

Assistant Professor Cecilia Chang
The University of Hong Kong
Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning
Centennial Campus
Hong Kong

4 February 2014 No 9-2/P2-2302

Dear Dr. Cecilia Chang,

On behalf of the University of Tartu, it is my great pleasure to invite you to participate as a speaker in the Innovative Curricula Design Conference on 10 April and to take part in a conference „Vision 2032” on 11 April 2014 in Tartu, Estonia.

Over the last decade, Estonian higher education has undergone multiple changes and developments in order to enhance the quality of education and to better serve the needs of Estonian society. The University of Tartu has implemented outcome-based curricula, adjusted the principles of assessment, developed the support services for students, enabled better access to higher education, and regulated the quality assessment in order to bring itself in line with the European Higher Education Area standards. However, considering the global developments and fast-paced societal changes, are these reforms sufficient or adequate to meet the needs of and provide the skills for the future? To address these questions, we will be organizing half a day workshops followed by presentations on broader curricula reforms on 10 April 2014.

The workshops will be focusing on topics such as interdisciplinary curriculum development and quality assurance, problem-based learning and smart specialization. The aim of the workshops is to assemble the know-how and best practices of different innovative approaches to curriculum development, to discuss and learn from each other's experience for new smart curricula designs and further development of different study areas such as natural and exact sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

Workshops will be followed by presentations on smart curricula reforms and the role of higher education in the 21st century. During the presentations we will seek answers to the questions whether to continue with the current 3+2 system and whether and to what extent is higher education a prerequisite for innovation.

As the University of Hong Kong has lately undergone large-scale curricula reforms, we kindly invite you to present your expertise and vision on curricula reforms in the light of the future challenges.

As the topics of the Innovative Curricula Design Conference will be viewed from a long term perspective and in the context of global challenges, we invite you to join the discussions at Vision Conference on 11 April as well. At the Vision conference we will discuss the changes that are going to take place over the next decades at the global and local level challenging our societies (Intelligent and healthy individual, Smart and consistent society etc).

Among the others we have invited the Minister of Education and Research of Estonia Professor Jaak Aaviksoo, the Vice-President of the European Commission Siim Kallas and rectors of the Universities of Helsinki and Lüneburg to give their views on the challenges ahead and how to tackle them.

The invitation comes at a short notice, but I hope that you will consider participating in the events. Your contribution will be highly appreciated. The University of Tartu will cover your travel and accommodation costs.

Please let us know at your earliest convenience if you are able to accept the invitation. If you require additional information, please contact Ms Karoliina Vilimaa-Pennarun at the Rector's Strategy Office, (e-mail karoliina.pennarun@ut.ee, phone +372 737 6164).

With best regards,



Dr. Martin Hallik
Vice Rector for Academic Affairs
University of Tartu