

IAU Expert Advisory Group members

(Mandate 2018-2020)

Experts (in alphabetical order):



Patrick Attié

Director, Haiti Superior School of Infotronics, Haiti



Venkataraman Balaji

Director of Technology and Knowledge Management
Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada

Dr. Venkataraman Balaji is a specialist in Information and Communication Technology applied to rural development, and has a long association with applications of Knowledge Management and Information Technology in agriculture. He joined the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in September 2010 and currently serves as Director of Technology & Knowledge Management. His work at COL in applied technology focuses on testing new models and practices in technology-mediated outreach that can be deployed in support of learning at all levels. In addition to his regular responsibilities at COL, his role includes work related to [Massive Open Online Courses](#) (MOOCs) and [Aptus](#). He also oversees the [Directory of Open Educational Resources](#) (DOER).



Betsy Boze

Former President, The College of the Bahamas, USA

Dr. Betsy V. Boze served as the President of The University of The Bahamas, the national tertiary education system of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas from 2010 - 2014. The University of The Bahamas is a multi-campus system offering baccalaureate, masters and associate degrees in the liberal arts and professional programs.

Boze is an executive search consultant and executive coach, working exclusively in higher education and associations. She serves as a Senior Fellow at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) in Washington, D.C. From 2005-2009 she was Chief Executive Officer of Kent State University Stark in Ohio (USA), a public liberal arts university. Under her leadership became a four-year university offering baccalaureate and master's degrees. She led the campus' first

comprehensive strategic planning process; substantially increased funding for faculty research, secured the campus' three largest private gifts and led an over 20 percent increase in enrolment.

She holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas and masters and baccalaureate degrees from Southern Methodist University. She studied at the Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management and has lived in eight countries.



Neil Butcher

OER Strategist OER Africa, South Africa Institute for Distance Education (Saide), South Africa

Neil Butcher is based in South Africa, from where he has provided policy and technical advice and support to a range of national and international clients regarding educational planning, uses of educational technology and distance education, both as a full-time employee at the South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE) from 1993 to 2001 and as Director of Neil Butcher & Associates since then. He has worked with various educational institutions (including UNESCO and the Commonwealth of Learning), assisting with transformation efforts that focus on effectively harnessing the potential of distance education methods, educational technology, and OER. Neil has travelled extensively through the developing world conducting research on educational policy, higher education, distance education, and educational technology for a range of organizations, governments, and donors. He works with OER Africa as the project's OER Strategist, and is also currently consulting to the World Bank on a range of project activities across several African countries and in India.



Nodumo Dhlamini

Director of Knowledge Management & ICT Services
Association of African Universities (AAU), Ghana

Nodumo Dhlamini has twenty-five years working experience in the following sectors - secondary school education, banking, railway transport, higher education and tertiary agricultural education. She previously worked at Africa University in Zimbabwe, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in Uganda and is currently the Director of IT / ICT Services and Knowledge Management at the Association of African Universities, based in Accra, Ghana. Her responsibilities at the Association include developing and implementing the Association's impact strategy, leading the communication services, implementing the Association's IT strategy, supervising publications of the Association, coordinating the Database of African Theses and Dissertations Project and coordinating the Research and Education Networking Project. Nodumo holds a BSc in Computer Science & Mathematics and a Master's degree in Business Administration.

Iordan Gheoghe Bărbulescu

Co-director of the Executive Secretariat
Permanent Academic Forum Latin America and the Caribbean - European Union, Romania



Nadja Gmelch

Head of Projects, Globalization and Cooperation
Open University of Catalonia (UOC), Spain

Nadja is currently working at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya where she is responsible for RRI and Open Science as well as for developing an institutional wide strategy for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She has over ten years working experience in different fields of higher education and research management. Nadja studied Language, Business and Cultural Studies at the University of Passau in Germany and is Master in European Development Cooperation Policies from the Autonomous University of Barcelona.



