new inspiration through redefining the life course as “The 100-year Life” (Gratton and Scott, 2016) and which calls for individuals to be equipped with “Longevity Literacy” (WEF and Mercer, 2023).

Why Hong Kong?

As Asia's World City, the HK Special Administrative Region aims to serve as a super connector for China to the rest of the world. HK is a super-aged society (In 2023, 22.4% of its population is above 65 years of age) which makes the hosting of

this conference all the more relevant. This conference will complement the series of past AIUTA conferences held in APAC including Shanghai (2004 & 2019), Osaka (2016) and Guangzhou (2013) to make AIUTA and the “University of the 3rd Age Movement” felt strongly in the APAC region.

Language

English. Some topics will be presented in Putonghua with simultaneous translation to both languages available during the conference.



Venue Information

Address

Lam Kin Chung Lecture Theatre, HKMU LiPACE
11/F, Tower 2, Kowloon Commerce Centre, 51-53 Kwai Cheong Road, Kwai Chung, N.T.

Direction from Kwai Hing MTR Station

It is a 2 minutes' walk under air-conditioned walkway from Exit E of MTR Kwai Hing Station, via platform of Tsuen Wan Line towards Central.



Conference Rundown

Pre-conference Gathering (31 March 2025, Monday)

(for non-local participants only; optional participation)

Time	Agenda
15:30 - 17:00	Pre-conference Meeting (Governing Board Members Only)
17:30 - 19:00	<p>Cocktail Reception at HKMU Kwai Hing Campus</p> <p>18:00-18:03 Welcome Remarks by Provost of Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU), Prof. Reggie Kwan</p> <p>18:03-18:08 Special Guest Remarks by Consul General, Consulate General of India in Hong Kong, Ms. Satwant Khanalia</p> <p>18:10-18:20 Cultural Performance from Indonesia (Indonesian Consulate General in HK and Macau)</p> <p>18:30-18:40 Cultural Dance Performance from India (Mahatma Gandhi University U3A Delegation)</p> <p>18:50-19:00 Musical Instrument Performance (Guzheng) from HKSAR, China (HKMU LiPACE)</p>
19:00 - 20:30	Casual Dinner (By Invitation Only, Participants will be Allocated to Vegetarian or Western Eateries)

Day 1 (1 April 2025, Tuesday)

Time	Agenda
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome Remarks by President of International Association of Universities of the Third Age (AIUTA), Prof. François Vellas
09:15 - 09:20	Welcome Remarks by Deputy Secretary-General of China Association of the Universities for The Aged (CAUA), Ms. Li Chunhua
09:20 - 09:25	Guest Remarks by Prof. (Dr.) CT Aravindakumar, Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, India
09:25 - 09:30	Opening Remarks by President of Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU), Prof. Paul Lam Kwan-sing
09:30 - 09:40	Picture Taking and Awarding of Souvenirs to Guests
09:40 - 10:10	<p>Plenary 1: Digitization Empowerment for the High-Quality Development of Elderly Education in China</p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Fan Xianrui, Vice President of The Open University of China, Beijing Ms. Tian Suxia, Director, Teaching and Academic Affairs Center, Seniors University of China</p>
10:10 - 10:40	<p>Plenary 2: Empowering Lifelong Learning for the Older Adults through Digital Intelligence: Innovation and Practice in Elderly Education at Guangdong Open University</p> <p>Speaker: Prof. Liu Wenqing, President of Guangdong Open University, Guangzhou</p>
10:40 - 11:05	<p>Plenary 3: The Implementation Plan for Silk Road Archaeology in China</p> <p>Speaker: Ms. Li Chunhua, Deputy Secretary-General of China Association of the Universities for The Aged</p>
11:05 - 11:30	Tea Break
11:30 - 11:55	<p>Keynote 1: Learning From and With Each Other by the Elderly and Children in the Digital Age: Cultural Significance and Educational Value</p> <p>Speaker: Prof. Li Jiacheng, Executive Vice-President of Shanghai Municipal Institute for Lifelong Education, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China</p>

