

The Global Forum on Digital Transformation in TVET (Shenzhen) 2025

11–12 November 2025 Shenzhen, China

Concept Note

1. Background

The global landscape of work and learning continues to undergo profound transformation. Advancing digital technologies, including recent breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, have significantly contributed to this evolution. Across industry sectors, occupations and skills requirements are rapidly changing—routine tasks become automated while complex technical capabilities combined with uniquely human skills grow more valuable. This dynamic environment demands education and training systems that prepare learners for a digital future requiring adaptability, lifelong learning, and effective human-machine collaboration.

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems, serving as essential bridges between education and employment, are at the forefront of this transformation. The UNESCO Strategy for TVET (2022–2029) envisions TVET as a more proactive player in supporting individuals, economies, and societies through multiple transitions, particularly digital and green transitions, by developing skills relevant to current and future labour market needs. To achieve this, TVET institutions must now accelerate their own digital transformation through several key actions: modernizing digital infrastructure, developing competencies for teachers and students, integrating digital tools and approaches into curricula and pedagogies, and leveraging digital platforms for stronger collaboration with industry partners and other stakeholders. This comprehensive digital transformation presents unprecedented opportunities to reimagine TVET and its roles in an increasingly technology-driven future.

The Global Forum on Digital Transformation in TVET (Shenzhen) 2025 is being convened in response to the growing need for coordinated global action to advance digital transformation in TVET systems. Under the theme “**Accelerating TVET Transformation with Emerging Tech for an Inclusive and Intelligent Future**”, the forum will highlight recent advancements in artificial intelligence, immersive technologies, digital platforms, and other transformative

innovations reshaping skills development worldwide. It specifically explores strategies for addressing challenges and maximizing opportunities faced by TVET institutions in developing countries during their digital transformation journeys. Sessions will examine global trends and policy frameworks guiding TVET digital transformation, identify emerging competencies and skills, integrate digital and AI-driven methods into teaching and learning, and enhance education-industry collaborations that improve employability and adaptability in the digital economy. The forum aims to foster dialogues among TVET stakeholders, facilitate knowledge exchange, and establish networks of practice to strengthen the digital transformation of TVET for inclusive and sustainable futures.

2. Objectives

The Global Forum on Digital Transformation in TVET (Shenzhen) 2025 aims to:

- Convene global TVET stakeholders including policymakers, educators, industry partners, technology providers, and international organizations to share knowledge and experiences on digital transformation.
- Facilitate expert presentations and discussions on developing digital competencies, innovative pedagogical approaches, and strategies for addressing evolving labour market demands.
- Showcase and analyze contextualized practices and evidence-based approaches for integrating digital technologies across TVET teaching, learning, and institutional management.
- Discuss practical solutions and offer policy recommendations for overcoming digital transformation challenges faced by TVET systems, particularly in developing countries.

3. Expected Outcomes

- **Forum Synthesis Report:** A comprehensive summary of the forum's key discussions, insights, recommendations, and lessons learned, serving as a reference for global stakeholders in TVET digital transformation.
- **Research and Open Educational Resources:** Publication of a compilation of research, good practices, open online courses, and curriculum syllabuses in the area of digital transformation in TVET by the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET.
- **Strengthened Global Network:** Establishment of sustained connections and collaborative relationships among international TVET stakeholders, enabling ongoing dialogue, peer learning exchanges, and strategic partnerships that advance digital transformation efforts beyond the forum.

4. Organizers

Organizer and Host:

- UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET, Shenzhen Polytechnic University, China

Co-organizers:

- UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for TVET
- UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia
- UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa
- The International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI)
- International Centre for UNESCO ASPnet (ICUA)
- The UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (UNESCO INRULED)

Supporting Partner:

- Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.

5. Participants

The forum anticipates approximately 100 participants from various countries, including:

- Government officials and policymakers responsible for TVET and skills development
- Leaders, senior administrators, and teachers/trainers from TVET and higher technical education institutions
- Education technology innovators, industry partners, and private sector representatives
- Researchers and experts in TVET and higher education with a focus on digital transformation
- Representatives from international organizations and NGOs engaged in TVET and skills development

6. Dates and Venue

Dates: 11–12 November 2025; Arrival on 10 November.

Venue: Shenzhen Polytechnic University (Xili Campus)
No. 7098 Liuxian Blvd., Nanshan District, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China

7. Language and Format

The languages of the forum will be English and Chinese, with simultaneous interpretation provided throughout the event. The forum will be held in person at Shenzhen Polytechnic

University. Video recordings of the event will be made available online after the forum.

8. Sponsorship

The UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET at Shenzhen Polytechnic University will provide partial or full sponsorship for invited speakers and presenters. The sponsorship includes round-trip economy class airfare, local accommodation, and meals during the event. Participants under sponsorship are required to bear the costs of visa application, travel insurance, local transportation, and any other personal expenses.

Participants not receiving sponsorship are expected to fund their own travel and accommodation. There is no registration fee for attending the forum.

9. Provisional Agenda

Monday, 10 November 2025	
Tongde Building, Shenzhen Polytechnic University	
All day	Arrival and registration
Tuesday, 11 November 2025	
Conference Room 1, Tongde Building, Shenzhen Polytechnic University	
9:00–9:25	Opening addresses
9:25–9:30	Release of knowledge products from the UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in TVET
9:30–9:40	MoU signing ceremony
9:40–9:45	Group photo
9:45–10:30	Keynote Session: Global Trends and Perspectives on AI-Driven Digital Transformation and Its Impact on TVET
10:30–10:50	Tea break
10:50–12:00	Session 1: Developing New Qualifications and Competencies for TVET in the Age of AI (UNESCO-UNEVOC special session)
12:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–14:50	Session 2: Innovative Approaches to AI Integration in TVET Teaching and Learning
14:50–15:40	Session 3: Industry-Education Integration for Skills Development in the Intelligent Economy
15:40–16:00	Tea break
16:00–17:00	Session 4: Strengthening Global Collaboration for Equitable, Inclusive and Intelligent TVET Systems

Wednesday, 12 November 2025	
9:30–11:30	Exploratory visit to a top tech enterprise and networking
11:40–13:00	Lunch
13:00–16:00	Visit to the digital training facilities at Shenzhen Polytechnic University