ASEM Expert Group Digitalisation – Meeting Minutes, 16 December 2022

Welcome and introduction

- David Akrami Flores, Head of Section at DAAD, welcomes all experts and recounts the most recent developments in the ASEM Education Process; namely, the takeover of the ASEM Education Secretariat by Italy and the latest meetings of the Standing Working Group (SWG) and the Senior Officials (ISOM, Malta, 24/25 Nov 2022).
- With the start of the working period 2022/23, the DAAD has sent out a call to all member countries and stakeholder organisations in order to nominate experts for the group. David Akrami Flores points out that this call has be renewed at the ISOM. The EG Digitalisation remains open for new members that are nominated by the partner countries or stakeholder organisations (with the exception of representatives of the Russian Federation).
- In the previous meeting of the EG in March 2022, the group has already adopted its Terms of Reference. Following an exchange on the topic of micro-credentials, it was agreed to circulate a short survey among the group members to ask for input on future topics. The "design of digital learning and teaching" ranked very high in the survey responses. Hence, it was decided to devote this meeting to the topic of "Digitally enhanced learning and teaching".
- David Akrami Flores briefly informs about the current vacancy of the position of Senior Desk Officer for ASEM within DAAD. Nina Knops has stepped down to take on a new position within DAAD. It is expected that a successor will be recruited early next year.

Presentation of the agenda

- Tim Maschuw briefly presents the agenda of the meeting that consists of four presentations – with two speakers each from Asia and Europe.

Peer learning exchange on "digitally enhanced learning and teaching"

Open Education Hub (OpenEdu)

Razvan Deaconescou, University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest, Romania

- Razvan Deaconescou is Assistant Professor at the Computer Science and Engineering Department of the University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest in Romania, and director of the Open Education Hub (OpenEdu).
- The overarching goal of the project is to improve the development, delivery and curation of digital educational content.
- Through developing open educational resources (OER) the project is harnessing the benefits of the open source collaborative model to engage content consumers and content producers. In this way, it is facilitating the 5R activities of OER: retain, reuse, revise, remix, redistribute.
- The vision is to provide an OER repository for teachers and self-learners with the goal to facilitate the development, contribution, review and customization of content and integrate it with existing tools.
- Central challenges are the initial content generation (and format transition), the training of teachers and the need to have "maintainers" to keep the content up to date

- *project website: https://open-education-hub.github.io/docs/description/project-description*

MilleaLab and SpaceCollab: Virtual reality platforms for educators and Learners

Andes Rizky, SHINTA VR, Indonesia

- Andes Rizky is Managing Director and also founder of SHINTA VR. The company was established in 2016 and since then has been actively focusing to create an impact in Indonesia's education sector with their products MilleaLab and SpaceCollab.
- MilleaLab (for young learners/school children; K-12) is a smartphone-based platform created with the idea to have low entry barriers with regard to technical requirements, taking into account varying degrees of internet access and availability of mobile devices in different areas in Indonesia. It is operating a network of VR ambassadors to engage communities throughout the country. The feedback of users with regard to acceptance and usability/understanding has been very satisfying.
- SpaceCollab (for University and Enterprise) is a multiplatform tool that can provide case studies for most different learning scenarios. One of the examples presented was a demo version of security staff training for the G20 Meeting hosted in Indonesia.

The MyScore project: Avatar-based teaching and learning

Heribert Nacken, RWTH Aachen University, Germany

- Professor Heribert Nacken is Director of the Department of Engineering Hydrology and Rector's Delegate for Blended Learning and Exploratory Teaching Space at RWTH Aachen University.
- The presentation of “avatar-based teaching and learning” is based on the work carried out within the DAAD-funded project “MyScore” (Mobility System Cooperation in Higher Education).
- The MyScore software for avatar-based teaching and learning enables lectures to be held in virtual lecture halls, thus allowing students to take part, regardless of their location. The software also offers numerous possibilities to create virtual scenarios and offers a variety of usage options, thereby enabling more individualized learning experiences.
- The MyScore software is an open source technology and all VR objects are provided as Open Educational Resources under a CC BY 4.0 license to all universities for free use.
- The avatar-based learning experience can contribute to the sustainability agenda and can significantly reduce the carbon footprint of international exchanges.

COIL and Virtual Exchange as Inclusive International Education

Keiko Ikeda, Kansai University, Japan

- Keiko Ikeda is a Professor in the Division of International Affairs, and Coordinator for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) at Kansai University in Japan. She is the Vice-Director for the Institute for Innovative Global Education (IIGE) at Kansai University.
- COIL is an innovative pedagogy involving collaborative teaching and learning in two or more countries facilitated by online communication.

- It is a cost-effective method of expanding global learning opportunities for a greater number of higher education students to contribute to an overall more inclusive international education.
- COIL enables virtual collaboration between students at geographically distant institutions through project-based learning in various fields.
- Potential risks that need to be mitigated are the digital divide – i.e. the differences in terms of access to internet and devices in different regions – and the potential lack of recognition of achieved learning outcomes through COIL.

Wrap-up/Closing remarks

- Tim Maschuw concludes the session and invites all participants to make suggestions for topics for future meetings of the group.
- The next meeting of the expert group will be scheduled between mid-April and the end of May 2023.