Time	Agenda
11:55 - 12:20	Keynote 2: Digital Transformation Drives the Future of Elderly Education in China: Practices and Exploration of Golden Age Technology's 5G Smart Campus Development Speaker: Mr. Wu Guangquan, Executive President of Online Senior University
12:20 - 14:00	Lunch and Campus Viewing
14:00 - 14:20	Keynote 3: The Demographic Future of South Korea and Its Implications for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning in the Third Age Speaker: Dr. Lee Byung-ho, Associate Professor of Ajou University, Korea
14:20 - 14:40	Keynote 4: Building Resilient Communities: Integrating Digital Lifelong Learning for Sarawak's Older Adults Speaker: Prof. Roy Rillera Marzo, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences, Curtin University, Malaysia
14:40 - 15:00	Keynote 5: Lifelong Education for Older Adults in Hong Kong Speaker: Prof. Ben Fong Yuk-fai, Director of Centre for Ageing and Healthcare Management Research, College of Professional and Continuing Education, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
15:00 - 15:20	Keynote 6: Empowering Lifelong Learning for Aging Societies in Thailand: Roles of Educational Institutions Speaker: Dr. Chaturaporn Sihabutr, Lecturer of Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
15:20 - 15:30	Awarding of Certificates, Souvenirs and Picture-taking
15:30 - 15:50	Coffee Break
15:50 - 18:05	Country / Regional Roundtable
	15:50 – 16:05  Indian Model of U3A (showcase country) Dr. Toney Thomas, Mahatma Gandhi University, INDIA
	16:05 – 16:15  Presentation of Ualikanov University U3A Programme, Kazakhstan Prof. Zhakupova Aigul, Vice-Rector, Ualikhanov University, KAZAKHSTAN
	16:15 – 16:25  Presentation of U3A Economic University in Bratislava, Slovakia Dr. Janka Chladecka, Director U3A, AIUTA GB Member, SLOVAKIA
	16:25 – 16:35  Presentation of U3A Singapore Programme, Singapore Mr. Thomas Kuan, Founder of U 3rd Age Singapore, SINGAPORE
	16:35 – 16:45  Presentation of Healthy Ageing Partnerships, Queensland Mr. Colin Maddocks, U3A Australia, AUSTRALIA

Time	Agenda
15:50 - 18:05	Country / Regional Roundtable
	16:45 – 16:55  Lifelong Learning for Older Adults in the Digital Age: Experience of Thailand Dr. Kamlai Laohaphatanalert, Dr. Nutteera Phakdeephrot, Dr. Songyu Jiang, Rajamangala University of Technology Rattanakosin, THAILAND
	16:55 – 17:05  Presentation of UK U3A Programmes, Scotland Prof. Maria Chester, AIUTA Institutional Affairs, UNITED KINGDOM
	17:05 – 17:15  Presentation of U3A Enquires on Senior Students, Açores Prof. Carlos Santos, Director ORD, AIUTA Deputy Secretary General, PORTUGAL
	17:15 – 17:25  Presentation of Spanish U3A Programmes, Cataluña Mrs. Montserrat Amoros, Secretary General AIUTA, SPAIN
	17:25 – 17:35  Lifelong Learning for Older Adults in Finland Dr. Kristof Fenyvesi, University of Jyväskylä, FINLAND
	17:35 – 17:45  Presentation from Egypt Dr. Doaa Salem, School of Continuing Education, American University in Cairo, EGYPT
	17:45 – 17:55  Presentation from South Africa (Zoom) Dr. Medee Rall, University of Cape Town (Centre for Extra-Mural Studies), SOUTH AFRICA
17:55 – 18:05  Presentation from Canada Dr Shannon Freeman, University of Northern British Columbia, CANADA	
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner (for non-local participants only) Joined by President and Provost of HKMU Prof. Paul Lam and Prof. Reggie Kwan

Day 2 (2 April 2025, Wednesday)
(for non-local participants only; optional participation)

Time	Agenda
09:30 - 10:00	Pick-up from Hotel or Self-arranged Transport to the Field Visit Destination
10:00 - 11:00	<p>Field Visit</p> <p>Destination A: "Jockey Club Smart Ageing Hub" Day Experience Centre of Hong Kong Polytechnic University Address: Room GH041, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon</p> <p>Destination B: Cornerstone Education Centre (Elderly Learning Centre in Local Community) Address: G/F, 40 Lung Kong Road, Kowloon City, Kowloon</p> <p>Destination C: New Territories West Elder Academies Cluster Address: Area 31, Tuen Mun, Yeung Ching Road, New Territories</p>
11:00 - 11:30	Transport to Lunch Venue
11:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30	End of the Conference and Free Time
14:30 - 16:00	Post-conference Meeting (Governing Board Members Only)

Plenary 1



Ms. Fan Xianrui

Vice President of The Open University of China, Beijing

Profile

Ms. Fan Xianrui is the Vice President of the Open University of China (OUC). She graduated from Peking University with a master's degree. Prior to her appointment as the Vice President of the OUC, she served in the Ministry of Education of China for many years. Her main research areas include digital education, international and comparative education, older adult education. She has published three books, and more than twenty articles, papers, and reports.



Ms. Tian Suxia

Director, Teaching and Academic Affairs Center, Seniors University of China

Profile

Ms. Tian Suxia is an associate professor and Director of the Teaching and Academic Affairs Center at the Seniors University of China (SUC). She is primarily responsible for the teaching system, resource development, and faculty team building within SUC's educational framework. Her research focuses on elderly education and the silver economy.

