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联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترية والعلم والثقافة

UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Dr. Khodayar Abili
Rector
Mehr Alborz Higher Education Institute
Tehran
Islamic Republic of Iran

Ref: ED/FLI/24/96

16 May 2024

Subject: Renewal of the agreement of the UNESCO Chair on E-Learning and Teaching, Mehr Alborz Higher Education Institute, Islamic Republic of Iran (ID 2016IR1146)

Dear Rector,

In reference to the request to renew the mandate of the UNESCO Chair on E-Learning and Teaching, I am pleased to inform you that the agreement between UNESCO and the Mehr Alborz Higher Education Institute concerning the Chair, initially established in 2016, shall remain valid until 30 June 2028.

Under the leadership of the Chairholder Dr. Aliakbar Jalali, the Chair will contribute to advance UNESCO's ongoing endeavors to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to foster knowledge sharing and skills development in the digital age.

Recognizing the pivotal role of institutional support in ensuring the success of the UNESCO Chair, we seek your commitment, in this new mandate, to facilitate the active engagement of the Chair's team in various UNESCO activities and those organized by its partner institutions, as well as to leverage opportunities for interuniversity collaboration, and to champion knowledge sharing and dissemination activities. Your unwavering support in this regard will strengthen the Chair's impact and outreach.

The UNESCO Chair is encouraged to consult the [UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme guidelines and procedures](#) regarding some changes, including renewals. More specifically, and to ensure that all UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks are contributing to UNESCO's programme and priorities, a revised set of criteria will be used in future evaluations of renewal requests, as published in Annex B of the guidelines. In this regard, the Chair should align its activities – as relevant – to the new requirements.

The [Chair's website](#) describes the objectives of the Chair but could be improved by showcasing latest activities, and further connections with UNESCO ongoing priorities and programmes. However, the logo used on the webpage and other multimedia materials should be updated to the new logo. The Chair is strongly encouraged to continue focusing on expanding access to e-learning opportunities, particularly in remote and underserved areas of Iran. Further, the Chair is encouraged to strengthen its engagement with UNESCO and to explore opportunities for engagement with other UNESCO Chairs and Networks.

To this end, a database of the programme members is updated regularly on the [UNITWIN Programme webpage](#).

All members of the Chair are also invited to join the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs [LinkedIn Group](#) and to participate in UNESCO-driven initiatives/activities, intellectual and public policy dialogues, ethical reflections and standard setting processes. The designated focal point, Mr. Mohsen Gholami, National Programme Officer in Education, UNESCO Office in Tehran, (e-mail: m.gholami@unesco.org) can be contacted to seek out opportunities for closer collaboration with UNESCO. The focal point looks forward to hearing from the Chair on a regular basis – please add him to your mailing lists, invite him to join Chair events, and share your latest research/publications.

Finally, should the Mehr Alborz Higher Education Institute wish to continue to host the UNESCO Chair beyond this mandate, a formal request is to be submitted to UNESCO by 30 December 2027 through the dedicated online platform. The renewal of the Chair may require the signature of a new agreement.

Do not hesitate to contact the UNITWIN Programme team for any questions you may have at unitwin@unesco.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sobhi Tawil', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sobhi Tawil (PhD)
Director
Future of Learning and Innovation