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ICEduTech 2016 Report from a Scientific Conference in RMIT, Melbourne

ICEduTech (<http://icedutech-conf.org/>) is a scientific conference addressing the real topics as seen by teachers, students, parents, and school leaders. Scientists, professionals, and institutional leaders are invited to be informed by experts, and to increase the understanding of what education needs and how to achieve it.

Previous IADIS conferences were held in Malaysia (2013), Taiwan (2014), and Brazil (2015).

Topics for the ICEduTech Conference 2016 were as follows:

1. **Education in Context:** a) Education in the Network Society; b) Educational Games; c) Social Media in Education; d) Home Schooling; e) Students' Rights; f) Parents' Rights; g) Teachers' Rights; h) Student-safe Searching; i) School Violence; j) Education and Tolerance for Peace; and k) Education in Developing Countries.
2. **Education as Professional Field:** a) Teacher Education; b) Teachers' Professional Development; c) Teachers' Workload; d) Teacher Support for Grading, Time Tabling, Grading, Learning Tools, and Online Learning Software; e) Teachers' Learning in Communities of Practice; f) Web-based Communities for Teacher Support; g) Teachers' Career Planning; h) Legal and Financial Issues; i) Conflict Resolution and Mediation; j) Governance and Servant Leadership; and k) Educational Policies.
3. **Curricular Evolution:** a) Problem-based Learning; b) Critical Thinking Skills; c) Creativity Skills; d) Learning Citizenship; e) Global Education; f) Media Literacy / Pedagogy; g) Multicultural Education; and h) Alternative Assessment Methods.

4. **Learner Orientation:** a) Student-oriented Learning; b) Peer- and Collaborative Learning; c) Learning Strategies: Learn how to Learn; d) Motivating Students; e) Recognising Students' Learning Styles; and f) Special Education.
5. **Integrating Educational Technologies:** a) Social Media and Social Networking; b) The Semantic Web 3.0; c) Podcasting for Broadcasting Video Lectures; d) Podcasting Feedback to Students; e) Wiki and Blogs in Higher Education; f) Mobile, Virtual, and Vicarious Learning; and g) Simulations and Modelling.
6. **International Higher Education:** a) Marketing Higher Education as a Business Case; b) Pitfalls and Solutions in Joint and Double Degree Programmes; c) Enculturation and International Teacher Accreditation; d) Web-based, Mobile, Virtual Presence, and Social Media to Overcome Student Mobility; e) Blended Learning and Student Assessment at a Distance; f) Student Mobility and Distance Education; g) New-Emerging Standards and Benchmarks for Higher Education; h) Education, Research, Exchange in Capacity Building; i) 21st Century Academic and Industrial Brain Exchange; j) Academic Salaries, Faculty Contracts, Residence Permits, and Legal Issues; k) International Student Exchange Funding Programmes: Erasmus Mundus, the U.S. Council on International Educational Student Exchange, and the Euro-American "Atlantis" programme; l) Networks for International Higher Education in the Pacific, Australian, Asian, and European countries; and m) Higher Education, Cultural Diversity, Tolerance, and Political Conflict.

The Conference was composed of several types of contributions: Full Papers; Short Papers; Reflection Papers; Posters / Demonstrations; Tutorials; Panels; Invited Talks; Doctoral Consortium; Corporate Showcases, and Exhibition.

On 6–8 December 2016, the conference was held in the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), organised by the International Association for Development of the Information Society (a non-profit association), and RMIT.

Previous IADIS conferences were held in Malaysia (2013), Taiwan (2014), and Brazil (2015).

IADIS has the following goals:

- to develop the cooperation and solidarity between its associates, by developing initiatives in the Information Society domain;
- to promote the study, research, and dissemination of news related to the Information Society;
- to make information and bibliography relating to the Information Society available to its associates;
- to organise working groups, to research, study, develop, and analyse issues related to the Information Society;
- to publish magazines, journals, or other documents of significant interest;
- to organise meetings, seminars, and conferences;

- to promote people's training with the goal of integrating them in the Information Society; and
- to promote the exchange and cooperation with national and foreign associations and entities which seek the same goals.

Among participants of the conference, there were researchers from different countries and continents: Europe (Poland, Ireland, Germany, Croatia, Russia, Ukraine, and others), Asia (the United Arab Emirates (UAE), China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and others), Australia, Africa (the South African Republic, Tanzania, and others), North America (the USA), South America (Brazil), and other countries (Figure 1).

Conference co-chairs were P. Kommers (University of Twente, The Netherlands) and E. McKay (RMIT University, Australia). **Conference Programme co-chairs were** Tomayess Issa (Curtin University, Perth, Australia) and P. Isaías (University of Queensland, Australia).

The international team of researchers of the IRNet project (www.irnet.us.edu.pl) participated in this conference. Prof. E. Smyrnova-Trybulska presented two collective lectures:

1. E. Smyrnova-Trybulska, E. Ogrodzka-Mazur, A. Szafrńska-Gajdzica, N. Morze, R. Makhachashvili, T. Noskova, T. Pavlova, O. Yakovleva, Tomayess Issa, & Theodora Issa, "MOOCs – Theoretical and Practical Aspects: Comparison of Selected Research Results: Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and Australia," and
2. E. Smyrnova-Trybulska, N. Morze, P. Kommers, W. Zuziak, & M. Gladun, "Educational Robots in Primary School Teachers' and Students' Opinion about STEM Education for Young Learners,"

which were printed as scientific publications in the Proceedings of the *International Conferences on Internet Technologies & Society 2016* (ITS 2016), *Educational Technologies 2016* (ICEduTech 2016), and *Sustainability, Technology and Education 2016* (STE 2016), Melbourne, 6–8 December, 2016. P. Kommers, Tomayess Issa, Theodora Issa, E. McKay, & P. Isaías (Eds.). IADIS 2016. Indexed in Web of Knowledge, Scopus, and other international scientific bibliometric databases.

During the presentation of the first lecture by E. Smyrnova-Trybulska in a presence mode, Tomayess Issa took part in a remote online mode from the Curtin University via Adobe Connect.

We would like to stress with pleasure the fact that for the lecture "Educational Robots in Primary School Teachers' and Students' Opinion about STEM Education for Young Learners," E. Smyrnova-Trybulska – on behalf of the international team of co-authors – received the diploma for the best paper of the conference from the Chair of the conference, prof. P. Isaías (Figure 2).



Figure 1. The participants of the international scientific conference ICEduTech 2016 in Melbourne.



Figure 2. Handover of the diploma for the best paper of the conference by prof. P. Isaías to prof. E. Smyrnova-Trybulska.

In addition to the abundant official programme with a lot of conference events – plenary sessions, conference thematic sessions, poster sessions, and PhD presentations – the organisers prepared the interesting social and cultural programme for participants of the ICEduTech 2016: an excursion to Melbourne, one of the largest and wonderful cities in Australia, and conference dinner.

In conclusion, we could like to note and emphasise the fact that ICEduTech 2016 in Melbourne is one of the best examples of international scientific conferences, aimed at strengthening of cooperation between the researches and scientists from different countries around the world, and providing opportunities for exchange of experience in the field of e-learning, ICT in education, development of digital environment, contemporary sustainability society, and development of inter- and multicultural competences.