Sylvia Hahn

Vice Rector of International Relations and Communication
University of Salzburg, Austria

Prof. of history at the University of Salzburg; 2009-11 Dean of Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences; since 2011 Vice Rector for International Relations and Communication. She studied economic and social history and German philology at the University of Vienna, where she got her PhD in 1994. After research projects abroad at the Max-Planck Dep. for history in Göttingen (19985/86) and at der Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure (1993 and 1995), she was Int.Ass. to the Ministry of Women's Affairs in Vienna (1992-94). In 1994 she started her full time career at the Dep. of History at the University of Salzburg. In 1999 she was Visiting Prof. at the Humanities Research Centre/Oxford Brookes Univ.; in 2001 she received a scholarship of the Swedish Council for Research in the Humanities and Soc. as Visiting Prof./Stockholm Univ.; her research areas are migration, labor, gender and urban studies. She is also member of the organizational research group of the postgraduate study program *Migration management* at the University of Salzburg and a founding member of the *Austrian Network for Migration History* and the *Migration Archive* of the city of Salzburg.



Asha Singh Kanwar

President, Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Canada

Professor Asha Singh Kanwar, one of the world's leading advocates of learning for development, became President and Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in June 2012. Before joining COL, Professor Kanwar was a consultant in open and distance learning at UNESCO's Regional Office for Education in Africa. Her engagement with distance education began when she joined Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) as Director of the School of Humanities and Pro-Vice Chancellor. This assignment was the stepping stone to a career with over 35 years of experience in teaching, research and administration. She has written, edited and co-edited a dozen books, published over 50 papers and articles and has also delivered several keynotes at prestigious international conferences. A recipient of several awards and fellowships, Professor Kanwar received her undergraduate, Master's and MPhil degrees from the Panjab University in India and a DPhil from the University of Sussex. She was a Fulbright Fellow for post-doctoral research at Iowa State University, where she was later invited to teach. She received the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) Prize of Excellence and the Meritorious Service Award for outstanding contributions in open and distance education from the Asian Association of Open Universities. Professor Kanwar has also been conferred six honorary doctorates from universities in Asia, Africa and Europe.



Jason Laker

Professor, Department of Counselor Education and former Vice President for Student Affairs, San José State University, California, USA

Dr. Jason Laker is a Professor of Counselor Education and former Vice President of Student Affairs at San José State University in California; and Affiliated Research Faculty with the Center for Research and Education on Gender and Sexuality at San Francisco State University. Jason previously served as AVP/Dean of Student Affairs and Faculty of Gender Studies at Queen’s University (Canada). He holds a Ph.D. from the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona, an M.A. in Community Counseling from Adams State University, and a B.S. in Organizational Communication from Central Michigan University. He has published four edited books, one each in U.S. and Canada, regarding gender and men’s development; and two with Palgrave Macmillan UK in 2014: *Citizenship, Democracy and Higher Education in Europe, Canada, and the U.S.*, and *Civic Pedagogies in Higher Education: Teaching for Democracy in Europe, Canada, and the U.S.* His international activities include serving among 11 individual IAU Associate Members, and the only North American on the editorial board of the Expertise Publications Program of the European Training Foundation (an agency of the European Union).



Alexandru Manus

Assistant Vice President, Academic Quality and Accreditation
Southern New Hampshire University, USA

Dr. Alex Manus is currently the Assistant VP for Academic Quality, Accreditation and Support at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). Dr. Manus has had important exposure to international education through his education (undergraduate from the American University in Bulgaria, MBA from Huron University/Hult University in London, UK, and the PhD in International Business from SNHU). As part of a previous role, Dr. Manus was part of the team running SNHU’s office in Beijing, China. Dr. Manus has worked directly with the online programs, running the business programs and their expansion online. Dr. Manus was the architect of the redesign of the SNHU MBA program, introducing a new approach and different curriculum that focused on the student and areas of interest for them. Dr. Manus has been involved with a number of accreditation agencies (NEASC, ABET, ACBSP) and has participated in accreditation report writing as well as accreditation visits. In his current role, Dr. Manus is leading university wide accreditation and assessment efforts.



Valtencir Mendes

Project Officer, Unit for ICT in Education, Education Sector, UNESCO, France

Valtencir M. Mendes is designing, coordinating and monitoring the implementation of activities under the framework of UNESCO Mobile Learning Week; assisting the Director of ED/PLS in providing consultative support and strategic advice on UNESCO's engagement with different programmes on ICT in education policy; and contributing to other cross-cutting ICT in education activities and projects. He holds a European PhD in Project and Systems Engineering from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) in collaboration with the University of Glasgow, UK. Involved in research which focused on the multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards the achievement of the UNESCO EFA (and other UN campaigns), and the contribution of emerging innovative ICT. His latest master's degree is in Leadership and Social Innovation in Non-Governmental Organizations from ESADE. Previously, he was the Head of International Projects at the Jaume Bofill Foundation in Barcelona, Spain, where he designed and managed different educational research projects and conferences in partnership with organizations such as the OECD, UNESCO, and IAU among others. Formerly Observatory Co-ordinator at the Global University Network for Innovation, a UNESCO, United Nations University and UPC joint-project. Member of the former IAU reference group on higher education for Education For All.



Fengchun Miao

Chief, Unit for ICT in Education
Education Sector, UNESCO, France

Dr. Fengchun Miao is leading UNESCO Education Sector's programmes in areas of ICT in education policy planning and development, ICT competency standards for teachers and students (ICT CFT), Open Educational Resources (OER), mobile learning and AI for education, and future e-schools. He is also in charge of UNESCO Prize for the Use of ICTs in Education. Under her competence, he is coordinating the cooperation with other UN-agencies in the field of ICT for SDGs.

He has launched the following major ICT in education events of UNESCO: International Conferences on ICT and SDG 4 which has been convened twice (2015 and 2017), UNESCO Mobile Learning Weeks (for seven years consecutively since 2011), Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forums on ICT in Education which has been organized for five times since 2010, and African Ministerial Forums on ICT in Education which has been organized twice. He has been leading the development of the following major documents of UNESCO: 2015 Qingdao Declaration and the 2017 Qingdao Statement, UNESCO Global Policy Guidelines on harnessing ICT for achieving Education 2030, UNESCO ICT in Education Policy Toolkits, and OER Indicators. He has been co-leading the development of UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers (ICT CFT) and Mobile Learning Policy Guidelines. He has directly planned and organized more than 30 workshops on ICT in education policy development for more than 1000 policy makers from over 50 countries, and 15 workshop on OER policy development for more than 20 countries.

Before joining UNESCO, Dr. Miao was the Director-General of the National Research Centre for Computer Education, Ministry of Education, China. In that capacity, he was responsible for the development of ICT in education policy and ICT curriculum standards for students and managing the National Association for the Use of ICT in K-12 Schools of China. Highlights of his achievements during that period include National Guidelines for Curriculum Reform for China K-12 Schools, National ICT in Education Master Plan 2005-2010, ICT Curriculum Standards for Students (K-12), China Educational Technology Standard for Teachers, and five series of ICT textbooks for students.

Sorin Mihai Cîmpeanu

Président

Agence Universitaire Francophonie - AUF, Romania

**Olive Mugenda**

Former Vice-Chancellor, Kenyatta University, Kenya and Executive Director and Founder, Centre for Innovative Leadership & Governance

Prof. Olive Mugenda is the former Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University, a centre of excellence in higher education in Africa. Before becoming Vice-Chancellor, Prof Mugenda had had a long and eventful career in education. The journey began in 1979, when she graduated with a first class honours degree in education from the University of Nairobi. She later did a Master of Science degree and PhD in Family and Consumer Sciences and a PhD at Iowa State University (USA). She is also a holder of a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute. She taught at Kenyatta University for many years, rising to various leadership positions including Chairman of Department, Dean and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Finance, Planning & Development). She entered the history books as not only the first woman Vice-Chancellor of a public university in Kenya but also in the East Africa region. Since taking over the mantle in 2006, Prof Mugenda has transformed Kenyatta University by consistently aligning most activities to its vision: To be a dynamic, inclusive and competitive centre of excellence in teaching, learning, research and service to humanity. She calls this 'transformative leadership', which is aimed at making KU a globally competitive university and a centre of academic excellence. Prof Mugenda then identified a team of champions, including management and board of directors, and got them to embrace the university's new strategic vision and plan.

Felicia Nkrumah

Communications and Publications Officer

Association of African Universities (AAU), Ghana

Felicia Nkrumah is currently the Communications and Publications Officer of the Association of African Universities (AAU) where she is responsible for managing the corporate communications portfolio of AAU. She has been keeping communications among the AAU's 365 members in Africa active with various ICT tools. She is a holder of a Master's Degree in Communications Studies and a first class Bachelor of Arts degree in Information Studies and Linguistics, both from the University of Ghana. She loves to read and learn about other fields and has spent her professional career in corporate communications for International NGO's including Plan International before joining the AAU. She also has experience working in the mining sector and has been actively involved in the organization of international events. Felicia has contributed to critical discussions at both local and International events in India, Colombia, Burkina Faso, and Rwanda among other countries on higher education and other issues.



