

## Foreword to Special Issue on 'Challenges and changes: Education and Learning in the Digital Era'

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I was delighted when I learned that the reports from the 2023 Cross-Strait Tsinghua University Symposium on Learning Science and Technology were to be published as a special issue. This will help more readers to understand the specifics of this forum and to experience its academic and intellectual appeal. Here, on behalf of the relevant academic institutions of Tsinghua University on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, please allow me to express my heartfelt thanks to the academic colleagues who participated in this meeting and contributed to this special issue amidst their busy schedules, to Prof. Xibin Han and Prof. Shwu-Ching Young, who were in charge of this special issue, and to all the colleagues in the editorial team.

The Cross-Strait Tsinghua Symposium on Learning Science and Technology is an academic exchange program agreed upon by Tsinghua University on both sides of the Taiwan Strait in celebration of its 100th anniversary, and is of special historical significance. It is an academic way to remember our common and unforgettable history, and to pass on and carry forward the Tsinghua spirit of "Self-Discipline and Social Commitment"! The first symposium was held at Tsinghua University in Hsinchu in April 2013, with the theme of "Integration and Development of Diversity Orientation". After that, Tsinghua University on both sides of the Taiwan Strait took turns hosting the

symposium every two years, and the fifth symposium was held online in June 2021 due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic. At that time, I was also invited to give a speech by video on behalf of Tsinghua University's Institute of Education. Over the past ten years, under the careful planning, active participation, and full care of Tsinghua people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, the symposium on learning science and technology has gradually grown to be a brand of academic exchanges between Tsinghua on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, and a link connecting Tsinghua teachers and students on both sides. It has also had a positive effect on promoting Tsinghua-related academic research and collaboration in response to the major changes in the field of human learning and education in the new era. We should remember all the former scholars who initiated and supported the Cross-Strait Tsinghua Symposium on Learning Science and Technology, and express our high respect for their foresight!

“致知穷理，学古探微”(Zhi zhi qiong li, xue gu tan wei)“立德立言，无问东西”(Li de li yan, wu wen dong xi) is the unchanging original intention of Tsinghua people on both sides. The theme of this forum is "Challenges and Changes: Education and Learning in the Digital Age". The establishment of this theme results from thorough discussions between Tsinghua scholars from both sides of the Taiwan Strait and is dedicated to discussing

the new challenges, new trends, and new issues facing the transformation of education and learning in the digital era. In recent years, the wave of digitization as an upgraded version of the wave of informatization has swept across the globe. It has had and will continue to have a widespread, profound, and complex impact on politics, economy, culture, and education, as well as social interaction, identity construction, and international relations in human society. Some international organizations, like UNESCO, OECD, APEC, etc., have already started to analyze the challenges and impacts of digitalization on education and learning. Particularly, ChatGPT, pioneered by OpenAI at the end of last year, has had a sustained impact on the field of education and learning, with different educational institutions and learners even adopting opposite attitudes and strategies towards this latest technology. How to respond to the challenges brought by digitization to human education and learning system, how to take advantage of the unprecedented

computing power and technological conveniences it offers to solve the problems of personalization, adaptive and lifelong learning that have long plagued us, and, the same time, how to prevent and solve the new ethical issues of education and learning brought about by the digital era, and, in particular, how to prevent previous education and learning divide from widening further, and to guarantee the right to education and learning for socially disadvantaged groups? These are all new and critical issues that we need to ponder and study in depth today. Tsinghua University on both sides plays a leading role in higher education, and many academic institutions and researchers are dedicated to researching these cutting-edge issues. It is sincerely hoped that Tsinghua scholars from both sides can join hands on these cutting-edge, global, and fundamental scientific and technological issues, and contribute to the promotion of the education and learning system towards a learning society where “everyone can learn, anywhere, at any time”.

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