Topic

Digitization Empowerment for the High-Quality Development of Elderly Education in China

Abstract

With China rapidly entering an aging society, the population aged 60 and above in China has reached nearly 300 million. Addressing the issue of educational opportunities for the elderly has become a key focus for both the government and society. The establishment of the Seniors University of China (SUC) is a strategic initiative

by the state to actively respond to the challenges of an aging population. Built upon the strength of the Open University of China (OUC), the SUC aims to leverage the OUC's digital advantages and nationwide education network covering urban and rural areas to deliver elderly education to households across the nation. Therefore, the SUC consistently utilizes digital tools to enhance education and teaching, including resource construction, faculty training, teaching management, instruction, system-wide collaboration and so on.

Keynote Speakers



Prof. Liu Wenqing

President of Guangdong Open University,
Guangzhou

Profile

Prof Liu Wenqing, Doctor of Law, Researcher, and Doctoral/Master’s Supervisor. Prof Liu is President of Guangdong Open University and has led over 30 national and provincial-level projects and major research initiatives. She has received two second prizes for national educational and teaching achievements, one special prize, and three first prizes for provincial educational and teaching achievements. Prof Liu has published more than 50 monographs (textbooks) and over 60 papers.

Topic

Empowering Lifelong Learning for the Older Adults through Digital Intelligence: Innovation and Practice in Elderly Education at Guangdong Open University

Abstract

Guangdong Open University is a new type of higher education institution supported by modern information technology. Utilizing its educational system and the advantages of modern information technology, it has become the primary entity for developing elderly education in the province, playing the important roles in coordination and leadership.

The university explores the diverse learning needs of the elderly in the digital era. It has established the Lifelong Learning Network in Guangdong to offer an open and distance learning platform for older adults. By partnering with industries, it develops high-quality digital learning resources to empower seniors to learn "anytime and anywhere".

The University aims to be the first base for Smart Senior Care and to set up a research center in the Greater Bay Area. It intends to incorporate advanced technologies and equipment, including wearable devices and service robots, to provide effective lifelong learning services for seniors.



Ms. Li Chunhua

Deputy Secretary-General of China
Association of the Universities for The Aged

Profile

- Deputy Secretary-General of the China Association of the Universities for the Aged (CAUA)
- Director of the Office of the CAUA
- Director of the Social Activities Department of CAUA
- Head of the Art Troupe of CAUA
- President of the Online Senior University

Li Chunhua started working in 1971, joined the Communist Party of China in 1977, and began her tenure at CAUA in 2002. She has dedicated over 20 years to the field of older adult education, committed to its continuous development.

In CAUA, she holds significant responsibilities and occupies key positions, investing considerable effort into various major events and meetings organized by the association. She participates in planning and implementation, demonstrating outstanding organizational skills and efficient execution. She possesses deep emotions and a persistent passion for the cause of older adult education.

Topic

The Implementation Plan for Silk Road Archaeology in China

Abstract

This paper aims to explore the implementation plan for Silk Road archaeology in China. Firstly, it analyzes the modern significance of the Silk Road, including the protection of cultural heritage, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the promotion of economic globalization. Secondly, it introduces the significant value of the New Silk Road International Cooperation Project led by the China Association of the Universities for the Aged. The association plays a coordinating role in ensuring the steady and solid advancement of the project. The paper also elaborates on the diverse activities organized to enhance the project's impact and participation. Finally, it proposes a specific plan for the implementation of Silk Road archaeology in China, providing a reference for research and practice in related fields.



Prof. Li Jiacheng

Executive Vice-President of Shanghai Municipal Institute for Lifelong Education, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China

Profile

Prof. Li Jiacheng is the Executive Vice-President of and Professor at the Shanghai Municipal Institute for Lifelong Education at East China Normal University. Apart from taking the role as a doctoral supervisor, Prof. Li is an active researcher in different areas, including lifelong education, adult education, school reform, student and teacher development, and school-family-community cooperation. He is also the Vice Chairman of the Professional Committee of Home-School Collaboration of Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy and the Vice Chairman of the Professional Committee of Class Teachers of the Chinese Society of Education.

Topic

Learning From and With Each Other by the Elderly and Children in the Digital Age: Cultural Significance and Educational Value

Abstract

The transmission of experience and knowledge from the older generation to the younger generation is a form of education that has lasted for thousands of years. But with the development of the digital age, the elderly also have an urgent need to improve digital literacy

from the younger generation, thus a new form of intergenerational relationship can be achieved. Such learning in the digital age not only contributes to the improvement of digital literacy, but also can be extended to various fields such as health education, art education, cultural education, or climate change education.

