

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP: CHARTING THE FUTURES OF DIGITAL EDUCATION

**A Free Public Event
Featuring Five Public Lectures by Leading Experts
and a Concluding Roundtable**

Official Opening by

**YB Senator Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir
Minister of Higher Education**

Organised by

**The Centre for Digital Education Futures (CENDEF),
Open University Malaysia (OUM)**

6 August 2025 | 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM | Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

EVENT GUIDE

(Updated: 16 July 2025)

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OVERVIEW

As part of its 25th anniversary celebrations, Open University Malaysia (OUM), through its Centre for Digital Education Futures (CENDEF), proudly presents a special Public Lecture Series titled “Visionary Leadership: Charting the Futures of Digital Education.”

This inaugural event brings together five of OUM’s Global Fellows, all renowned voices in the field, for a day of thought-provoking lectures and a concluding roundtable.

In line with OUM’s silver jubilee theme “25 Years of Humanising Digital Education,” the series invites reflection on where we are now and how we might shape digital education futures that hold firm to the human at their core, even amid growing pressures to reduce, automate, or displace human judgment and connection.

Each speaker will bring a unique perspective to this challenge, offering insights that speak to both enduring values and emerging possibilities.

The event encourages engagement with such critical questions as:

- What does educational leadership mean in the digital age, and what forms might it need to take?
- Who should lead, and how might leadership be distributed, reimagined, or exercised differently in order to shape the future we want?
- Can digital education, in both present and future forms, disrupt inequality rather than entrench it, and under what conditions might that be possible?

Designed to engage policymakers, educators, learners, parents, and the wider community, the series reflects OUM’s ongoing commitment to inclusive and participatory dialogue.

As an institution grounded in public engagement, OUM seeks to create sustained spaces where diverse voices can question, reflect, and contribute to shaping more just and human-centred educational futures.

OUM GLOBAL FELLOWS

The speakers featured in the Public Lecture Series are OUM Global Fellows. The OUM Global Fellowship, led by the Centre for Digital Education Futures (CENDEF), brings together distinguished and emerging voices in open, distance, and digital education. Fellows collaborate with the University through research, public dialogue, and strategic engagement. Terms of engagement are flexible, typically spanning one year. Each Fellow contributes a unique perspective to the urgent task of reimagining digital education in ways that are critical, inclusive, and human-centred.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS & LECTURE TITLES

- 1 Prof Melinda dela Peña Bandalaria: “Rethinking Institutional Leadership Through the Lens of the University of the Future”
- 2 Prof Insung Jung: “Education for All or for the Few? The Promise and Perils of Going Digital”
- 3 Emeritus Prof Paul Prinsloo: “(Re)discovering the Human in Algorithmic-Informed Open, Distance, and Digital Learning”
- 4 Emeritus Prof Junhong Xiao: “Humanising Digital Education or Digitalising Human Education: That is the Question”
- 5 Prof Olaf Zawacki-Richter: “What Can Open, Distance, and Digital Education (ODDE) Contribute to a Sustainable Future?”

SPEAKER PROFILES

Prof Melinda dela Peña Bandalaria

Melinda dela Peña Bandalaria is a Professor and former Chancellor at the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU). She served as President of the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) and has advanced regional efforts in massive open online courses (MOOCs), universal design for learning (UDL), micro-credentialing, and open educational resources (OER). Her #OPENFight initiative supported other educational institutions to transition to remote education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof Insung Jung

Insung Jung is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Education Research Institute, Seoul National University, and was formerly a Professor of Education at the International Christian University in Japan. With over three decades of experience in open, distance, and digital education (ODDE), she has authored and edited several books with global collaborators, including *Distance and Blended Learning in Asia*, *Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Distance Education and E-Learning*, *Open and Distance Theory Revisited*, and the *Handbook of Open, Distance and Digital Education*. Jung has served as a consultant and advisor in ODDE and e-learning to national and international bodies, including the Korean Ministry of Education, UNESCO, the World Bank, and APEC.

Emeritus Prof Paul Prinsloo

Paul Prinsloo is an Emeritus Professor at the University of South Africa (Unisa), a visiting professor at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), a member of the Center for Open Education Research at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (Germany), an elected member of the Fellows' Council and Senior Fellow of the European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN). He also serves on several editorial boards. His research spans artificial intelligence in education, student success, learning analytics, and the ethics of student data use in digital education.

Emeritus Prof Junhong Xiao

Junhong Xiao is Emeritus Professor at the Open University of Shantou, a branch of the Open University of China, and Visiting Professor at the Open University of Guangdong. He is a founding member of the Centre for Open Education Research (COER) at the University of Oldenburg, Germany. His earlier scholarship focused on English grammar, discourse analysis, and TESOL, before shifting in 2001 to open and distance learning. He has published extensively, including around 300 papers and 10 books. Xiao is Editor of the SpringerBriefs in Open and Distance Education series, co-founding Chief Editor of the *Journal of Open, Distance, and Digital Education* (JODDE), and serves on the editorial boards of several international journals.

Prof Olaf Zawacki-Richter

Olaf Zawacki-Richter is Professor of Educational Technology at the University of Oldenburg, Germany, where he serves as Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Sciences, and Director of the Center for Open Education Research (COER). With over 25 years of experience in open, distance, and digital education, he has consulted for bodies such as the International Labor Organization, the German Bundestag, and the German Science and Humanities Council. He has authored over 150 journal articles and edited several open access books, including *Online Distance Education: Towards a Research Agenda*, *Systematic Reviews in Educational Research*, and the *Handbook of Open, Distance and Digital Education*. Zawacki-Richter is Executive Chief Editor of the *Journal of Open, Distance, and Digital Education* (JODDE), Associate Editor of the *Online Learning Journal* (OLJ), and serves on the editorial boards of several international journals.

PROGRAMME

09:00 – 9:30	Arrival of Guests & Registration
09:30 – 10:15	Official Opening Ceremony • Arrival of YB Minister of Higher Education Malaysia • Doa Recitation • Welcoming Remarks by the President/Vice-Chancellor of OUM • Official Address and Launch by YB Minister of Higher Education Malaysia • Multimedia Presentation
10:15 – 10:45	Public Lecture 1: Emeritus Prof Paul Prinsloo
10:45 – 11:00	Presentation of Souvenirs to YB Minister of Higher Education Malaysia & Group Photo
11:00 – 11:30	Media Conference & Morning Tea Break
11:30 – 12:00	Public Lecture 2: Emeritus Prof Junhong Xiao
12:00 – 12:30	Public Lecture 3: Prof Melinda dela Peña Bandalaria
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:30	Public Lecture 4: Prof Olaf Zawacki-Richter
14:30 – 15:00	Public Lecture 5: Prof Insung Jung
15:00 – 15:20	Afternoon Tea Break
15:20 – 16:00	Concluding Roundtable
16:00 – 16:30	Closing

ABOUT OUM

Open University Malaysia (OUM) is Malaysia's premier digital university, established in 2000 with a mission to widen access to higher education for all. In 2025, OUM celebrates its 25th anniversary under the banner of "Humanising Digital Education". This milestone reflects the University's ongoing commitment to combining technological innovation with empathy, care, and inclusivity in its approach to teaching and learning.

The Centre for Digital Education Futures (CENDEF) is OUM's hub for strategic insight and transformative engagement in open, distance, and digital education. CENDEF brings together scholars, practitioners, and partners to reimagine the futures of education, anticipate emerging challenges, intervene through bold, human-centred approaches, and shape inclusive digital futures.

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