

International Institute of Online Education was launched online to support continued learning

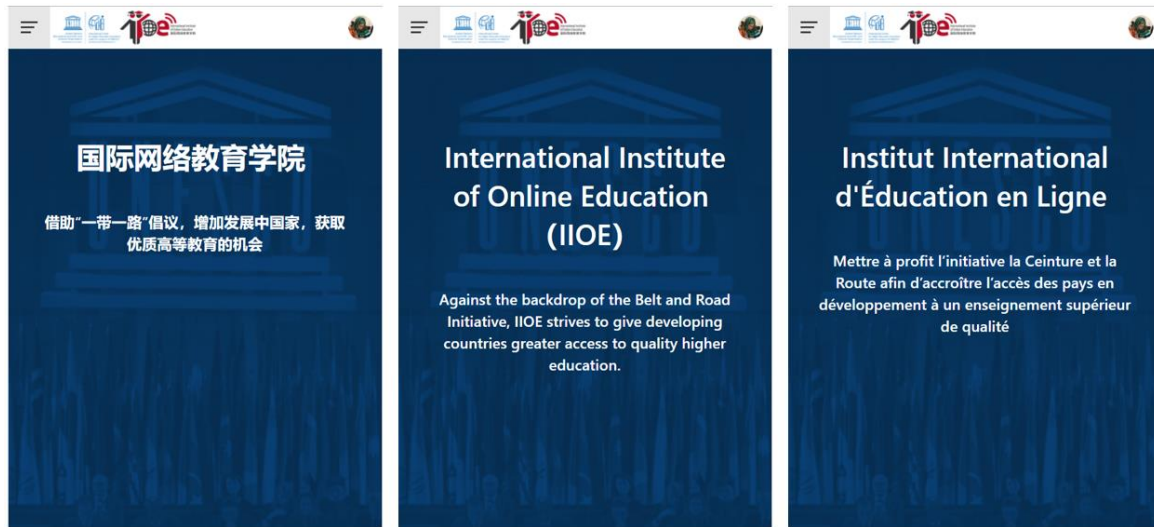
As COVID-19 sweeps through many countries worldwide, schools in most countries are confronted with unprecedented challenges in education and teaching. Latest statistics from UNESCO show that, by March 26, a total of 138 countries suspended classes, affecting 1.37 billion students and 2 million teachers. UNESCO called for helping countries in mobilizing resources and implementing innovative and context-appropriate solutions to provide education remotely, by leveraging hi-tech, low-tech and no-tech approaches.

In response to UNESCO's global call on supporting countries to mitigate the adverse impacts of school closures, on April 2nd 2020, the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) was co-launched on cloud by the International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI) and 11 partner higher education institutions (HEIs) in Africa and Asia-Pacific, and 4 HEIs and 8 high-tech enterprises in China. The mission of IIOE is to harness the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance the access to quality higher education.



Funded by Tencent Charity Foundation, IIOE is an online learning platform integrating over 100 courses in English, French and Chinese, including

discipline-related courses, TVET courses and teacher professional development courses. Under the guideline of UNESCO's "Education 2030 Agenda", IIOE aims to develop ICT-related competencies of teachers in the partner HEIs, build the capacity of partner HEIs for blended and online learning, and provide online courses to create professional development opportunities for teachers in partner HEIs.



IIOE H5



IIOE webpage

The online co-launch ceremony was hosted by UNESCO-ICHEI, the Secretariat of IIOE, and chaired by Prof. LIM Cher Ping, Chief Specialist of IIOE. Heads of partner HEIs and enterprises were invited to witness the launching. IIOE trilingual resource package, including the IIOE online learning platform, main document, monitoring and evaluation, training plan and entry mechanism, was released online at the ceremony. During the event, Prof. LI Ming, Secretary-General of IIOE, pointed out in his keynote speech that, "a thousand-li journey starts with a single step. The successful launch of IIOE is only the first step. The road ahead will be long and our climb will be steep. We will pool more quality online courses to set up a user-friendly learning platform and organize trainings and evaluations on teachers' ICT capability, bringing more tangible benefits to teachers and learners in partner HEIs". IIOE partner HEIs, enterprises and institutes also sent videos to the Secretariat, expressing their congratulations on the official launch of IIOE.