Daniel Riera i Terrén

Faculty of IT, Multimedia and Communication
Open University of Catalonia (UOC), Spain

PhD Engineer in Computer Science by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) in 2006 with extraordinary doctorate award.

Granted by the Ministry with a scholarship in Formation of Research Staff, spends a year in the Imperial College of London, as academic visitor, working in the ICParc. There, he receives formation in Constraint Programming and Optimisation, and collaborates in projects for the RAC and Railtrack.

He teaches in the UAB from September 1998 to August 2005 and from 2008. From September 2005, he works as lecturer in the Department of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunication in Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). He teaches in the areas of programming, computer science and bioinformatics. From January 2007 he is Director of the Computer Science degree. Recently he has been named department's Vicedean of Research and Innovation.

His research includes modelling, simulation and optimisation of discrete systems, and the gamification of learning. He is author of several papers in journals and international congresses. He has participated in projects as a member of the research staff and also as main researcher. Currently, he belongs to the ICSO research group (Internet and Computing Systems Optimisation), where uses techniques from AI and CS to solve combinatorial problems.



Licia Sbattella

G3ict Education Task Force Chair Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs, Rector's Delegate for Disability and Psychological Diseases at the Politecnico di Milano University, Italy

Licia Sbattella, PhD – Bioengineer, Clinical Psychologist and Psychotherapist is Associate Professor of “Natural Language Processing: text and voice analysis” at Politecnico di Milano. Since 1991 she has been involved in national and international academic research and teaching activities in Italy, France, Spain, Switzerland, and Canada even in cooperation with UN, UNESCO and IAU. Since 2007 she is member of the Program Committee of UN-G3ict (the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs) and works internationally with projects for the dissemination and implementation of the principles outlined by the Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted by the UN in 2007. Since 2003 she is the Delegate of the Rector of Politecnico di Milano for persons with disability and psychological diseases. As a delegate, she founded and since then coordinates the MultiChancePoliTeam, the group of specialists who uses innovative technologies and supports cooperative networks and the PoliPsi Service which offers psychological supports to students who need them. She is Expert Member of the Pontificia Academia Pro Vita and she published several books and articles in international journals and conference proceedings. Since 1983 she is Scientific Director of Esagramma, a clinic and research center for autism and intellectual disability based in Milano.

**Gard Titlestad**

Former Secretary General
International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE), Norway

In his capacity as Secretary General he worked towards ICDE's vision "to be the global facilitator for inclusive, flexible, quality learning and teaching in the digital age". Gard is a member of the Governing Board for the UNESCO Institute for IT in Education, the Editorial Advisory Board of the Indian Journal of Open Learning and the Editorial board of the American Journal of Distance Education. ICDE publish the platinum open access journal Open Praxis.

Gard joined ICDE in 2011 after serving at the Nordic Council of Ministers, NCM, in Copenhagen, Denmark, as director for the Department of Knowledge and Welfare. He managed the secretariat for several configurations of ministers including the ministers for education, research and IT, the ministers for health and social affairs, the ministers for labour affairs, for a shorter period the ministers for enterprise and the ministers for finance. Before joining the NCM, Gard served as Research and IT Counsellor for Norway, and as member of the executive team for the Norwegian delegation to the European Union. Prior to this, Gard was a senior official in the European Commission in Brussels, Directorate General Information Society. In Norway Gard worked for the Norwegian Government in research and development agencies.

**Zeynep Varoglu**

Programme Specialist, Knowledge Societies Division,
Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO, France

Zeynep Varoglu is the Programme Specialist for ICTs in Education in the Knowledge Societies Division of the Communications and Information Sector at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. She has been a staff member of UNESCO since 1998. Ms. Varoglu's work currently focuses on the UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers (ICT CFT) and initiatives in open, distance, flexible and online education. Ms Varoglu also leads a number of projects related to open educational resources (OER) and new developments in ICT in education. Ms Varoglu was Co-Responsible Officer for the publication 'Learning for All: Guidelines for the Inclusion of Learners with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning' and the UNESCO Project Officer for the development of the UNESCO/COL Guidelines for Open Educational Resources (OER) in Higher Education. Ms Varoglu was the UNESCO Project Officer for the organization of the 1st World OER Congress 2012, and the 2nd World OER Congress 2017.

