

# Proceedings

## Launch Ceremony of UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET

*Supported by*

UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET

Shenzhen Polytechnic, China

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# Preface

## I. Background

### Overview of UNESCO Chairs

Established in 1992 with the vision of advancing an integrated system of research, training, and activities in diverse fields by building university networks and encouraging inter-university cooperation through the transfer of knowledge and expertise across borders, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme mobilizes the expertise of higher education and research institutions to address the interdependent challenges of today's increasingly complex world.

### UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET

Led by the Chairholder, Dr. Professor YANG Xinbin, who is also the Board Chairman of Shenzhen Polytechnic, the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET was approved by UNESCO Headquarters in May 2022. In August 2022, an agreement was signed between UNESCO and Shenzhen Polytechnic to formally establish the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET. The first phase of the agreement is for a period of four years, ending on December 31, 2026. This new Chair is the first UNESCO Chair in the field of TVET in China, and it is also the only UNESCO Chair focusing on TVET digital transformation in the world.

### The launch ceremony of UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET

The launch ceremony of the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET was held on March 16, 2023, at Shenzhen Polytechnic in China. The ceremony aimed to officially announce the launch of the new Chair, consolidate partnerships with more private sectors, and establish a TVET community with a shared future of digital transformation.

More than 150 representatives and experts from governments, international organizations, TVET institutions, private sectors, and NGOs were invited to

attend the ceremony onsite. Around 1,150 online participants from around the world were also attracted to the ceremony live webcast.

## **II. Distinguished guests delivered their congratulatory remarks**

The occasion was honored by the presence of several distinguished guests, including Mr. Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office; Mr. Changwei Qin, Secretary-General in the Secretariat of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO; Mr. Friedrich Huebler, Head of Office of UNESCO-UNEVOC; Mr. Tao Zhan, Director of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE); Mr. Libing Wang, Chief of Section of Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD) in the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Bureau for Education; Mr. Maozhou Cai, Inspector-General of the Education Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality; Ms. Wei Han, Executive Deputy Director of the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO; and Mr. Jianling Xu, President of Shenzhen Polytechnic, who delivered their congratulatory remarks.

Following the congratulatory remarks, nearly 20 supporting organizations of the new Chair from around the world sent videos and congratulatory letters to celebrate the official launch. They expressed their expectation for more comprehensive, in-depth, and continuous cooperation with Shenzhen Polytechnic and the new Chair in the future to promote digital transformation in TVET and achieve sustainable development worldwide.

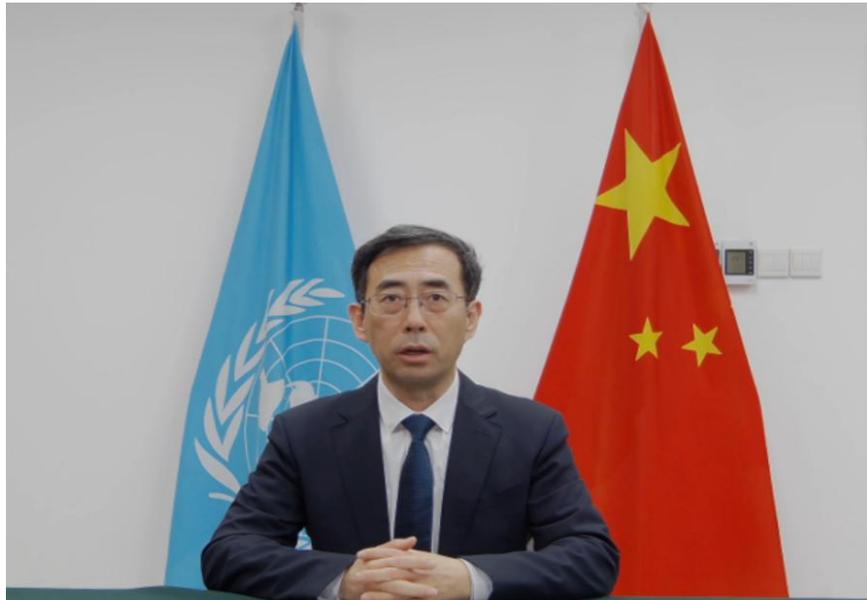
## **III. The proceedings**

The proceedings document compiles speeches and insights from officers, experts, and other stakeholders in the TVET community. It offers reflections on the past, presents expectations, and includes significant instructions, with the expectation that it will serve as a valuable guide for the further development of the new Chair.