This is of great significance for education reform, relating elderly education with children's education, creating a micro form of lifelong education system, innovating the path of lifelong learning for all, developing the meaning of lifelong education as a "development strategy", and improving the quality and efficiency of education.

In terms of cultural significance, compared to European and American countries that lack the foundation of "intergenerational education", and countries in Asia or Africa with similar forms of family education, social education, and school education, the learning from and with each other by the elderly and children enriches the diversity of global cultures, reflects respect for the value of intergenerational relationships in human development, and highlights the values and methods of lifelong learning.



Mr. Wu Guangquan

Executive President of Online Senior University, Executive Director of the China Association of the Universities for the Aged

Profile

- Executive Director of the China Association of the Universities for the Aged (CAUA)
- Executive President of the Online Senior University
- Chairman of Shenzhen Golden Age Technology Co., Ltd.

Mr. Wu Guangquan has held long-term positions at central enterprises under the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), specifically at AVIC International and AVIC General Aircraft. He has served as General Manager and Chairman, and in 2011, he was recognized as a National Outstanding Entrepreneur. AVIC International is primarily responsible for the internationalization and diversification of AVIC's business. During his tenure at AVIC General Aircraft, Mr. Wu successfully completed the first land and water flights of the domestically produced large amphibious aircraft AG600, earning commendation from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council.

Topic

Digital Transformation Drives the Future of Elderly Education in China: Practices and Exploration of Golden Age Technology's 5G Smart Campus Development

Abstract

Elderly education in China faces critical challenges: insufficient enrollment capacity, a gap between learning outcomes and high-quality life needs, and regional development imbalances. Addressing these requires digital transformation, akin to other sectors. Public senior universities are adopting hybrid models, while private online senior learning institutions focus on transitioning from online to offline.

Golden Age Technology and its Online Senior University are pioneering this transformation through 5G Smart Campus solutions and online teaching operations. Their approach balances learning, social interaction, and entertainment, leveraging digital tools like apps and social communities, while expanding offline activities.

Committed to the silver economy, Golden Age Technology offers tailored study tours, high-quality e-commerce products, and develops living communities to enhance the life quality for older adults. This paper examines these challenges and solutions, showcasing Golden Age Technology's role in advancing elderly education and the silver economy.



Dr. Lee Byung-ho

Associate Professor of Ajou University,
Korea

Profile

Dr. Byung-Ho LEE is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Ajou University, South Korea. He earned a PhD in sociology from the University of Michigan and served as a Lecturer at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He conducts research in the fields of sinology, demography, and comparative-historical sociology, focusing on ethnicity, identity, social policy, and quality of life.

Topic

The Demographic Future of South Korea and Its Implications for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning in the Third Age

Abstract

Like other East Asian societies, South Korea is grappling with a radical demographic crisis of lowest-low fertility and rapid aging that will threaten its sustainable economic development and social security system. Lowest-low fertility first appeared in South Korea in the early 2000s, when the TFR fell to 1.18 in 2002. This trend has continued for two decades, with a further remarkable TFR decline since 2019. Such ultra-low fertility will unleash a sharp decline in the working-age population and lead to a super-aging society. Under such circumstances, implementing nationwide programs to retrain retired seniors through upskilling and reskilling has become an urgent priority to cope with South Korea's demographic changes. Improving lifelong education programs for the elderly is also important for enhancing their overall quality of life,

which has been alarmingly low, as reflected in the exceptionally high suicide rate among the third age group. The main agencies for providing such programs should extend beyond local senior welfare and cultural centers to include higher education institutions. South Korean universities have the potential to deliver decent, rigorous, and standardized curricula to the elderly using innovative ICT technologies. Indeed, due to the sharp decline in the number of newborns, they will need to rethink their operational frameworks and substantially restructure their programs to accommodate both adult learners and international students. This is especially true for most private universities outside the Seoul Capital Area, which are already struggling to recruit undergraduate students. While many have actively sought to attract foreign students, relatively few have paid attention to enrolling local seniors. Recently, some universities have initiated senior education programs, experimenting with models such as university-based retirement communities. The government has also introduced the LiFE (Lifelong education at universities for the Future of Education) program, although it remains a small-scale pilot rather than a nationwide project. Expanding such efforts would enable tertiary education institutions to play an active role in improving the quality of life for seniors and alleviating the problems of poverty, illness, and social isolation among the elderly in South Korea.



Prof. Roy Rillera Marzo

Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and
Health Sciences, Curtin University, Malaysia

Profile

Prof. Roy Rillera Marzo is a biologist and medical doctor with extensive expertise in public health research and leadership. He is the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Health Sciences and the Director of the Community Research and Sustainability Centre at Curtin University, Malaysia. An internationally recognized, award-winning researcher, he has authored over 200 peer-reviewed articles published in high-impact journals, focusing on epidemiology, health promotion, aging, quality of life, social and behavioral health, and healthcare management.

