

Prominent themes on the first day of CIIE 2023 were lifelong learning, startups, and the education of the future

- Michael Fung said he favored learning that is accessible, inclusive, relevant, and fit-for-purpose to forge the education of the future.
- “The Tec defined a new vision centered around shaping leaders with an entrepreneurial spirit, human sensibility, and global vision, which has now evolved into leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship for human flourishing,” Juan Pablo Murra.

Monterrey, Nuevo León, on January 16, 2023.- On the first day of the 9th International Conference on Educational Innovation (CIIE 2023), essential topics were discussed for innovation in education and furthering our knowledge of what the education of the future will be like.

Giving the inaugural address at the conference was **José Escamilla, Associate Director of the Institute for the Future of Education (IFE) at Tecnológico de Monterrey**, who gave a general overview of CIIE 2023 keynotes and activities and invited attendees to visit its different spaces. He also revealed that CIIE in 2024 will become the IFE Conference, transforming itself from a conference into a global platform for co-creating the education of the future.

The first speaker of the day was **Michael Fung, Executive Director of the Institute for the Future of Education**. In his **keynote, “Transforming Higher Education and Lifelong Learning”**, he invited the audience to take immediate action to shift the paradigm of education toward mixed learning models, based on work and continuing education through multiple modular tracks, in which there is collaboration with enterprise on syllabuses, as well as between public and private education institutions.

To this end, he proposed the key themes for the future of education, which can be summarized as FAIR: Fit-for-purpose, Accessible, Inclusive, and Relevant and Responsible. These can be transferred to the practice of continuing education, in which skills and knowledge are picked up (like a buffet selection) that are adapted to the needs of students in their jobs, so that they can deal with the changing world in which we find ourselves.

Afterwards, the first **CIIE keynote panel, “The University of the Future”**, included rectors from La Tríada: Raquel Bernal, from the University of Los Andes; Ignacio Sánchez, from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, and Juan Pablo Murra, Rector for Higher Education at Tec de Monterrey. The central topics they discussed were the university of the future and

educational innovation based on three axes: the university as a platform for civilization and culture, as a platform for social wellbeing, and as a basis for individual progress.

These three speakers highlighted the role of teachers in supporting the education process, which they should be prepared for in terms of educational innovation, “putting students at the center, making the classroom more active, and utilizing components for interactive forums, as well as virtual technologies to emphasize presence” (Ignacio Sánchez).

Bernal stressed the transformative power of education, Sánchez highlighted the actions of professors and researchers to conduct joint projects and be instruments for empowering an ample and diverse university community, while Murra concluded: “universities must be beacons of hope for making dreams achievable.”

Meanwhile, the **keynote panel “The Most Promising EdTech Startups in LATAM,”** including Lissy M. Giacomán Colyer, Co-founder and CEO of Vinco; Julian David Melo Zambrano, CEO of Ubits; and Juanita Ordóñez, Co-founder and Growth of PROtalento, provided an unmissable conversation.

They listed the key components for startup success, which are: identifying flashpoints that need some kind of transformation to solve them and find people who are willing to pay for this (Giacomán), staying focused on meeting the needs of customers (Melo), developing platforms with quality content, understanding that impact and profitability go hand-in-hand, and seeking partnerships with other organizations to strengthen your own (Ordóñez).

Other memorable talks on this first day of **CIIE 2023** were given by **Nina Smidt, Director of Siemens Stiftung**, who spoke about STEM Education and Citizenship at the inauguration of the Second Meeting of the STEM LATAM Network; **Stephen W. Harmon, Interim Executive Director of the Center for 21st Century Universities**, on innovation for access to lifelong learning; and **Professor Pey Kin Leong**, who discussed Cyber-Physical Learning.

Other activities were held on parallel tracks, such as workshops and talks, the RIE 360 Award ceremony for educational innovation, a panel from La Tríada vice rectors on digital education, and the commencement of the now-traditional exhibition of posters on educational innovation projects.

CIIE 2023 will continue until **January 18**, offering disruptive and innovative options for co-creating the education of the future. Please visit www.ciie.mx for more information about the conference.

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Press Contacts:

Tecnológico de Monterrey
Gressia Arévalo
gressia.arevalo@tec.mx
Cellphone: 33 3467 7080

Alterpraxis
Fernanda Gutiérrez
fernanda.gutierrez@alterpraxis.com
Cellphone: 55 5401 7537

About Tecnológico de Monterrey

Tecnológico de Monterrey (<http://www.tec.mx>) is a private nonprofit multi-campus university system founded in 1943, and distinguished globally for its academic excellence, innovation in education, entrepreneurship, and global vision, along with its deep engagement with industry and employers, and its high executional capability. With a presence across 28 cities in Mexico, the institution has more than 67,000 enrolled undergraduate and graduate students, almost 7,000 faculty members, and more than 26,000 high school students served by 2,500 professors. The institution has been accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) since 1950. According to the QS World University Rankings (2023), Tecnológico de Monterrey ranks 170th globally and among the top 30 private universities worldwide. The QS Graduate Employability Rankings (2022) places the institution 1st in Latin America and 26th globally for Employer Reputation. The Times Higher Education Latin America University Rankings (2022) ranks the institution 1st in Mexico and 5th in Latin America. Tecnológico de Monterrey is the only university outside the USA included in The Princeton Review & Entrepreneur magazine ranking of Top Schools for Entrepreneurship Studies (2023), placing 4th for undergraduate entrepreneurship programs. Tecnológico de Monterrey belongs to several prestigious global networks including, the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), Universitas 21 (U21), and The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN).