

Institute for Adult Learning inks two MOUs with Microsoft and Singapore National Eye Centre to advance digital workplace learning

IAL will also spearhead the development of a digital learning blueprint for Singapore and enhance WSQ ACLP for adult learners

SINGAPORE – 11 JANUARY 2023 – The Institute for Adult Learning ([IAL](#)), an autonomous institute of the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), today inked two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with [Microsoft](#) and [Singapore National Eye Centre](#) (SNEC) at the 'Digital Andragogy & MOUs Signing Ceremony', to forward digital learning. The event was graced by Minister for Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing.

IAL will actively work with these two partners to drive, accelerate, proliferate and sustain learning through digital-focused andragogy. Aside from providing digital learning courses, IAL will conduct joint research with them on a digital andragogy framework which aims to advise the design and development of learning materials, thus enabling learning to be more effective, timely and relevant. This will be done by applying adult learning principles to the employment of digital tools to enhance learning and instructional effectiveness.

IAL will collaborate with Microsoft to develop continuing education and training (CET) and upskilling solutions for the workplace. This includes the creation of a framework which integrates Microsoft innovation to enhance adult learning effectiveness and encourage collaboration. The framework will focus on core skills, including problem-solving and transdisciplinary thinking, and aims to improve the quality of lifelong learning experiences of adults with the use of technology.

Similarly, with SNEC, IAL's provision of its adult learning expertise will support the bolstering of skillsets of ophthalmic healthcare professionals, both locally and regionally, with SNEC as a leading centre for ophthalmic education in Asia. This will be done through bespoke continuous professional development courses, learning recognition and accreditation through the conferment of digital badges in recognising industry-related skills and competencies and cross-participation in activities and events.

Professor Lee Wing On, Executive Director of IAL, said: "As the National Centre of Excellence for Adult Learning (NCAL), IAL focuses on not only professional training and adult education (TAE) but also the broader ecosystem, including enterprises and workplace learning. In today's continuous learning environment, digitalisation is key to making adult education accessible to its intended audience. The partnership between Microsoft and SNEC will explore ways to use digital solutions to enhance classroom facilitation, technology-enabled learning and workplace learning, and it will encourage more enterprises to follow suit and embark on a digital workplace learning journey."

"To enable a future-oriented workforce, there is a need to continuously innovate and develop training programs that use blended learning adult pedagogies and promote inter-professional education. SNEC has been working towards continually improving our training delivery by creating digital content that can be curated and used for a diverse workforce within the eye care system.

This collaboration with IAL will enhance our ongoing efforts in the digital transformation of eye care training. In addition, digital badges will provide opportunities to improve the continuous learning model required to keep skills and competencies current and accredit learning pathways,” said Professor Aung Tin, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore National Eye Centre.

Creating a blueprint for the digitalisation of learning

In its role as NCAL, IAL will also build a digital learning blueprint anchored on the digital andragogy framework, jointly developed with Microsoft, for Singapore’s TAE sector that enterprises can adapt, customise and scale according to their needs.

The said framework seeks to demonstrate the use of digital tools in promoting learning outcomes beyond collaboration and engagement, leveraging Microsoft’s innovation to further enhance adult education. Focusing on core skills such as problem-solving and transdisciplinary thinking, it also aims to improve the lifelong learning experiences of adults through technology, which will improve organisations’ quality of learning and development and create a resilient, digitally inclusive hybrid workforce and community.

The blueprint will also facilitate the adoption of digital learning among TAEs to enhance instructional effectiveness, including training providers and learning and development (L&D) professionals in enterprises and industry professionals, and provide them with access to resources that will ensure their competitiveness and industry relevance. IAL is targeting to launch the blueprint by August 2023.

ACLP gets a digitalisation boost

Following a joint review with SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), IAL will also offer the elevated WSQ Advanced Certificate in Learning and Performance (WSQ ACLP) 2.0 beginning 16 January 2023. WSQ ACLP 2.0 will replace the existing ACLP, to enable aspiring trainers to acquire the essentials of classroom facilitation, tech-enabled learning and workplace learning delivery, and assessment in a shorter amount of time (three months, excluding public holidays), instead of the current duration of six to nine months. After they have embarked on their profession, trainers will continue to stay current and gain skills-deepening expertise through Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes.

IAL and SSG will continually review the WSQ ACLP offerings to ensure they remain relevant and applicable amidst an evolving TAE landscape. Interested WSQ ACLP 2.0 applicants may utilise existing funding schemes and learn more about the programme [here](#).

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About the Institute for Adult Learning

The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) is an autonomous institute of the Singapore University of Social Sciences. As the National Centre of Excellence for Adult Learning, IAL works closely and supports Adult Education professionals, businesses, human resource developers and policymakers through its comprehensive suite of programmes and services on raising capabilities and catalysing innovations in Continuing Education and Training (CET). IAL also champions research in sustaining economic performance through skills, shaping employment and CET decisions, and developing innovations through learning technology and pedagogy to heighten adult learning.

For more information, visit www.ial.edu.sg.