

How resilient, dynamic, and inclusive is today's higher education?

The Covid-19 pandemic took the world by surprise and two years later we still grapple and try to adapt to the changes that were brought by the pandemic. The Higher Education sector was presented with the biggest test of resilience and institutions of higher learning were forced to adjust their thinking and transition to adjust. This transition came with challenges within the higher education sector, but also to quote the greatest and most influential physicists of all time; Albert Einstein “in the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity”.

These opportunities identified were to introduce online teaching and learning platforms, inclusive of hybrid and remote working models. These opportunities yielded in the following benefits:

- Cost Effectiveness
- Flexibility in teaching and learning
- Better work life balance
- Better Student Engagement

Institutions had to make investments in cutting-edge digital technologies in order to enable the shift and deliver exceptional services. Today's academics, support personnel, and students must have some familiarity with digital technologies, and it is crucial to promote digital literacy.

Our educational systems must be adaptable as the world and technology change. We must transition from static to dynamic digital technology so that scholars and students can communicate across borders. They will be helped to collaborate and work together to share content and expertise by these dynamic technologies leading us to the theme of this year's conference.

"Leveraging revolutionary technology to support digital transformation for a sustainable future!"

To assist this shift inside the industry, IT leaders and experts in higher education had to join forces. Utilizing technology to digitize information, automate, and simplify procedures is essential to transforming institutional operations. IT professionals must build the optimal environment for both students and staff since hybrid teaching and learning represents a new era in education. IT professionals can *“leverage revolutionary technology to support digital transformation for a sustainable future”* by:

- Ensuring access to technology and online resources
- Enabling collaborative learning opportunities through virtual classrooms.
- Supporting seamless hybrid learning
- Providing online methods of communication
- Automating and streamlining process
- Tightening cybersecurity
- Cloud migration

As trendsetters in higher education, it remains our responsibility to confront the difficulties brought on by this transformation while we push for technological progress in higher education. We must make sure that we have clear IT strategies, a solid technological foundation, effective change management, qualified resources to support the transformation, and address diversity and educational inequalities. The higher education industry must align the Institutions approved strategic Vision to digital technologies available to offer effective and inclusive solutions while adjusting and adapting to change.