

Lifelong Learning in The 21st Century: Opportunities and challenges

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Abstract:

In recent years, lifelong learning has become a frequent topic of discussion, especially within the context of higher education, professional training and human capital development. As the world progresses further into the 21st century, discussions on lifelong learning have necessarily involved dialogue on the latest developments in education, particularly technology-led innovations like e-learning and massive open online courses (MOOCs), as well as technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and work-based learning. Current lifelong learning initiatives vary in terms of their implementation, regulation, policies, and even the extent of their integration in national education systems. Success stories abound, but there are still many gaps that need to be addressed for lifelong learning to realise its full potential. In today's increasingly globalised and competitive world, lifelong learning must encompass formal, non-formal and informal education, as well as emerging 21st century skills. This keynote presentation will explore lifelong learning in the 21st century and discuss its key concepts, opportunities and challenges based on the Malaysian experience and perspective. For Malaysia, evaluating the current status of lifelong learning will be crucial not only to develop the necessary policies, but also to ensure that these policies can lead to tangible success in lifelong learning for all.