From 2001 to 2011, Ms. Varoglu was in the Division of Higher Education, UNESCO and concentrating her activities on ICTs and Higher Education, with a focus on recognition and quality assurance issues. Ms Varoglu was also active in work related to the UNESCO Conventions, Recommendations, codes of good practices and guidelines that relate to the recognition of qualifications and quality assurance in higher education. Ms Varoglu was responsible for the development of the "UNESCO Portal on Higher Education Institutions", a follow up activity to the 'Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross Border Higher Education'. Ms Varoglu was also part of the UNESCO Team supporting the implementation of the UNESCO/WB project 'Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity' (GIQAC), with responsibility notably for GIQAC activities in the Arab States, as well as the Asia and the Pacific Region.

Ms Varoglu holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) from the University of Toronto and a Master of Education (M.Ed) from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (O.I.S.E.), University of Toronto.

**John Wood**

Former Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU)

Professor John Wood CBE, FREng is the chair of the ATTRACT advisory board based at CERN in Geneva. He is visiting professor at Imperial College, University College, Brunel University London, Liverpool Hope and Cumbria Universities. He has held several academic posts including the Open University, Nottingham University and Imperial College. From 2001-2007 he was appointed chief

executive of the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils in the UK.. His last post was as Secretary-General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

He is a non-executive director of Bio-Nano Consulting. He was a founder member of the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures and became chair in 2004. He was the first chair of the European Research Area Board in 200-11. His report "Riding the Wave" led to the creation of the Global Research Data Alliance where he was the first co-chair. He represents the Alliance on the Open Science Policy Platform of the European Commission.

He was elected as a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1999 and made a Commander of the British Empire in 2007 for "services to science," In 2010 he was made an "Officer of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany." Among his honorary doctorates he holds one from the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca in Romania and is an honorary citizen of that City

**Members who confirmed their commitment to be part of the Expert Advisory Group, but who are unable to attend the meeting in Bucharest due to prior engagements.*

IAU Administrative Board members (and representatives of) (in alphabetical order):



Sultan Abu Orabi

Secretary-General, Association of Arab Universities (ArAU), Jordan

Dr. Abu-Orabi is an organic chemist, who obtained his PhD from the University of Michigan, USA in 1982. Currently he is the Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities, which has its headquarters in Amman, Jordan. Prof. Abu-Orabi previously served as President of Yarmouk University, Jordan's second largest public university, President of Irbid National University, and Tafila Technical University in Jordan. He was also President of the Jordanian Chemical Society and President of the Arab Union of Chemists. He was a visiting Professor at Bahrain University and at King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Abu-Orabi is an Editor-in-chief of two international chemistry journals, and is a member of many editorial boards.



Constantinos Christofides

Rector, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

With undergraduate studies at the University of Grenoble I, University of Grenoble II and the National Polytechnic School of Grenoble (M.Sc. in Physics, 1983, D.E.A in Energy - Economics, 1984, D.E.A in Energy-Physics, 1984 and Ph.D. in Applied Physics, 1986), Prof. Christofides worked as Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Sherbrooke, and as Research Associate & Lecturer, at the University of Toronto in Canada. In 1992 he joined the academic community of the Department of Physics of the University of Cyprus (UCY). As the UCY Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs (2006-2010), he played an active role in establishing the UCY in the research community worldwide and strengthening the university-industry collaboration. Prof. Christofides has been serving as UCY Rector for two consecutive terms (2010-2018).



Roberto Escalante

Secretary General

Association of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUAL), Mexico

After having graduated a Bachelor in Economics from the Faculty of Economics of the National Autonomous university of Mexico (UNAM), Dr. Semerena obtained a Master and a PhD in Rural Development from the University of London (United-Kingdom). Dr Semerena was also the Dean of the Faculty of Economics at the UNAM where he is currently Professor of "Natural Resource Economics". Dr. Semerena is also a member of professional bodies such as the Association of Faculties, Schools and Institutes of Economy in Latin America (AFEIEAL), the Mexican College of Economists, the Association of Former Students of Economics, Faculty of Economics - UNAM, the Latin American Society (England) and the European Association of Latino Americanisms.