Beyond academia, Professor Dr. Roy serves as Vice-President of the International Association on Public Health, where he plays a pivotal role in empowering public health professionals globally. He is also the CEO and Founder of the World Catalysts Research Network (WCRN), a leading global hub for innovation in data, social, and health sciences. Additionally, he is a board member of Fight Cancer Global (USA) and serves as the International Coordinator for Education Against Tobacco in Southeast Asia, further emphasizing his dedication to impactful global health initiatives.

Topic

Building Resilient Communities: Integrating Digital Lifelong Learning for Sarawak's Older Adults

Abstract

As the global population ages, older adults face a growing risk of social isolation and restricted access to essential services if they remain excluded from the digital revolution. In Sarawak — where diverse cultural communities, remote geographies, and varying levels of infrastructure intersect — digital lifelong learning emerges as a critical strategy to build resilient and inclusive societies. Equipping older adults with the skills to navigate online platforms not only connects them to vital healthcare resources and economic opportunities,

but also helps them maintain meaningful social networks, ultimately fostering greater independence and purpose.

This keynote will explore innovative strategies for bridging the digital divide among Sarawak's older population, drawing on insights from Curtin University's research and community outreach. We will demonstrate how tailored training modules, developed in partnership with local authorities and community-based organizations, can effectively address linguistic barriers, respect cultural nuances, and cultivate confidence in using digital tools. Participants will also learn how intergenerational programs — pairing tech-savvy youth with older adults — can strengthen community bonds, preserve indigenous knowledge through digital archives, and spark collaborative problem-solving across age groups.

Through real-life case studies and best practices, this presentation will illustrate the power of technology in elevating health outcomes, enhancing economic participation, and reinforcing social cohesion. We will spotlight how telehealth platforms and mobile applications, when aligned with robust community support, can extend healthcare access to remote regions and offer timely interventions for chronic conditions. Furthermore, we will address connectivity limitations and recommend practical, cost-effective solutions to ensure wide-reaching benefits.

By empowering older adults to become active participants in Sarawak's evolving digital ecosystem, we can create a future where no one is left behind. This keynote aims to inspire policymakers, educators, healthcare professionals, and community leaders to champion digital lifelong learning initiatives, paving the way for healthier, stronger, and more cohesive societies in Sarawak and beyond.



Prof. Ben Fong Yuk-fai

Director of Centre for Ageing and Healthcare Management Research, College of Professional and Continuing Education, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Profile

Prof. Ben Fong, a Specialist in Community Medicine, is the Professor of Practice (Health Studies) and Associate Division Head of the Division of Science, Engineering and Health Studies (SEHS), the Programme Leader of the BSc (Hons) in Applied Sciences (Health Studies), and the Director of the Centre for Ageing and Healthcare Management Research at HK PolyU. He has honorary appointments in Family Medicine at both The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) and The University of Hong Kong, as well as in the School of Chinese Medicine, the Hong Kong Institute of Integrative Medicine, and Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at CUHK. He is also Adjunct Professor in Public Health & Tropical Medicine in the College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences at James Cook University, Queensland, Australia, the President of Hong Kong College of Community Health Practitioners, and the Vice-Chair of the Clinical Governance Committee of the Jockey Club Home for Hospice. Dr Fong had his medical training at the University of Sydney, where he had also completed a Master's in Public Health. He had his clinical training in Sydney, and has held a senior management position at Prince Henry Hospital, a teaching hospital of the University of New South Wales. He has contributed to publications, including Gaps and Actions in Health Improvement from Hong Kong and Beyond: All for Health (2023), Disaster Management and Emergency Medicine in the Asia-Pacific Region: Current Practices and Future Directions (2023), Ageing with Dignity in Hong Kong and Asia – Holistic and Humanistic Care (2022), Routledge Handbook of Public Health and the Community (2021), Primary Care Revisited: Interdisciplinary Perspectives for a New Era (2020), a training manual for general practitioners in China published by the People's Medical Publishing House in Beijing, China (2020), over 30 health books in Chinese, and 70 journal papers.

