

IACEE Pulse

A Newsfeed for Members

7/28/2020

www.iacee.org

Message from the IACEE President

My dear IACEE Colleagues:

Many of you, like me, must be still working from home as it will take time to reopen the offices with proper arrangements. Most of us have not taken a vacation, because vacation now may mean remaining at home. Recently, my organization (Ansys UK) leaders urged us to carve out some time and take a vacation/break and recharge. I am still searching for the right time and a right place, but one thing is for sure that I will do some reading during those holidays. What will I read?

I wondered a lot about my reading materials as I thought about what we all went through in the last few months. As the coronavirus pandemic suddenly made all of us tech-savvy and digitally knowledgeable, as it forced us to stay home and learn to work and collaborate from there, as it slowly wiped away the boundary between work and home, it also gave us an idea of what could become the future of work and life. We all needed to upskill ourselves quickly – we have learned new software, learned to read “emotions” from voices when video did not work, learned to collect emojis and stickers to quickly answer on chats. But most importantly, we learned to adapt quickly, accept changes, and move on. Is this going to be the new normal where ability to change and learn quickly will be the key to success? What are the thought leaders saying about these?

I gathered a few recent articles on the future of work and learning and how the new normal will look. I plan to read these in the coming month and will share what I learn. Here are those articles:

- (1) *How the COVID-19 crisis is impacting the Future of Work?* Deloitte Webinar Insights, April 2020: [Link](#) [Easy to read through and learn]

- (2) *Future of work(ing from home) – trust, teamwork and technology.* Deloitte Perspectives, 2020: [Link](#) [The three T’s: Great concept]
- (3) *The Next Normal: How Companies and leaders can reset for growth beyond coronavirus.* McKinsey Featured Insights, A Collection of Articles, July 2020: [Link](#) [Great collection]
- (4) *Why You Need a New Approach to Learning.* Boston Consulting Group, June 2020: [Link](#) [Excellent article]
- (5) *The “New Normal” is a Myth. The Future Won’t be Normal at All.* Bain & Company Brief, June 2020: [Link](#) [Great insight on streamlining product/service offerings and the need for simplicity]
- (6) *Digital Transformation of the Workforce: Creating Human Touch for AI Revolution.* Valamis White Paper, 2020: [Link](#) [Infographics are excellent]

What will you read during your vacation? [Drop me a line](#) to let me know, or maybe tell us in the next issue of Pulse? We would love to include your latest reads in our next publication.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Happy reading.

Warm Regards,
Soma Chakrabarti, PhD
President, IACEE
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COVID-19: The Ultimate Disruptor

CLARA PILOTO, IACEE Council Member; Director of Global Programs, Director of Digital Plus Programs, MIT Professional Education - Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MIT Professional Education and Digital Plus programs have been online since 2015; our faculty and staff are familiar with this mode of instruction. This familiarity for these early adopters has helped us transition smoothly to offering and providing high quality remote learning experiences. Professional Education faculty say their transition to remote learning, or as [MIT Professional Education](#) refers to it, “Live/Virtual” classes has been smoother than some because “we’ve been doing this for years.”

Currently MIT is offering about 1,200 degree-directed remote learning courses. Many incorporate distance learning tools and strategies such as live webinars, pre-recorded lectures, group video collaborative learning sessions, AI, gamification, Big Data analytics, VR, MR, and AR, and more. Our team offers valuable experience and expertise to serve as an institutional resource. This is of necessity and reflects MIT’s history and culture of sharing knowledge internally and externally.



Although the Coronavirus has compressed delivery of in-person courses to Live/Virtual or remote learning across MIT, MIT Professional Education has also had to transition many of their in-person professional courses to a remote modality to keep our global community safe and healthy. In fact, MIT Professional Education-International Programs was the first course at MIT to transition to a remote modality in early March 2020—before our degree programs. Read the full article [here](#).

First MIT remote learning course by MIT PE offered in early March 2020

What continues is that our online learners appreciate the diversity of tools and tactics we offer for our online education courses. Videos aren’t a central learning tool in our courses. They are, in fact, a small percentage of the learning journey we deploy. In many cases, videos are the final feature in our online course design and delivery planning process. Institutionally, we’re working to change the mentality that online courses are “less than” in-person courses, or that online education is a poor substitute for in-person collaboration.

Pre-COVID19, these processes for online education took anywhere from six to nine months before we could launch an online course. From bringing in instructional designers, creating multimedia graphics that complement lessons, to beta testing remote tools from the instructor and student perspectives, we devoted significant resources to go beyond online by creating a collaborative learning journey, create content that challenges and excites the student learning experience, and meets MIT’s world-renowned educational standards.

Not every MIT faculty is interested in offering or leading professional online courses. There are concerns about the quality of educational instruction that can be provided online. According to Statista 41% of US teachers stated the lack of training was the biggest barrier to increasing the use of educational tech in their classrooms. (Source: <http://techjury.net/stats-about/elearning/>)

Many institutions and K-12 are trying to force round pegs (in-person courses) in square holes (replicating it online via webinars, videos, and, in some cases, hands-on lab work). Intellectually, educational designers understand these are completely different modes but—in the haste to transition in-person courses to remote teaching—students lose lessons and institutions erode the quality of the lessons they seek to provide (often incurring irreparable reputation damage).

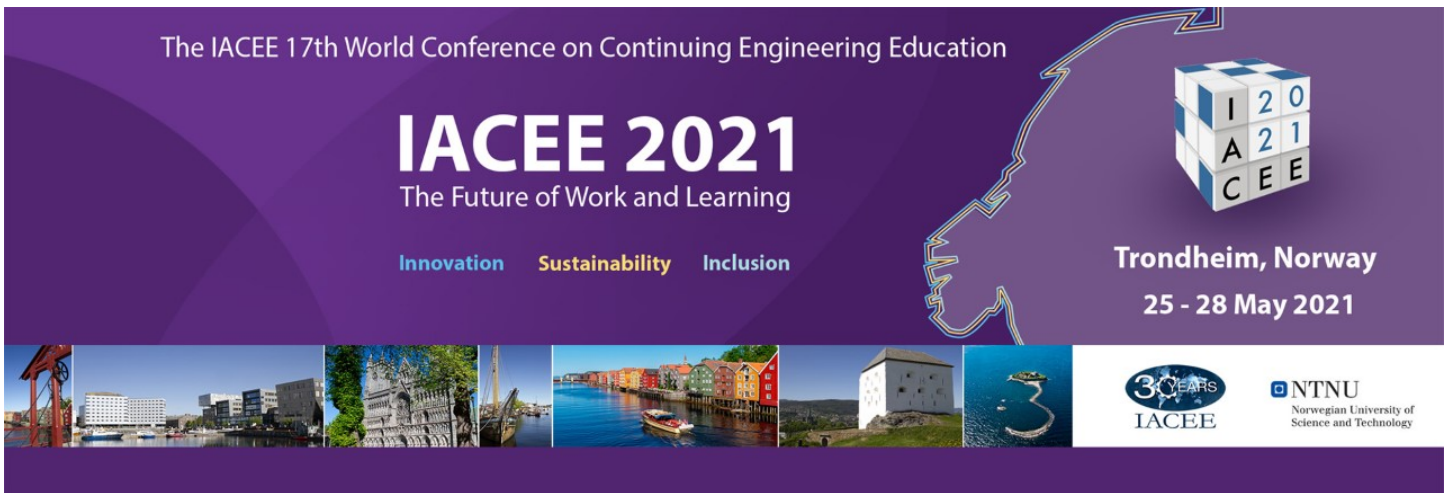
I'm concerned about the short- and long-term reactions of students for whom this is their first experience with virtual learning. Students may understand this isn't consciously designed online education. Institutional staff—administrators, faculty, marketers, recruiters, fundraisers—must remind students that most current offerings courses fill an urgent need we have right now. At MIT, we are constantly having robust discussions about what online education will look like in the opaque future for faculty, degree students, professional learners and corporations.

During recent discussions with higher ed colleagues—whether in remote learning, online education or “traditional” in-person learning—I'm discerning a disturbing pattern: Many higher educational institutions are reacting in a knee-jerk and short-sighted fashion to the disruption in the residential higher ed model. The massive and inevitable shift to online education offers students affordable (often free) access to the same tools online, worldwide.

The a la carte education era has been around for some time now, but as new players enter this explosive, volatile market, (disrupted even more due to COVID-19) as noted from the increasing viability and visibility of private companies such as Linked Learning, Udemy, Coursera, FutureLearn, edX, Kaltura, SkillSoft, Khan Academy, A Cloud Guru, and more — we need to ask ourselves how we will transform our universities, reinvent education, and guide the learner to unlearn and re-learn for continuous improvement. Thanks to COVID-19, this stopped being an academic exercise for some institutions and has catapulted many of us to become the ultimate learning disrupters or, as I like to say, learning superheroes.

IACEE Fellow Frank Burris received a message from former IACEE Council member John Lorriman with the news of the passing of Dr. Kaneichiro Imai, a long-time member of IACEE and a past Council member. Dr. Imai passed away peacefully in his sleep on June 15, 2020 after living an active and healthy 103 years. He served IACEE for many years during IACEE's early days and was the host for our 2004 World Conference on CEE in Tokyo, Japan. We extend our deepest condolences to Dr. Imai's family, and we are grateful for his contributions to IACEE as a colleague and friend.

17th World Conference on CEE – 2021



The IACEE 17th World Conference on Continuing Engineering Education

IACEE 2021

The Future of Work and Learning

Innovation Sustainability Inclusion

Trondheim, Norway
25 - 28 May 2021

30 YEARS IACEE

NTNU
Norwegian University of
Science and Technology

The banner features a purple background with a white outline of Norway. A 3D cube is positioned in the upper right, with the letters 'I', 'A', and 'C' on its faces, and the numbers '20', '21', and '22' on its faces. Below the main text, there is a row of six small images: a modern building, a historic stone building, a boat on a river, a colorful row of houses, a white tower, and a large number '3'. Logos for '30 YEARS IACEE' and 'NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology' are also present.

Have you marked your calendar with the new dates for IACEE's 17th World Conference on Continuing Engineering Education? Hosted by The Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway, the conference is now scheduled to take place on **25-28 May 2021**.

Our sponsors and exhibitors have been notified of the new conference dates, and we are thankful to all for choosing to continue their contribution and support to the 2021 conference; we could not do this without them!

In these unusual times, plans seem to change almost daily. Please stay tuned for further conference news on our [conference website](#) and in future editions of *The Pulse: A Newsfeed for Members*.

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Join [IACEE's LinkedIn page devoted to SERINA](#) – A Global Initiative in **Sustainability Education and Research In Action**. SERINA is aligned with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Through our SERINA initiatives, the IACEE seeks to connect and grow a global community of individuals and organizations committed to creating a sustainable and prosperous future for everyone.



Don't forget to "like" the [IACEE Facebook Page](#) to stay informed about upcoming events & read the latest IACEE news. We would also love to have you join the [IACEE Facebook Group](#) to see what other IACEE members are doing in the continuing education world.

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