Marta Losada President, Antonio Nariño University (UAN), Bogotá, Colombia

President since 2010, Dr. Losada obtained her undergraduate physics degree and an MSc Physics from the National University of Colombia and her Ph.D. in Physics from Rutgers University, USA. From 1997 to 1999, she was a postdoctoral fellow at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research), Switzerland. She has held positions as the National Director for Research at UAN from 2004 to 2014, and the Director of the Basic and Applied Science Research Center of UAN from 2000 to 2004. She is the group leader of the research groups in high energy particle physics focused on elementary particle phenomenology and cosmology as well as experimental high energy physics and has been a member of international collaboration efforts such as the ATLAS and NEXT Experiments



Fátima Marinho

Vice-Rector, University of Porto, Portugal

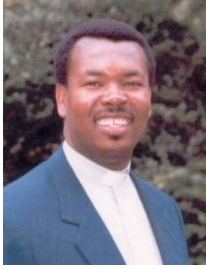
Maria de Fátima Marinho graduated in Romance languages from the faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Porto, where she has taught 19th and 20th century Portuguese literature since 1976. In 1987, she obtained her Doctorate with a thesis on Surrealism in Portugal. She is a Full Professor and has been Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (2010-2014). Since 2014 she is Vice-President of the University of Porto. She is also Visiting Professor for PhD in Portuguese Studies of the University of Etvös Lorand in Budapest, Hungary, and Visiting Professor of the University of Belgrade, Serbia.



Seyed Omid Fatemi

Director of E-Learning, and Faculty Member, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering University of Tehran, I.S. of Iran

Dr. Omid Fatemi received his Ph.D. from University of Ottawa in 2000. He subsequently joined University of Tehran where he is currently presenting courses in information technology, advanced computer architecture, visual domain processing, digital VLSI design, microprocessor and embedded systems and e-Learning. He has published several papers in these areas and has supervised more than 60 graduate students. He is the founder of System Level Digital VLSI Design laboratory and also the co-founder of Multimedia Processing Laboratory. He is currently directing University of Tehran eLearning Center which is offering 325 pure online courses in 80 programs and 82 blended courses every semester. The center is also in charge of e-Content of the university. From 2007 to 2013, he has been appointed as the director of Iranian Research Institute for Information Science and Technology by the minister of Science, Research and Technology where he was coordinating all related projects in the field of scientific and technological information. He has initiated several national projects including: A national current research information system, The national repository of Electronic Theses and Dissertations, The council on providing scientific resources, and The Commission of Science and Technology Information System. His research interests include system level digital vlsi design, IT governance, eLearning, big data and cloud computing.



Pierre-André Pierre

Rector Université Notre-Dame d'Haiti, Haiti

Under leadership of Msgr. Pierre since 2008, UNDH has grown to become a seven campus university, offering in seven different provinces a variety of teachings in different fields, to name a few: Medicine and Pharmacy, Nursing, Bio Science and Medical Biology, Education, Psychology and Humanities, Religious studies, Business and Administration, Social Sciences, Economics, Law and Politics, Engineering and Architecture, Agriculture, etc. Msgr. Pierre is a well-known academic and social figure in the country and he has brought UNDH to a number of associations of Universities in the Caribbean and around the world and developed partnerships with a great number of institutions of higher education, in the five continents.



Mohammad Reza Pourmohammadi

Chancellor, The University of Tabriz, I.S. of Iran

Mohammad Reza Pour Mohammadi has been reelected as the chancellor of the University of Tabriz in 2013. He is a Professor of Urban Planning and has held several leading positions within the university, for example Vice Chancellor for Students Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Educational Affairs and Graduate Studies. He earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from UWCC – U.K. He has authored and co-authored 91 articles. He has been the member of Oxford Round Table since 2003, and the member of the Board of the Directors of International Universities Council (IUC), Caucasus Universities Association (CUA) and Eurasian Silk Road Universities Council (ESRUC) since 2013, and Deputy Board Member of IAU 2000-2004.



