THE ICDE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE THEME:
“Unleashing the potential of ODL - Reaching the unreach"ed”
will be held at the Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning, Pune on March 10-11, 2017

Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning will host the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) International Conference in Pune, India on 10th and 11th March, 2017 on the theme: “Unleashing the potential of ODL - Reaching the unreach"ed”.

Symbiosis Centre for Distance Learning (SCDL) is located in the city of Pune, nestled in the Sahyadri Hills. Pune is considered the cultural capital of Maharashtra. It is fondly called ‘Oxford of the East’ as it is known for its educational facilities. The city attracts migrants, students, and professionals from India, South East Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. Pune is also one of the fastest growing cities in the Asia-Pacific region.

SCDL has always taken a leadership position at National and International level in the space of Open and Distance Learning and has been providing quality education to lakhs of students.

The strides that India has made in the education sector, is an experience in itself, to be shared with other nations, given its vast geographical spread and teeming millions, majority of who are in the age group of 20-35 years. The diverse nature of its population in terms of religion, language and socio-economic backgrounds poses a challenge in dissemination and delivery of education to this varied group. India has effectively used technology to reach out to its large student base and can therefore offer learning experience to other ODL providers, especially in developing countries.

The aim of the conference shall be to provide a platform for communication between researchers, teachers and practitioners in Open and Distance Learning. The ultimate aim being to provide impetus and provide a common basis for the future of research and action points for enhancement of reach of Open and Distance Learning.

Dr. Swati. S. Mujumdar
Principal Director,
Symbiosis Open Education Society
Director, SCDL

Mandla S. Makhanya
ICDE President

Gard Tillestad
Secretary General of ICDE

Padma Bhushan Dr. S. B. Mujumdar
President and Founder,
Symbiosis Chancellor,
Symbiosis International University

We look forward to welcoming you to Pune on March 10-11, 2017.
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Objectives of the Conference
The objective of the conference is to provide a platform for communication between researchers, teachers and practitioners in Open and Distance Learning. The ultimate aim being to provide impetus and provide a common basis for the future of research and action points for enhancement of reach of Open and Distance Learning.

Who can participate?
ICDE International Conference will have participants from the community of academics and practitioners, including academics, administrators, students, as well as information and communication technology developers and providers. The participants are expected to come from developed countries as well as from developing countries, besides the local participants.

Why to Participate?
This conference will be a forum for participants to share and learn from each other on how to plan, develop and manage better ODL programs. Since there is a wide range of content in ODL programs in participating institutions/countries, it will help promote the new ways of thinking about a future in which environmental, societal, and economic considerations are balanced in the pursuit of development and improved quality of life. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every ODL institution to redefine its roles and strategies in promoting cross nation human capacity building. Eradicating poverty and reducing disparities in living standards in different parts of the world is essential to achieve sustainable development and meet the needs of the majority of people. The full participation of women is also essential to achieve sustainable development. ODL expands learning opportunity to more children and adult learners regardless of their gender, socio-economic background, age, and geographical location so that they can get more education, more income and later on improve their quality of life.

Speakers
Invitations have been extended to speakers from various international Open/Distance learning Institutes/universities, ministries and department of education from across the globe to speak and share their view points at the conference.

Theme
“Unleashing the potential of ODL - Reaching the unreached”

Sub-themes

Technology
• Leveraging technology platforms to achieve scalable ODL Models
• Innovative ODL models utilizing MOOCs and OERs. (Success stories/experiences to be shared in the regional context)
• Emerging technologies and their applications to teaching learning pedagogies – Gamification, Simulations, virtual modelling etc.
• Reaching the unreached through M-Learning
• Use of Technology for skilling through ODL mode.
• Exploring possibilities of offering technical courses through ODL.

Quality
• Open and Distance Learning for sustainability in today’s scenario- A Regional perspective
• Various sustainable models from Asian context to be demonstrated
• Promotion of life-long learning for upgrading skills and knowledge to suit the challenges of the global environment
• Improving Quality by developing Faculty competency in ODL pedagogy
• Futuristic Evaluation pedagogies to measure quality of Learning Outcomes in the ODL system
• Measuring quality of MOOCs and OERs
• Role of learning analytics for quality
• Emerging areas of Research in ODL space (For Doctoral Research students)

Inclusion
• Paradigm Shift from Campus Learning to Blended & Online Learning (how convergence of various models is taking place in a regional context)
• Using ODL to leverage and reap demographic dividend by increasing accessibility of higher education to diverse target audiences (futuristic flexible, customized blended & online learning models).
• Cost effective ODL models for marginalized population in developing countries.
• ODL as an enabler for empowering women
• Use of technology for Reaching the Unreached.

Conference Date: Friday, 10th March and Saturday, 11th March 2017
Venue: Symbiosis Bhavan, 1065 B, Gokhale Cross Road, Model Colony, Pune - 411016, Maharashtra, India,
Telephone: +91-20-66211000, Fax: +91-20-66211040/66211041

Important Dates:

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of Extended Abstract (short papers) begins</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date of Submission of extended Abstract</td>
<td>1st December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date for notification of Acceptance of Extended Abstract</td>
<td>February 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date for Submission of full length Selected Papers</td>
<td>30th December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date of Registration and fees submission</td>
<td>25th February 2017</td>
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Publication
• All the abstracts (300 words) will be included in the Abstract booklet, which will be released and distributed at the conference.
• All accepted Extended Abstracts (short papers of 1500-2000 words) will be published in the digital proceedings.
• The Scientific committee will shortlist a few papers, the authors of the shortlisted papers will be invited to submit the full length papers (4000- 5000 words) to Open Praxis, the ICDE scientific digital journal that will proceed to peer-review and will publish selected papers.

For further details please visit the conference website: http://www.scdl.net/InternationalConference