## I. Remarks from Changwei Qin

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**Mr. Changwei Qin**  
**Secretary-General**  
**Chinese National Commission for UNESCO**



### **Introduction to Mr. Changwei Qin:**

Mr. Changwei Qin currently serves as the Secretary-General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO. He is also China's National Coordinator for SDG4-Education 2030 and the Vice President of the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy.

Before being appointed as the Secretary-General of the Chinese NATCOM, Mr. Qin was the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Development Planning in the Ministry of Education (MOE) from 2015 to March 2018. During this time, he was in charge of national education planning and statistics. He has attended conferences and meetings organized by UNESCO Bangkok multiple times as China's National Coordinator for SDG4-Education 2030. He led the drafting of the 13th Five-Year Plan for Educational Development of China and was also one of the key drafters of China's national document for the implementation of the Education 2030 agenda - China's National Plan for Education Modernization.

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Between 2012 and 2015, Mr. Qin served as the Deputy Secretary-General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO. He engaged in the organization of several important international conferences co-organized by China and UNESCO, including the International Congress on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (2012), the First International Conference on Learning Cities (2013), the International Conference on Culture: Key to Development (2013), and the International Conference on ICT and Education 2030 (2015). From 1997 to 2011, Mr. Qin worked at the Department of Development Planning in MOE as a programme officer, Deputy Director, and Director of the Division. He was involved in the drafting and monitoring of the 10th, 11th, and 12th Five-Year Plans for Educational Development of China, China's National Plan Outline for Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development (2010-2020), Plan on Building Modern Vocational Education System (2014-2020), as well as other important educational plans of the country.

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**Congratulatory Remarks:**

At the launch ceremony of the UNESCO Chair project, Secretary-General Changwei Qin, on behalf of the National Commission of UNESCO in China, extended warm congratulations and highlighted its significance as a very important network in UNESCO.

The UNESCO Chairs Programme was launched in 1992 and became one of the most important platforms for university collaboration and promoting the translation of research results. Chinese universities and colleges, especially TVET institutions, actively participated in the network, which stimulated international cooperation and contributed to the strength and stories of China. The new technological revolutions were unprecedented, and there was a lot for TVET institutions to contribute to. The 20th National CPC Congress emphasized the need to strengthen coordinated development, promote the digitalization of education, and build a learning culture society. China's TVET reforms should align with national and international trends and demands, which were relevant for implementing the spirit of the 20th CPC congress and driving the internationalization of the Chinese TVET systems.

In recent years, Shenzhen Polytechnic collaborated with the Greater Bay Area industry plan, worked with top enterprises, built ecosystems, and deepened industrial and academic collaboration with TVET services to serve the real

economy. Entrepreneurial innovation became the driving force for digital transformation, laying a solid foundation for the Digitalization Chair. Secretary-General Qin hoped that the Chair could leverage the advantages of Shenzhen Polytechnic and contribute to society.

Firstly, the Chair is expected to showcase the Chinese characteristic and align with national demand, the new Chair was the first of its kind in China and the first digital chair successfully established, representing the image of Chinese higher TVET education. The Chair could further cooperate with society to meet the needs of socioeconomic development, focusing on the 2030 Agenda, Sustainable Development Agenda, and the trend of future development. The new model of TVET governance could be actively used to enlarge the reputation and influence of the Chair.

Secondly, the Chair could focus on a long-term strategy and cooperate with relevant regional and sub-regional centers to improve the competencies of faculty and staff. The ease of anti-pandemic measures could be used as an opportunity to conduct practical cooperation and contribute to the implementation of teaching staff professional development.

Thirdly, the Chair could cultivate high-level talents by cooperating with the UNESCO team and building up a team of talents that could participate in global governance. UNESCO would support the work and development of the new Chair.