Topic

Lifelong Education for Older Adults in Hong Kong

Abstract

Hong Kong is facing the challenge of a rapidly ageing population. To foster an active and successful healthy ageing, learning throughout life regardless of age is promoted as lifelong learning. 20 older adults who were studying the Diploma in Active Ageing at the School of Professional Education and Executive Development of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China, participated in a questionnaire survey and 16 of them participated in individual in-depth interviews in a study to understand and to evaluate the impact of lifelong education on older adults. The results showed that those who had received both informal and formal learning opportunities experienced positive changes to their physical, psychological and social health, being less fatigue and with better memory skills. They could express opinions and feelings, and think more positively. They also became satisfied with social life, expanded social networks and increased confidence in communicating with others. Some difficulties were noted, particularly the finance. Participants reported that the current lifelong learning policy provided insufficient financial support and insufficient promotion of formal education for older adults. For older adults to pursue further education, there would be a need to provide more generous subsidies and relax age eligibility restrictions. Another study on the class cohort revealed older adults might take more time to learn new technology skills and get used to them eventually, particularly if technical and social supports were available. Promoting and encouraging older learners' participation in formal online learning could also enable them to meet new friends and maintain social participation and engagement. To sustain lifelong learning, both informal and formal education for older adults should be promoted equally in order to meet the diverse interests and educational ability of older learners.



Dr. Chaturaporn Sihabutr

Lecturer of Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, Khon Kaen University, Thailand

Profile

Dr. Chaturaporn Sihabutr is a knowledgeable academic with a background in Tourism and Hospitality Management. She earned a Master's degree in Tourism & Hotel Management from Southern Cross University, Australia, and Naresuan University, Thailand. She furthered her studies in France, obtaining a Master of Research (Master 2) from Université Toulouse 1 Capitole, and subsequently completed a Ph.D. in Tourism Economics from Université de Toulouse Le Mirail in 2011. She is currently a lecturer in Tourism and Service Innovation at the Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies, Khon Kaen University, Nong Khai Campus, Thailand. With a deep understanding of tourism economics and management, Dr. Chaturaporn has dedicated her career to advancing the field through both academic research and practical applications. She is an expert in tourism innovation and has made significant contributions to the development of sustainable tourism practices.

Topic

Empowering Lifelong Learning for Aging Societies in Thailand: Roles of Educational Institutions

Abstract

Thailand is undergoing a significant demographic shift, with over 20% of the population projected to be above 60 years old by 2025 and 30% by 2040, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). This transition poses challenges such as limited opportunities for physical activity, social isolation, rising healthcare costs, and economic insecurity among the elderly.

Educational institutions, particularly Khon Kaen University (KKU), are at the forefront of addressing these challenges through innovative lifelong learning initiatives.

This keynote highlights of KKU's initiatives, including the Elder Care Leadership Program, a training course designed to equip caregivers with essential skills to enhance the quality of life for aging adults while alleviating the burden on healthcare systems. Additionally, KKU's Digital Literacy Programs empower seniors by introducing them to tools such as smartphones, online banking, and virtual reality, enabling them to stay connected, access essential services, and reduce social isolation. The Khon Kaen Green Market, provides seniors the opportunity to engage in outdoor activities such as organic farming and vegetable cultivation. Through this initiative, older adults enhance their physical health, rediscover a sense of purpose, and generate economic opportunities, all while contributing to sustainable agriculture. This program exemplifies how university, civil societies, and all partners can collaborate to develop innovative solutions that foster active and meaningful engagement among older adults.

The presentation concludes by emphasizing the transformative power of lifelong learning in promoting personal growth, enhancing social inclusion, and building economic resilience. It encourages university and their partners to collaborate in creating inclusive ecosystems that support aging societies, with Khon Kaen University (KKU) serving as a leading by example of innovation and impact.

Country= / Regional Roundtable Session

A roundtable session will be held after the keynote session in the conference. For those speakers who join the roundtable session, they are expected to adhere to a set of rules below to ensure a smooth and productive discussion.

Language

English

Visual Aids

Speakers will present their own country / regional reports. They are allowed to use a PowerPoint to assist their presentation. The PowerPoint file should be submitted to the organizing committee by email in advance.

Respect Time Limits

Speakers should be mindful of their speaking time and ensure a balanced discussion by controlling their speech for not more than 10 minutes for country report and 15 minutes for showcase country report.

