June is coming closer and we would like to take the opportunity to inform you about the latest developments concerning the M-2009 World Conference: confirmed keynote speakers, the overall programme structure and the status of submitted abstracts.

The conference will be held in Maastricht (The Netherlands) on June 7-10. The registration has started and we are targeting for 1000-1200 participants from around the world representing all sectors of open and flexible (distance) learning (with a focus on universities), government on different levels as well as the business sector.

M-2009 is a one-time merger of the bi-annual World Conference of ICDE (International Council for Open and Distance Education) and the annual European Conference of EADTU (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities). The theme for M-2009 is 'Flexible Education for All: Open – Global – Innovative'.

We have received almost 400 abstracts from all five continents for the parallel sessions. The reviewing process of the abstracts has been finished and the authors have been informed about the results.

### Allocation of Abstracts by continent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N America</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the confirmed keynotes and the submissions for the parallel sessions we are working in good progress on making the programme top quality, inspiring, challenging, thought provoking, attractive, and diverse - in terms of culture and continent representation.

Note that the Opening Ceremony and the Plenary Sessions will be graced by various short music performances.

The present status of the M-2009 Programme is reflected by the following information.
### Sunday, 7 June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00-15.30</td>
<td><strong>Pre-Conference Programme</strong> (optional)**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00-16.00</td>
<td><strong>Registration</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 16.00-18.00   | **Opening Ceremony**                             
|               | *Welcome and Introductory Addresses by:*                                                          |
|               | **ICDE President Frits Pannekoek** (President Athabasca University, Canada)**                          |
|               | **EADTU President David Vincent** (Pro Vice-Chancellor UK Open University)**                        |
|               | **Opening Addresses by:**                                                                      |
|               | **Ronald Plasterk**  
|               | (Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science - invited)**                                      |
|               | **Abdul Waheed Khan**  
|               | (UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information – invited)**                |
|               | **European Commission** representative                                                                 |
|               | **Shanghai Message** from the 2008 ICDE Meeting of Rectors and Presidents by:**                  |
|               | **Chen Xin** (Vice President/Academic) on behalf of **Zhang Deming** (President Shanghai TV University, China)** |
|               | **Introduction to the Programme by the Chair of the Programme Committee:**                        |
|               | **Fred Mulder**  
|               | (Rector Open Universiteit Nederland)**                                                               |
| 18.00         | **Reception Cocktail and Social Gathering**                                                      |
Monday, 8 June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 08.30-10.30 | **Plenary Session** Contributions from the leadership of a variety of Open and Distance Learning institutions will address the *education and learning* perspective on and contribution to a further developing and *maturing global knowledge-based society*.  

*Major Keynotes:*
- **Brenda Gourley**  
(Vice-Chancellor UK Open University, United Kingdom), addressing the 'North' perspective
- **Barney Pityana**  
(Vice-Chancellor UNISA, South-Africa), addressing the 'South' perspective

*Keynote panel in a flexible and interactive format of a multiple interview conducted and moderated by:*
- **John O’Brien**  
(Manager Media Relations Athabasca University, formerly at CBC Newsworld, Canada)

*Keynote Panellists:*
- **Tan Sri Dato’ G Dhanarajan**  
(Vice-Chancellor Wawasan Open University, Malaysia)
- **Susan Aldridge**  
(President University of Maryland Univ. College, USA)
- **Stavros Panagiotis Xanthopoylos**  
(Dean of FGV Online, Brazil)
- **Ian Goulter**  
(Vice-Chancellor Charles Sturt University, Australia – invited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.30-11.00</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00-12.15</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15-13.30</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.30-14.45</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.00-16.00</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.00-16.30</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 16.30-17.45 | **Plenary Session** focussing on Research & Development with Keynotes by:  
- **Sarah Guri-Rosenblit**  
(Open University of Israel)
- **Manuel Castells**  
(Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.00</td>
<td><strong>Dine Around</strong> (optional – special registration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 08.30-10.30| **Plenary Session**  
Contributions addressing the ‘industry and business’ perspective on and future strategies heading for a sustainable global knowledge & skills economy.  

*Major Keynotes:*  
**Sam Pitroda**  
(Chair National Knowledge Commission / NKC, India, a high-ranked advisory body directly reporting to the Prime Minister)  
**Rick Harwig**  
(CTO Royal Philips Electronics)  
**Additional Keynotes** at strategy level in multinational companies are **under consideration**. Here we are aiming for diversity over the business sectors to be represented: ICT, Publishing and Consumer/Learning Services, as well as an appropriate mix of established and emerging companies. Depending on the final configuration of accepted invitations we will choose the format (which could be similar to the Monday morning format). |
| 10.30-11.00| Coffee Break |
| 11.00-12.15| **Parallel Sessions** |
| 12.15-13.30| Lunch Break |
| 13.30-14.45| **Parallel Sessions** |
| 15.00-16.00| **Parallel Sessions** |
| 16.00-16.30| Coffee Break |
| 16.30-17.30| **Plenary Session**  
focussing on Research & Development with a Keynote co-presentation:  
**Peter Sloep**  
(Open Universiteit Nederland, The Netherlands)  
**Terry Anderson**  
(Athabasca University, Canada)  
**Andy Lane**  
(UK Open University, United Kingdom) |
| 17.30-18.00| **ICDE Awards Ceremony** |
| 20.00      | **Conference Dinner**  
at Caverne de Geulhem (optional – special registration) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30-10.00</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00-10.30</td>
<td><strong>Coffee Break</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30-11.45</td>
<td><strong>Parallel Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00-13.00</td>
<td><strong>Closing Plenary</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.30-18.00</td>
<td><strong>Post Conference Programme</strong> (optional)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **Parallel Sessions** will be structured alongside different areas of education and training, the ten conference topics and various approaches:

**Areas of education and training:**
- School
- Higher Education
- Vocational Training
- Continuing Professional Training & Development
- Company & Workforce Training
- Lifelong Learning (LLL)

**Conference topics:**
- Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Virtual Mobility
- Quality Assurance (incl. Recognition, Accreditation, Certification)
- Technology Enhanced Learning
- Learner Support Services
- Teacher Training
- Employability
- Cultural Diversity
- Breaking Barriers / Removing Constraints & Disadvantages
- International Cooperation and Development

**Approaches:**
- Vision
- Policy
- Strategy
- Research & Development
- Good Practice
- Evaluation
- Partnership & Networking
**M-2009 Ambassadors**
John Daniel (President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning)
Brenda Gourley (Vice-Chancellor UK Open University)
Barney Pityana (Vice-Chancellor UNISA, South-Africa)
Luis Miguel Romero (Rector Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador)
Atwi Suparman (Rector Terbuka University, Indonesia)

**Programme Committee Core Team**
Fred Mulder / Chair (Rector Open Universiteit Nederland)
Frits Pannekoek / President ICDE (President Athabasca University)
David Vincent / President EADTU (Pro Vice-Chancellor UK Open University)
Carl Holmberg / Secretary General ICDE
Piet Henderikx / Secretary General EADTU

**Local Organising Committee**
Jos Rikers / Chair (Open Universiteit Nederland)
Vibeke Hoffmann / Vice-Chair (ICDE)
George Ubachs / Vice-Chair (EADTU)

The organisation of the 23rd ICDE World Conference including the EADTU 2009 Annual Conference (M-2009) is a joint effort of the OUNL, the ICDE Permanent Secretariat, and the EADTU Permanent Secretariat under the leadership of the Rector of the OUNL.

**Cooperating organisations**

The conference is taking place thanks to the support of:

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Intergovernmental Organisations:
- UNESCO
- South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO)
- Commonwealth of Learning (COL)

Regional Associations
- Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU)
- African Council for Distance Education (ACDE)
- European Centre for Strategic Management of Universities (ESMU)
- Asociación Iberoamericana de Educación Superior a Distancia (AIESAD)

National Associations:
- Brazilian Association of Distance Education (ABED)
- Norwegian Association for Distance Education (NADE)
- Sloan Consortium

All member organisations of ICDE
All member organisations of EADTU
Important dates
Deadline paper submission  17 March 2009
End of early bird fee   19 March 2009
Online registration closing  1 June 2009

Registration Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Type</th>
<th>Early bird fee</th>
<th>Regular fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICDE Member</td>
<td>€ / Euro 600,00</td>
<td>€ / Euro 650,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EADTU Member</td>
<td>€ / Euro 600,00</td>
<td>€ / Euro 650,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Member</td>
<td>€ / Euro 700,00</td>
<td>€ / Euro 750,00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note:
Registration fees for students are available upon request. In order to receive a student registration form please contact the conference agency at icde2009@ou.nl.

The conference registration fee includes:
- Admission to all sessions
- Full set of M-2009 conference materials and documents: Programme, bag, badge, proceedings
- Welcome reception on Sunday, 7 June 2009
- Refreshing breaks

The Conference Organisers are investigating options for grants. Please contact the Conference Organisers for the latest information.

How to register?
To register for the M-2009 conference please visit the conference website at www.ou.nl/icde2009 > Registration. Confirmation of your registration, including an invoice, will be sent to you by email. Payments must be made within 14 working days from the date of confirmation. They can be made by bank transfer or secured online credit card payment and have to be in Euros (€). For on-site registration, only credit card payment is accepted, cheques and foreign currency are not accepted. An extra administrational charge of 50,00 € / Euro will be applied.

Venue
The conference venue is the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre (MECC), located in the oldest city of the Netherlands, Maastricht. This beautiful city is situated at the heart of Europe on both sides of the Meuse river in the southern part of the country. Maastricht is a medium sized city with all the necessary infrastructure, good public transport connections, and a wide range of hotels, cultural and social activities to host the World Conference community in a stimulating and safe environment.

MECC Maastricht
Forum 100
NL-6229 GV Maastricht
www.mecc.nl
Hotel reservations
Reservations can be made through the conference website: www.ou.nl/icde2009 > Reservation = Maastricht Booking Service.

Conference website
www.ou.nl/icde2009
Please visit this website frequently as all information and updates are continuously published there.

Contact details
The Organising Committee and the Programme Committee can be contacted on questions referring to the programme by sending an email to: icde2009@ou.nl

For all questions referring to registration, hotel booking and sponsor opportunities, please contact **Conference Agency Maastricht:**

Forum 45, 6229 GV Maastricht, the Netherlands
P.O. Box 1402, 6201 BK Maastricht, the Netherlands
Tel: +31 – (0)43 – 361 91 92
Fax: +31 – (0)43 – 361 90 20
Email: info@conferenceagency.com
Internet: www.conferenceagency.com