Secretary-General Changwei Qin expressed that the Shenzhen municipal government and Shenzhen Polytechnic are supposed to provide support for the development of the new Chair, guaranteeing all the necessary resources. He also hoped that they could work hand in hand to help promote the development of the new Chair and contribute to building a human community with a shared future.

## II. Remarks from Shahbaz Khan

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**Professor Dr Shahbaz Khan**  
**Director**  
**UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office**



### **Introduction to Mr. Shahbaz Khan:**

Professor Dr. Shahbaz Khan is currently serving as the Director and Representative of the UNESCO office in Beijing. Prior to this role, he was the Director of the UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, located in Jakarta, Indonesia. Dr. Khan began his tenure at UNESCO in 2008 as the Chief of the Water and Sustainable Development Section at the UNESCO Division of Water Sciences in Paris. Throughout his career, Dr. Khan has demonstrated strong leadership and management skills in science capacity building and policy advice across the region. He has successfully coordinated numerous key programmes, including Water Education for Sustainable Development, Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy (HELP), Ecohydrology, MAB, and Water and Energy Nexus. Before joining UNESCO, Dr. Khan was a research leader in the areas of Irrigated Systems and Rural Water Use at CSIRO Australia, as well as a Professor of Hydrology and Director of the International Centre of Water at Charles Sturt University.

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**Congratulatory Remarks:**

Director Shahbaz Khan took the opportunity to congratulate Shenzhen Polytechnic on the launch of the UNESCO Chair in digital transformation. He also acknowledged the long-term close collaboration between Shenzhen Polytechnic, UNESCO Beijing, and the UNESCO UNEVOC International Center in Bonn, in their capacity as a UNEVOC center, and the significant contribution of expertise and capacity being built at the UNEVOC centers in East Asia and Southeast Asia. Shenzhen Polytechnic was recognized as a very active member of the annual regional consultation of UNEVOC centers in the East and Southeast Asia region.

As it was known, UNESCO's UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs programme involved over 850 institutions in 117 countries, promoting international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work.

Through this UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN network, higher education and research institutions all over the world pooled their resources, both human and material, to address pressing challenges and to contribute to sustainable development at the global, regional, and country levels, focusing on policy dialogues, capacity building, research, and sharing of best practices.

The theme of the new Chair in digital transformation was very timely and needed by many of the member states. It was also very relevant at a time when the UN had concluded the Transforming Education Summit in New York in 2022, which highlighted that digital solutions were a strategic priority for all nations. Also, during that year, digital transformation was prioritized as a strategic imperative for education systems and the Asia Pacific Education Ministers meeting.

Shenzhen was a city rich in culture and technology and was the technology hub of China and the world. It fits the international city criteria for the establishment of the Chair that could spread the message on the digital transformation of TVET and the education system.

UNESCO Beijing Office looked forward to connecting this Chair with the rest of the world by fostering strategic partnerships, focusing on digital transformation in TVET systems through South-South cooperation, by People-to-People exchanges, and Shared Prosperity, a key goal of President Xi Jinping and the

Chinese government, which was fully aligned with the UN sustainable development goals. This new Chair was among the very few UNESCO chairs in TVET. It would become a hub in promoting the digitalization of TVET programmes in alignment with the labor markets, meeting the ever-increasing skills deficit and demands, and helping youth to get employment.

Director Shahbaz Khan firmly believed that the new Chair would play a very pivotal role in enhancing the capacity of TVET institutions and TVET infrastructure in developing countries. Shenzhen Polytechnic had already acquired vast experience through the UNEVOC network. With the establishment of this Chair in TVET, it would further evolve as a university of excellence and innovation in TVET, at the regional and sub-regional levels, within the framework of North-South and South-South cooperation. Shenzhen Polytechnic could also build on the experience in facilitating cooperation among the Belt and Road countries.

UNESCO Beijing Office made a solid commitment to work closely with Shenzhen Polytechnic, and Director Shahbaz Khan reassured all stakeholders that they would also support the new Chair to advance the digitalization of TVET agenda at all levels. He wished them all the best in the years ahead.