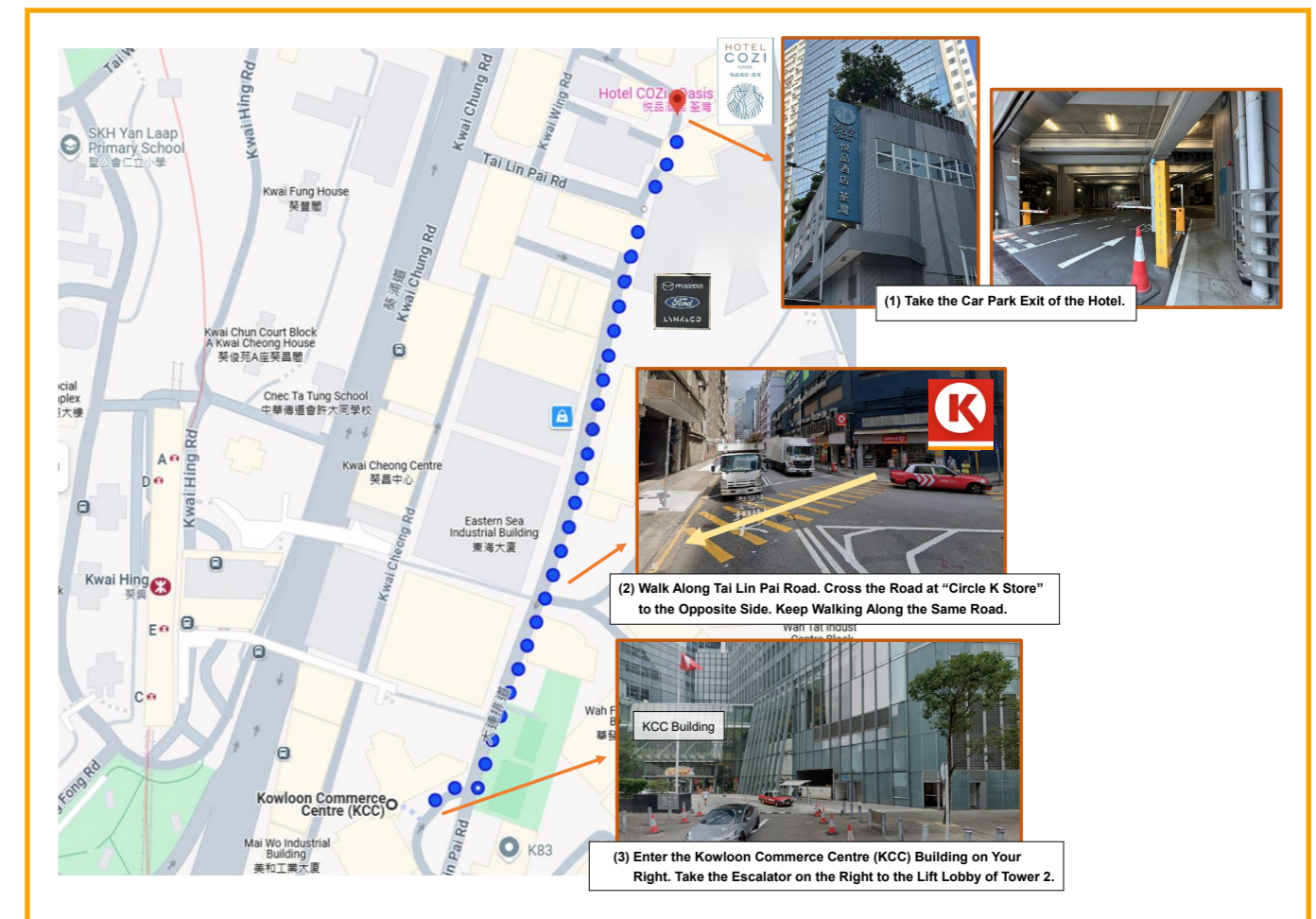
Respectful Communication

Maintain a respectful and constructive tone during discussions, even in the case of differing opinions. Avoid using language that could be perceived as offensive or disrespectful.

Special Information for Non-local Participants

Direction from Designated Hotel (Hotel COZi Oasis)

It is a 10 -12 minutes' walk from Hotel COZi Oasis to Kowloon Commerce Centre.



Transportation to Conference Venue



From Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA)



Participants landing in Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) are advised to take an urban taxi (red) to Kowloon Commerce Centre directly. The estimated travel time is approximately 25 to 35 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. The taxi fare is approximately HKD260 – 320, including toll fees for the Tsing Ma Bridge and any additional luggage charges.



By Taxi
(recommended)

Remark: Taxis in Hong Kong mainly accept cash (HKD). Please be advised to use the currency exchange services at the airport if needed.

From Hong Kong West Kowloon Station



Participants taking the high speed rail will get off at Hong Kong West Kowloon Station. They are advised to take an urban taxi (red) to Kowloon Commerce Centre directly. The estimated travel time is approximately 15 to 20 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. The taxi fare is approximately HKD70 - 100.

