



INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND
DISTANCE EDUCATION

MESI
MOSCOW STATE UNIVERSITY FOR ECONOMICS,
STATISTICS AND INFORMATICS

February 14, 2014

Invitation to participate in the ICDE International Conference, 25-26 September 2014

Dear Colleague,

It is a great pleasure to inform you that Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (MESI) will host the ICDE International Conference to be held on 25-26 September 2014 in Moscow, capital city of the Russian Federation. The theme of the Conference is **“Connecting the World through Open, Distance and e-Learning”**. With a view to reflect this comprehensive and manifold subject, a number of sub-themes will be deliberated, among them:

- distance education: the economic, technological, pedagogical and social outlook
- open, distance and flexible learning for reduction of the gap between formal education and work
- e-learning in a conventional educational establishment: challenges and possibilities
- distance and smart education: narrowing or widening digital and cognitive gaps?
- quality and standards of educational provision in distance settings; social and cultural diversity and linguistic plurality; educational tradition and innovation – where does the balance lie?
- open, distance and e-learning as a field for cooperation at international, regional, interregional, national, intersectoral, local and institutional levels.

The ICDE International Conference in Moscow will provide a platform for educators, administrators, policy- and decision-makers and other stakeholders – all those engaged in open, distance and e-learning (ODeL) in favour of enhancement of education and training as well as development at large.

The Conference aims at:

- raising public awareness of advantages of ODeL;
- sharing experience in international and intersectoral cooperation with the use of ODeL for bridging digital gap, connecting the world of education and the world of work, serving inclusion, linking tradition and innovation in a conventional educational institution, and
- facilitating new partnerships for further development and usage of ODeL.

The keynote speakers and session chairs at the ICDE International Conference will be world-renowned specialists in the area of open, distance and e-learning and cooperation. Participants are welcome to present their regular activities, cooperative national and international projects and innovative initiatives related to the conference themes in the paper and poster sessions.

We have the honour to invite you and other colleagues from your prestigious institution to attend the ICDE International Conference and benefit from communication within the professional community as well as enjoy the stay in Moscow, which has been the crossroad and meeting point of trading, political and cultural East-West and North-South routes for centuries. Nowadays Moscow is a major metropolis with all the amenities for hosting a large-scale conference, a city with three international airports and nine operating railway stations, developed public transport system including the Moscow Metro – one of the world best subway systems as well as hundreds of research and educational institutions, cultural, historical and modern attractions.

More information is available on the regularly updated Conference website: <http://eng.mesi.ru/icde2014/>. You are kindly asked to note the important dates, mark your diary and join the event.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Moscow at the ICDE International Conference!

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Tian Belawati
Co-Chair, International Programme Committee
President, International Council for Open and
Distance Education (ICDE)
Rector, Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia



Prof. Natalia Tikhomirova
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