### III. Remarks from Friedrich Huebler

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**Mr. Friedrich Huebler**

**Head of Office**

**The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Center**



#### **Introduction to Mr. Friedrich Huebler:**

Dr. Friedrich Huebler joined UNESCO-UNEVOC in November 2021. Prior to this, he was the Head of the Education Standards and Methodology Section at the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. In that position, he contributed to the methodological development of the global monitoring framework for Sustainable Development Goal 4 on education. He also supervised the documentation of UIS indicator methodology, and the production of education statistics and analysis based on household survey and census data, including literacy and educational attainment.

Before he moved to the UIS, he worked as Statistics and Monitoring Specialist at UNICEF, with a focus on child labour and school attendance.

Mr. Huebler holds an M.A. in Business Studies and Economics from the University of Bremen and a Ph.D. in Economics from the New School for Social Research.

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#### **Congratulatory Remarks:**

Dr. Friedrich Huebler, on behalf of UNESCO UNEVOC International Center for TVET, congratulated Shenzhen Polytechnic, a member of the UNEVOC

Network, for successfully establishing the new UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET.

UNEVOC looked forward to stronger support for digital transformation through the establishment of the chair, which was very timely as it came on the heels of the United Nations Transforming Education Summit and the launch of the new UNESCO strategy for TVET.

It was their sincere expectation that the chair would initiate more collaboration among UNEVOC centers to guide them through digital transformation and further strengthen TVET institutions across the globe.

The fact that the launch ceremony and the global forum on digital transformation were organized in hybrid mode, inviting participants to join in person from Shenzhen Polytechnic as well as online from around the world, was a perfect example of how digitalization had enabled members of the TVET community to reach a bigger audience.

In recent years, they had seen how global events had accelerated the digital revolution and highlighted the urgency of transforming education systems to make them fit for a fast-changing and uncertain future. TVET institutions must identify and integrate digital skills and competencies for an evolving world of work and better utilize the opportunities offered by digital transformation.

The theme of the event was particularly relevant in the context of the new UNESCO strategy for technical and vocational education and training for 2022 to 2029, which was launched in October 2022 at an international conference in Bonn. The new UNESCO strategy emphasized the significance of technological change, digitalization, and the need to develop skills for all individuals to contribute to a successful and just transition to digital and green economies.

They hoped that the forum would be used to brainstorm and collaborate on efforts to close the digital divide, especially through south-south cooperation, to foster teachers' capacities to prepare their students for the digital transition and to ensure equitable quality education that would help achieve inclusive and sustainable economies and societies.

## IV. Remarks from Tao Zhan

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**Mr. Tao Zhan**

**Director**

**UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education**



### **Introduction to Mr. Tao Zhan:**

Mr. Tao Zhan has extensive experience in mathematical research, education administration, and ICT in education. He holds a Doctorate Degree in Science (1987) from Shandong University in China, majoring in number theory at the Department of Mathematics. After graduation, he joined Shandong University and later became a research fellow supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Albert Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany (1991 – 1992). Upon returning to Shandong University, he was promoted to Professor of Mathematics and subsequently the Vice President of the university. In 2000, Mr. Tao Zhan took office as President of Shandong University. In 2008, he joined Jilin University (Changchun, China), where he held the position of President until 2011. Prior to joining UNESCO, he worked as Director-General of the Educational Management Information Center under the Ministry of Education in China (2011 – 2016). He was also Co-Chair of the Office of ICT in Education in the Ministry. On 11 February 2017, Mr. Zhan was appointed to the post of Director of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) by the Director-General of UNESCO.

Before his appointment to the post of Director of IITE, Mr. Zhan actively participated in a number of UNESCO programmes. He served as a member of

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the Governing Board of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Education of Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) in India, a member of the extended EFA (Education For All) Steering Committee, which was responsible for drafting the Incheon Declaration at the World Education Forum 2015 and Framework for Action “Education 2030,” and continued to be a member of the new Steering Committee of Education 2030 Agenda until 2016.

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**Congratulatory Remarks:**

On behalf of the UNESCO IITE (UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education), Mr. Tao Zhan would like to extend his sincere congratulations to Professor Yang Xinbin and colleagues at Shenzhen Polytechnic on the establishment of the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET at Shenzhen Polytechnic. He congratulates Professor Yang on becoming the holder of the UNESCO Chair and congratulates him on his remarkable achievements in the field of TVET.