Remus Pricopie

Rector, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Romania (*host of meeting in Bucharest*)

Remus Pricopie is professor and Rector of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest, since March 2012. From December 2012 to December 2014 he served as Minister of Education and Research. His activity within the Romanian Ministry began in 1996, and includes positions such as Spokesperson, Director, Secretary General and Deputy Minister (Secretary of State) for Higher Education, International Relations and Teacher Training. Also, he has extensively worked / collaborated with many international organizations - UNESCO, UNICEF, EU, OECD, World Bank, United Nation University, Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie - and ministries of education / higher education and research from more than 100 countries. Prof. Pricopie holds a PhD in Political Science at the SNSPA and he is a Fulbright New Century Scholar alumnus, a World Academy of Art and Science Fellow, a member of the Romanian Chapter of the Club of Rome, and a member of the Atlantis Group. His educational background includes a rich international experience, being educated and trained in five countries and nine higher education institutions, especially in the United States of America and European Union.



Mahmoud Reza Hashemi

Director, Cyber Space and Information Technology Center
University of Tehran, I.S. of Iran

Mahmoud Reza Hashemi received his B.Sc., and M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tehran. He pursued his Ph.D. at the University of Ottawa, Canada. He is currently an Associate Professor at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering of the University of Tehran. Dr. Hashemi is the co-founder and Director of the Multimedia Processing Laboratory (MPL). His research interests include multimedia systems and networking, computer architecture, security of information technology services, security and trust in cloud computing, and recently cloud gaming. The results of his research have led to more than 124 publications, over 51 researchers trained at the postdoctoral, PhD, Master's, and research engineer levels. Dr. Hashemi is a member of the editorial board of several journals, and has chaired or served on the organizing and program committees of numerous international conferences in multimedia and information technology. Since November 2014, he has been appointed as the Director of the Cyber Space and Information Technology Center (CITC) of the University of Tehran by the University Chancellor. CITC plans the university IT strategy, oversees its IT network and server infrastructure, and all its academic applications and services. Dr. Hashemi is a senior advisor in IT Governance, IT strategy implementation, digital transformation for large enterprises and national bodies.



Daniel Hernandez Ruiperez

Former Rector, University of Salamanca, Spain

Prof. Daniel Hernández-Ruipérez obtained his degree in Mathematics at the University of Salamanca in 1976. He gained a PhD with his dissertation Duality in Algebraic Spaces. He was then appointed as Associate Professor (1978-1982), Lecturer in Geometry (1982) and Associate Lecturer in Topology (1983), finally obtaining the Chair of Geometry and Topology (1983). Since 1984 he has held managerial positions. He was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science and also a member of the Governing Board of the University. From 18 December 2009 to 2017, he has been Rector of the University of Salamanca. He also presides over the Internationalization Work Group of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE) and is leading the organization of activities.



Hilligje van't Land

Secretary General, International Association of Universities (IAU)

Since 1 September 2017, Dr. Hilligje van't Land assumes the position of Secretary General of the International Association of Universities and Executive Director of the International Universities Bureau. For the past two decades, she has worked at IAU committing to make higher education a key driver of societal change. Over the past years, initially as Director and later as Deputy Secretary General, she co-supervised the overall programmatic activities of the IAU and the everyday work of the secretariat, she engaged in developing the IAU Membership base and strengthening the IAU membership development strategy. She positioned the IAU as lead partner network in the UNESCO Global Action Program on ESD by promoting the role of higher education and research in addressing the goals set in the context of Agenda 2030 (HESD). She engaged the Association in strategic partnerships to advance HESD and represented IAU at external events to foster leadership engagement and advance action at all institutional levels. She strongly believes in the importance of intercultural understanding and developed projects and other initiatives to promote higher education's actions in this field. Convinced that societies can foster research and innovation through innovative approaches to doctoral education, she developed a six-year project on this topic for Africa and internationally. She represents IAU in various working groups and expert Committees including at the Council of Europe where she contributed to intercultural understanding initiatives and related publications, and more recently the development of a European Framework for Competences for Democratic Citizenship.

She holds a PhD in comparative contemporary francophone literatures from Groningen University, in the Netherlands and completed a post doc research period at Laval University (Québec) before moving back to France. She speaks six languages and produced a number of publications related to higher education.



Trine Jensen

Manager, Events & Projects, International Association of Universities (IAU)

In 2012, Trine Jensen joined IAU where she is in charge of the strategic priority on ICTs & technology in higher education and IAU events. In addition, she also organizes the IAU Administrative Board meetings, she is part of the IAU Horizons editorial team and she coordinates the Association's Annual Report. She worked for the Bureau for Strategic Planning in UNESCO headquarters in Paris for 7 years before she joined IAU. Trine Jensen holds a Master's degree in Media Science and Communication from Aarhus University in Denmark.