



2021-2022

► **Education Open Talks**

The Dialogue Series of
Futures of Education and Education for Rural Revitalisation



Background

While the global population is becoming increasingly mobilised, many problems persist in today's world, such as climate change, inequity, social fragmentation and political extremism. Information Communications Technology (ICT), artificial intelligence (AI) and biotechnology are developing in an exponential pace, bringing both opportunities and changes to the global community. In 2019, UNESCO launched the *Futures of Education* initiative on the General Assembly of the United Nations, advocating for a reimagination of how education and knowledge can shape the future of mankind in an increasingly complex, uncertain and precarious world. UNESCO Futures of Education – Learning to Become will catalyse a global debate on how education, knowledge and learning will shape the future of human and the planet, and tailor a pathway for education in the next 30 years with creative thinking. The Director-General of UNESCO convened an independent international commission, with thought-leaders from the fields of politics, academia, art, science, business, and education. On 10 November, 2021, under the leadership of the president of Ethiopia, Sahle-Work Zewde, the commission launched a report titled *Reimagining Our Futures Together: A new social contract for education*.

This report overturns the idea of individual development advocated in *Faure Report* and *Delors Report*, proposing the establishment of a new social contract for education upon mutual understanding that knowledge and education are global common goods. The new social contract shall fulfil the promises on education to prepare for the increasingly complex, uncertain and precarious world. Currently two thirds of the population in low-income countries live in rural regions. The disparities on income and educational attainment between urban and rural regions as well as unstable

educational finances have led to the stagnation of development in rural regions. The social contract is a consensus reached among members of the society to establish cooperation for the common interest of mankind. As UNESCO advocates for building a new social contract for education and calls for the international community to strengthen partnership for global prosperity, the rural population is undoubtedly the key participant for realising the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; therefore, a new social contract for rural education cannot wait and must be established as the premise for rural development and revitalisation.

With such a perspective, the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (UNESCO INRULED) launched the Dialogue Series on rural education development. As part of the Education Open Talks project, UNESCO INRULED intends to build an open and exclusive sharing platform for experts and scholars worldwide to share insights and exchange ideas for the future of rural education, rural development and beyond. In the reimagination of education for the future, what are the key issues concerning rural education? How are small rural schools perceived in different countries? How to ensure quality education for girls and women in rural areas? How to provide quality lifelong learning opportunities for the rural population? Questions as such leads to the issue that must be confronted by all members of the society - the reimagined futures of rural education.

Goals

- Formulate comprehensive thinking around the future of rural education in the form of expert dialogue and communicate UNESCO's vision on

the future of education;

- Discuss the theoretical and practical implications of rural education in China under the framework of the future of education;
- Engage in the global debate on the future of education from the perspective of education for rural revitalisation and propose new global topics for UNESCO.

Format

- Disseminate the recordings of round table discussions among 3-4 panellists, facilitated by a moderator;
- The discussions will be held in a blended format (both online and in-person);

Participants

- Experts and scholars in education development, rural education and related fields.

Language

- The discussions will be held in English and some panellists might participate in other languages;
- English subtitles will be available.

Contact

- Should you have any questions or inquiries, please contact us at info@inruled.org;
- Interested experts and scholars are welcome to send your resume/CV to info@inruled.org to participate in UNESCO INRULED's future events.

Tentative Agenda

Theme	Moderator	Panellists	Date
Rural Education in East Asia from the Perspective of Small Rural Schools	Dr. Liu Jing	Dr. Tomohiro Yakuwa	30 October, 2021
		Mr. Robert Parua	
		Prof. Xiaodong Zeng	
		Dr. Tongtong Zhao	
		Dr. Joon Yul Choi	
		Dr. Yasuyuki Tamai	
		Dr. Philip Roberts	
Gender Equality in Rural Education	Prof. Zhang Lili	Prof. Han Jialing	19 November, 2021
		Ms. Li Hongyan	
		Ms. Guo Xin	
Looking at Rural Education and Training for Sustainable Development in Rural Areas from a Lifelong Learning Perspective	Prof. Li Xingzhou	Prof. Xu Li	6 December, 2021
		Dr. Yuan Dayong	
		Ms. Hulda Grace	
The Provision and Retention of Qualified Rural Teachers: Governmental Responsibility or Social Contract?	Prof. Sang Guoyuan	Prof. Teng Xing	17 December, 2021
		Prof. Li Jinyu	
		Prof. Qin Yuyou	
		Prof. Martin Valcke	
		Prof. Kibinkiri Eric Len	
ICT and Future of Rural Education: Pathway and Foothold	Prof. Li Baoping	Natalia Amelina	12 January, 2022
		Prof. Chen Ling	
		Prof. Guo Jiong	
		Mr. Chen Dalong	
Reimagining the Futures of Rural Education	Dr. Yuchi Zhao	Prof. Xiaodong Zeng	19 January, 2022
		Prof. Lili Zhang	
		Prof. Guoyuan Sang	
		Prof. Dayong Yuan	
		Dr. Jing Liu	

Introduction to the Organizer

The UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (UNESCO INRULED) was established by UNESCO and the Chinese government in 1994 with a mandate to promote sustainable socio-economic development in rural areas. As a Category II center under the auspices of UNESCO, INRULED's research and training activities concentrate on education for rural transformation. The Center has moved to Beijing Normal University in 2008 for better coordination and connectivity.



Our Mission:

Through research and publicity, education and training, knowledge management and distribution, UNESCO INRULED works in the area of rural education, aiming to bring about positive changes in the thinking and behaviour of rural people, and to achieve the social, economic and ecological development of the rural areas that contribute to the realisation of the SDG4 and the 2030 Agenda. UNESCO INRULED's mission is "Education for Rural Transformation".

Our Functions:

1. Promoting international research and development of methods and techniques of rural education;
2. Promoting consultation and cooperation among member states by devising policies and strategies in the areas of human resource

development for rural areas;

3. Creating a wide network for exchange of academic and technical information in the field of rural education among experts in various countries;

4. Coordinating cooperative research activities and provide expertise, advice, and facilities for laboratory research and fieldwork to international experts;

5. Organising international training workshops and seminars on special subjects and provide fellowships for international research;

6. Producing and disseminating publications and materials for the various projects undertaken by UNESCO INRULED.

Five Thematic Areas:

1. Gender Equality and Women Leadership

2. ICT in Education for Rural Development

3. Skills Development for Rural Transformation

4. Quality Teachers for Rural Schools

5. Ecological Civilisation and Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Rural Transformation

UNESCO INRULED

International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education

Add: Jingshi Hall, 19 Xijiekouwai Str, Haidian District, Beijing 100875, P.R.China

Tel: +86-10-58804951 Website: inruled.bnu.edu.cn E-mail: info@inruled.org



Facebook: UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education



LinkedIn: UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education



Twitter: @UNESCO_INRULED



YouTube: UNESCO INRULED



WeChat: UNESCO INRULED



Bilibili: UNESCO-INRULED