Information technology reshaped the education systems and learning styles of the past. The appearance of COVID-19 accelerated the process of change. In the previous wave of education reform, TVET was always at the forefront because it directly addressed society's need for talents, the market's need for talents, and the technology need for talents. It provided a unique opportunity for the reform and innovation of TVET. Therefore, the new Chair led by Professor Yang was promising.

As a research institution of UNESCO, IITE was committed to promoting global education informatization and reform and assisting countries around the world in achieving the education goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. TVET was an important part of the Agenda and it was their pleasure to work closely with UNESCO-ICHEI in Shenzhen, Huawei, especially its ICT Palate IQ System team. They were also looking forward to their new cooperation with Shenzhen Polytechnic and the new Chair led by Professor Yang, which would bring their innovative experience to all TVET teachers and students in China and around the world.

## V. Remarks from Libing Wang

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### **Professor Libing Wang**

**Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development  
UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education  
Bangkok, Thailand**



### **Introduction to Mr. Libing Wang:**

Mr. Libing Wang is currently the Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD) based at the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, Thailand. His areas of responsibility with UNESCO cover higher education, teacher education, TVET, and research and foresight in the Asia and Pacific region. Prior to joining UNESCO, he was a Professor of Comparative Education at Zhejiang University in the People's Republic of China. His career in China was closely related to UNESCO, as he had served as the director of the UNESCO-APEID Associated Centre at Zhejiang University for more than ten years. He was the secretary of the Global University Network for Innovation: Asia and the Pacific (GUNI-AP) from 2002 to 2012 and had coordinated the operation of the regional network since its inception in 2002. He was also a member of the Asia-Pacific regional follow-up committee to the 1998 World Conference on Higher Education and a long-time consultant to the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO.

Mr. Wang received his doctoral degree in Comparative Education in 1994 from Hangzhou University in the People's Republic of China. He was a

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visiting fellow at the University of Sussex and the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom in the early and late 1990s. He has published widely in the areas of comparative education, higher education policy, and teacher education.

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**Congratulatory Remarks:**

Mr. Libing Wang extended his honor to congratulate Shenzhen Polytechnic's friends and colleagues on the launch of the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET. He said that the vision, commitment, and collective actions from the new Chair were most welcome and needed in the region and beyond.

The global economy underwent an unequal economic recovery following a severe recession in 2020. Less developed economies faced deeper long-term impacts on their learning, training, and unemployment rates. At the same time, policymakers and the global education community took action to build back better.

UNESCO was actively engaged in shaping the future developments of TVET. In October of 2022, UNESCO launched an ambitious strategy for TVET worldwide. The vision was to transform TVET by promoting skills development for empowerment, productive employment, and decent work and to facilitate the transition to more digital, green, and inclusive economies and societies. UNESCO believed that digitalization in TVET was necessary to achieve our shared goals and vision.

Going forward, TVET had to become a pathway for individuals to learn, work, and live. TVET had to become a catalyst towards digital and green transformation, sustainable economies, and a vector of social cohesion and justice.

UNESCO Bangkok would collaborate and partner with the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET. Dr. Wang hoped that his team and he would meet with them again soon in Shenzhen to carve out their shared agenda for change in TVET and to advance sustainable development for all.

## VI. Remarks from Wei Han

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**Professor Wei Han**

**Executive Deputy Director**

**International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the  
auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI)**



### **Introduction to Ms. Wei Han:**

Ms. Wei Han is a research professor at the Higher Education Research Center of the Southern University of Science and Technology. Ms. Han holds a Doctorate degree in Education. She has worked in the Shenzhen Education Bureau and Shenzhen University since 1992. Since June 2007, she began to engage in the preparatory work of establishing a new university - Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech). She served as a Deputy Director of the Preparatory Office of SUSTech, Director of the Human Resources Department, Associate Vice President, College Director, and a member of the President's Office Committee.

Currently, Ms. Han is an Executive Deputy Director of the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO, Co-Director of GBA Data Center for Higher Education, Executive Director of China Higher Education Evaluation Society, and Executive Director of Guangdong Higher Education Society.