Take the Airport Express heading towards Kowloon Station from Hong Kong International Airport

Transfer at Tsing Yi Station by exiting from the Airport Express platform and take the Tung Chung Line towards Hong Kong Station

Travel 1 stop to Lai King Station and transfer to the Tsuen Wan Line (towards Tsuen Wan Station)

Travel 2 stops and alight at Lai King Station

Walk under air-conditioned walkway from Exit E to Kowloon Commerce Centre as illustrated on Page 7

This route takes approximately 40-60 minutes. The fare for this route is HKD64.8 (Airport Express from Airport to Tsing Yi: HKD 60 + MTR from Tsing Yi to Kwai Hing): HKD 4.8). Purchasing an Octopus Card for seamless travel across MTR lines and the Airport Express are recommended if taking this route. If you're unfamiliar with transfers, you can take a taxi from Tsing Yi Station for the last leg of the journey, which takes about 10-15 minutes.



By MTR

After arriving at the West Kowloon High-Speed Rail Station, follow the signs to Austin Station (a 5-7 minute walk via connecting underground walkways)

At Austin Station, board the West Rail Line train heading towards Tuen Mun Station

Travel 2 stops and transfer to the Tsuen Wan Line heading towards Tsuen Wan Station at Mei Foo Station

Travel 2 stops and alight at Kwai Hing Station

Walk under air-conditioned walkway from Exit E to Kowloon Commerce Centre as illustrated on Page 7

This route takes approximately 30-45 minutes (including walking and train transfers). The fare for this route is HKD10.3. Purchasing an Octopus Card for seamless travel across MTR lines are recommended if taking this route.



Meals

Registered participants will enjoy the refreshments and light lunch to be arranged on Day 1 (1 April 2025). For non-local participants who join the pre-conferencing gathering (31 March 2025) and Day 2 activities (2 April 2025), dinner and lunch will also be provided respectively. Please be reminded that no alcohol will be served for the whole event.



Emergency Hotlines

When visiting Hong Kong as a tourist, it's essential to have access to emergency hotlines for immediate assistance in case of any emergencies. Here are a few important emergency hotlines in Hong Kong:

Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance)	999
Hong Kong Tourist Police Hotline (The Hong Kong Tourist Police Hotline is specifically dedicated to assisting tourists with any issues they may encounter.)	+852 2369 9939
Hospital Authority Hotline (The Hospital Authority Hotline can provide information on hospitals, medical services, and help in case of medical emergencies.)	+852 2300 6555
Immigration Department Hotline (The Immigration Department Hotline can assist with inquiries related to visas, immigration procedures, and passport-related issues.)	+852 2824 6111

It's recommended to save these numbers in your phone or keep them easily accessible during your visit.



Electricity

Type G sockets are commonly used in Hong Kong. The standard voltage is 220V and 50 Hz. Please carry with you an adapter if needed.

Organisers and Partners

Organisers

Hong Kong Metropolitan University Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education

香港都會大學 李嘉誠專業進修學院
Hong Kong Metropolitan University
Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education

The Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education (LiPACE) is one of the seven constituent schools of Hong Kong Metropolitan University. Originally established in 1992 as the Centre for Continuing and Community Education (CCCE) and renamed as LiPACE in 2000, it has carried out its original mission of serving the broadest range of learners in HK. LiPACE is now an established Vocational Professional Education and Training (VPET) provider of full-time post-secondary education and part-time professional and continuing education as well as corporate training. At the same time, it advances non-formal learning through its two flagship programmes for women and senior learners, the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) and the Elderly Academy at Hong Kong Metropolitan University (EAMU).

Link: www.hkmu.edu.hk/lipace/

Elderly Academy at Hong Kong Metropolitan University (EAMU)

The EAMU was established in 2009 with the support of the Labour and Welfare Bureau and the Elderly Commission. It was founded in response to the HKSAR Government's policy direction of enhancing the quality of life for the elderly, providing them with opportunities for continuous learning, and promoting the spirit of active aging. The EAMU currently offers short-term courses specifically designed to meet the needs of the elderly under the "Active Elderly Learning Program," university auditing courses, and the Enriched ICT Training Programme funded by the Digital Policy Office. Each year, the EAMU receives over 2,000 enrolments.

Link: www.hkmu.edu.hk/lipace/elderacademy/

International Association of Universities of the Third Age

International Association of Universities of the Third Age (AIUTA) brings together the universities of the third age from all the continents. For five decades AIUTA has been defending elderly people's cause through life-long education by means of university exchanges and, above all, innovations in the fields of education and scientific research in order for everyone to find their place in society.

Link: www.aiu3a.org/v2/index-en.html

The China Association of the Universities for the Aged

The China Association of the Universities for the Aged (CAUA) is a social organization under the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China, supervised by the Office of the National Working Committee on Ageing. It was established in December 1988. CAUA is a national non-profit organization that facilitates collaboration and communication among elderly universities across the country. It connects over 70,000 senior universities and schools nationwide, serving more than 8 million enrolled students, as well as millions of students participating in distance education.

Link: www.caua1988.com/#/

Partners



Contact Information

For any additional information and assistance, please contact:

Event Organising Committee

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