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**Congratulatory Remarks:**

On behalf of UNESCO-ICHEI, Ms. Wei Han extended her congratulations to Shenzhen Polytechnic, and also to Dr. Professor Yang Xinbin, the holder of the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET.

The new Chair focused on the development of theoretical research in the development of educational resources, and promoted digitalization in TVET, as well as the training of teachers, in order to improve digital governance and teaching capacity, narrow the educational digital gap, promote equity in education, and achieve sustainable development in China and around the world. The Chair's goal was highly aligned with ICHEI. As the support center for the development of the UNESCO Chair, ICHEI took an active part in the application from the very beginning, mobilizing all kinds of resources to support the application and cooperating closely with Shenzhen Polytechnic.

They set up the UNESCO-ICHEI in 2019, and set up a flagship programme named IIOE, which were supported by Professor Xinbin Yang. Shenzhen Polytechnic had already been a very important partner for them, providing more than a dozen training curricula. In 2021, ICHEI cooperated with Tsinghua University and prepared a research report and manual on digitalization in TVET. Shenzhen Polytechnic offered excellent practices and cases for the reference of practitioners around the world. At the UNESCO-ICHEI, since its establishment in 2016, they had focused on improving TVET and teacher training in developing countries, empowering digital competencies and blended learning competencies for teachers. During the pandemic, with the challenges of institution closures, the UNESCO-ICHEI had become the earliest teaching platform trusted by UNESCO.

In promoting the digitalization of TVET, Shenzhen Polytechnic has always been the best and solid partner for ICHEI. In the future, they would continue to support the development of the new chair and make more comprehensive and in-depth cooperation with Shenzhen Polytechnic, in order to promote the digitalization of TVET and higher education and contribute to the sustainable development goals of the UN.

## VII. Remarks from Maozhou Cai

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**Mr. Maozhou Cai**

**Inspector-General**

**The Education Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality**



### **Introduction to Mr. Maozhou Cai:**

Mr. Maozhou Cai is currently the Inspector-General of the Education Bureau in Shenzhen Municipality. Before being appointed as Inspector-General, he served as the Office Director of Shenzhen Education Bureau.

He held various positions in the education sector at Shenzhen, including Office Director at Meilin Middle School in Futian District, Vice-principal at Lianhua Middle School in Futian District, Deputy Director at the Shenzhen Education Supervision Office and Director of the Municipal Education Supervision Office, Deputy Director of the Moral Education and Sports, Health, and Arts Education Department, Deputy Director of the Office in the Shenzhen Education Bureau, and Headmaster of Shenzhen No. 1 Vocational and Technical School.

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### **Congratulatory Remarks:**

Shenzhen municipal government recognized the significant role of TVET in promoting industrial development. It was their priority to implement the strategies approved by the Ministry of Education and the Guangdong government to establish a high-level TVET institution and learn from the

successful experience of Shenzhen in this regard. Shenzhen Polytechnic was a leading institution with a very positive reputation and had been engaged in collaborations with top enterprises, such as Huawei and Alibaba. The institution boasted an outstanding record in talent development and digital transformation, which positioned it as a pioneer in national TVET sectors.

The government was proud to acknowledge that Shenzhen Polytechnic was approved to establish the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET, which was a highly influential recognition. It was the first UNESCO Chair established in Shenzhen and the only one set up in a higher TVET institution in the world. This acknowledgment by UNESCO signified that the education performance and talent cultivation models of Shenzhen Polytechnic were exceptional. Therefore, Shenzhen Polytechnic should continue to leverage the UNESCO Chair to share its digitalization practices, solutions, and technologies with the global TVET community to lead the TVET development.

As one of the early leaders in academic and industrial cooperation, Shenzhen Polytechnic has always been committed to this kind of collaboration. The institution had worked with Huawei for 17 years, setting up the first Huawei ICT academy in the country and developing a new way of cultivating talent, which was well known in China. The collaboration between Shenzhen Polytechnic and Huawei had become a benchmark for other institutions and had become a model for more than 3,000 ICT academies worldwide.

In light of this successful collaboration, the two parties had established the ICT Academy Support Center to explore the best practices for TVET talent cultivation and to promote this model globally. The Education Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality would continue to support the development of the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET and the ICT economy support center.

The government encouraged Shenzhen Polytechnic to work closely with TVET practitioners worldwide to share experiences and create new opportunities for digitalization in TVET. We hoped that the launch ceremony of the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET and the Shenzhen Polytechnic Huawei Academy Support Center, as well as the Global Forum on Digital Transformation in TVET, would make a complete success.

## VIII. Remarks from Yongping Lu

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**Mr. Yongping Lu**

**President**

**China Division of Government–Enterprise Education & Healthcare System in Huawei**



### **Introduction to Mr. Yongping Lu:**

Mr. Yongping Lu is the President of China Division of Government–Enterprise Education & Healthcare System in Huawei, responsible for the expansion of Huawei's education and medical industry in the Chinese market. He is committed to providing end-to-end ICT solutions and services for education, medical clients, and partners, building an innovation-driven new engine, and promoting the digital transformation of the education and medical industry.

Mr. Yongping Lu joined Huawei in 2001 and held various positions, including President of Enterprise Business in Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan region, President of Enterprise Business in Thailand, Vice President of Enterprise Business in Southeast Asia, President of Enterprise Business in Japan, Executive Vice President of Global Energy Business Department of Enterprise BG, and COO of Customs and Port Corps of Enterprise BG. During his tenure, he has been responsible for the rapid business

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development of the markets he served. In January 2023, he was appointed as the President of China Division of Government–Enterprise Education & Healthcare System in Huawei.

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**Congratulatory Remarks:**

Mr. Yongping Lu spoke about the booming new round of technology and industrial revolution characterized by digitization, networking, and intelligence, which accelerated the world towards the "digital economy era." China highly valued the development of the digital economy, which is reflected in the 14th Five-Year National Plan and the 2035 Vision Goal, both of which emphasized the need to "accelerate digital development and build a Digital China." This clear roadmap not only demonstrated China's determination to vigorously develop the digital economy but also provided direction for the acceleration of Digital China.

The rapid development of the digital economy and the revised "Vocational Education Law" released last May had brought significant opportunities for the transformation and reform of TVET. In the face of new eras, environments, trends, and requirements, how could TVET implement digital transformation to meet the needs of digital economic development? How could TVET improve its modernization level and promote high-quality development through education informatization? How could we deepen the integration of private sectors and education and college-enterprise cooperation to promote regional economic development, especially in cultivating more skilled talents, craftsmen, and artisans, and the organic integration of industry-education and digital transformation? These were all new issues raised by the digital economy era for TVET sectors, and every new "TVET practitioner" needs to explore, continuously provide new concepts, new paths, and new methods for the informatization and modernization construction of Chinese TVET sectors.

Confronted with the new requirements of the new era, Huawei has been continuously strengthening its research on the informationization needs of TVET and investing in ICT talents cultivation. Huawei had established more than 2,200 "Huawei ICT Academies" in collaboration with higher education institutions worldwide, including 400 in China and 1,800 overseas, covering nearly 110 countries and covering over 150,000 students each year. At the same time, as you might have heard, starting this year, Huawei proposed to train one million people annually and to train five million Huawei-certified ICT

talents in the next five years to support the great development of the global digital economy.

Since 2013, more than 400 Huawei ICT Academies were built in China, and the first Huawei ICT Competition was successfully held in China in 2015. In 2021, the Huawei ICT Competition was included in the national competition project list for college students by the China Higher Education Association. In 2022, the Huawei ICT Skills Competition attracted more than 1,200 colleges and universities in China, with nearly 70,000 students registering to participate, and the scale and influence of the competition reached new heights.

In the historical opportunity of building a strong country in education, science and technology, and talents, in the new journey of building Shenzhen's twin zones and the "20+8" industrial development, and in the great wave of TVET development in Shenzhen, especially when Shenzhen Polytechnic would be upgraded to a university, we would integrate cutting-edge ICT technology into TVET and joined forces with Shenzhen Polytechnic to jointly build the Shenzhen Polytechnic -Huawei ICT Academy Support Center (IASC) as the "Whampoa Military Academy" for ICT skills talent cultivation. The two sides jointly explored the path of modernization of Chinese-style TVET and created a new model of college-enterprise cooperation, once again producing a grand blueprint for TVET in the new era, for the development of Shenzhen, and for the modernization of China.

## IX. Remarks from Jianling Xu

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**Mr. Jianling Xu**  
**President**  
**Shenzhen Polytechnic**



### **Introduction to Mr. Jianling Xu:**

Mr. Jianling Xu is currently the President of Shenzhen Polytechnic. Since 1997, he has served as an assistant researcher at the Institute of Higher Education of Shenzhen University, Deputy Director of the Higher Education Department, and Director of the Higher Education Department in Shenzhen Education Bureau.

His main research interests include higher education management, principles of higher education, higher vocational education, curriculum, and pedagogy.

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### **Congratulatory Remarks:**

President Jianling Xu, on behalf of all the faculty and students, welcomed all the attendees and extended warm congratulations to Professor Xinbin Yang, the chair holder. President Jianling Xu expressed heartfelt thanks to the leaders at all levels and friends from all walks of life who has been supporting Shenzhen Polytechnic.

Shenzhen Polytechnic, founded in 1993, was one of the earliest institutions in China to independently hold higher vocational and technical education. The institution has been deeply connected with the needs of the nation and the city

of Shenzhen and has created many first records in China's TVET sectors. The comprehensive performance of Shenzhen Polytechnic was ranked the Top of peers in China. In 2019, Shenzhen Polytechnic was selected as one of the first Ten A level TVET institutions. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan visited SZPT for research and praised that SZPT's educational performance was not inferior to that of Germany in October 2019. Mr. Huai Jingpeng, Minister of MoE in China visited SZPT and fully recognized its performance achievements in September 2021. Mr. Li Xi, Guangdong Provincial CPC secretary praised SZPT as a leader in the TVET sectors in September 2022.

In conformity with the trends of the digital era and promoting education reform, innovation was a major issue facing all countries. The report of the 20th National CPC Congress had stressed that the digitalization of education should be promoted, a learning society and a learning nation should be built, and the direction for education digital transformation should be mapped out. Shenzhen Polytechnic attached great importance to digital transformation of education. In recent years, Shenzhen Polytechnic had successively issued an action plan for AI and an action plan for digital transformation, promoting the digital transformation of the governance system and programmes/courses and enhancing the digital capacities of faculty and students.

Shenzhen Polytechnic has come up with solutions and innovative teaching practices that has been widely promoted in more than 10 countries and regions, including the EU, ASEAN countries, Germany, and Cote d'Ivoire, which were highly recognized by international peers.

In October 2022, the application of the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET was officially approved, marking a new step in the reform of digital education in Shenzhen Polytechnic. Digital talent cultivation was the key point of digital education transformation. Shenzhen Polytechnic also actively explored a new model of talent cultivation in the digital era through in-depth cooperation with Fortune 500 companies and industry leaders. Shenzhen Polytechnic had jointly built a characteristic academy to cultivate digital and high-level technical and skilled talents on a large scale. Huawei ICT Academy was one of such academies built by Shenzhen Polytechnic and Huawei in this critical period. Since 2006, Shenzhen Polytechnic and Huawei has worked together to explore this new model, which has become a TVET paradigm after 17 years of joint efforts.

Shenzhen Polytechnic had created a model of academic and industrial cooperation. The talent cultivation model was awarded the 2018 National Education Achievement Top Prize, and 14 5G International Courses have been jointly developed and have gone global.

The UNESCO Digitalization Chair on TVET and the Launching Ceremony of the Shenzhen Polytechnic--Huawei ICT Academy Support Center were officially inaugurated. The digital transformation and talent cultivation would open a new chapter and provide references for domestic and international digital transformation, making sustainable contributions to the digital transformation of TVET in the world.

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<b>Tao Zhan</b>	Director UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education
<b>Libing Wang</b>	Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
<b>Wei Han</b>	Executive Deputy Director International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO
<b>Maozhou Cai</b>	Inspector-General The Education Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality
<b>Yongping Lu</b>	President China Division of Government–Enterprise Education & Healthcare System in Huawei
<b>Jianling Xu</b>	President Shenzhen Polytechnic