

# Tec Institute for Future of Education shares challenges with teachers



Directors from the [Institute for the Future of Education](#) (IFE) at [Tec de Monterrey](#) shared their **work and the challenges** for the **future of education** during a panel at the **2022 National Teachers' Conference**.

[Michael Fung](#), Executive Director of the IFE, and José Escamilla, Associate Director of the institute, spoke about **disruptors** and the new **paradigms of education**.

*“Accelerated growth in the education sector is expected over the next 20 years, which implies major changes to the way we teach and learn,”* Fung explained.

*“Our dream at the IFE is to create a future for education which will improve the lives of millions of people around the world,”* shared Escamilla.

**CONNECTA** shares the most important points concerning these educational challenges.

Michael Fung y José Escamilla hablan sobre el futuro de la educación width="900" loading="lazy">  
**Transformations in the workplace and education**

According to Fung, technological advances, demographic changes, **career** longevity, and globalization, as well as the recent **global pandemic**, have served as **disruptors within the future employment landscape**.

*“We need **new skills** to deal with these **disruptions**,”* said the IFE’s executive director.

While the expert emphasized that different disruptors will always be part of the norm, Fung stressed how they increasingly require a more **agile, flexible, and adaptable educational model**.

*“The problem we’re now facing is that our educational systems aren’t designed to deal with disruptors, so **we need a new paradigm that adapts**,”* Fung explained.

The executive director points out that we first need a system that focuses on **lifelong learning** that’s capable of supporting the updating of knowledge people acquire as time goes by.

*“A **trend** we’ll see in the future is this **emphasis on active learning**, placing students at the center, and giving **greater importance to challenge-based learning**,”* added Escamilla.

Likewise, Fung points out the need for **multiple pathways or routes** within education that give students the ability to continue learning in different areas to remain employable.

*“Employers say they’re looking for **graduates with relevant skills** from the very first day they join the industry,”* he shared.

Similarly, the expert underlined the **importance of challenge-based learning** to ensure students have the necessary skills when entering the job market.

Predicciones y tendencias del futuro de la educación width="900" loading="lazy"> **A model able to adapt to a shifting paradigm**

According to Fung’s assessment, [models such as Tec21](#) already have a **skills and challenge-based learning approach** that can deal with the changing employment landscape.

The **Tec21 Model** is based on **challenge-based learning** with **flexibility, inspiring professors, and a memorable student experience**.

*“This type of approach will help us **modularize our curriculum** so that **it can be much more flexible** and responsive to the changing needs of the workforce,”* he said.

That being the case, the expert believes **new models** should have more **learning based on work and workplaces**, introducing **problems from industry into the classroom**.

*“**Our dream at the IFE is to create a future for education which will improve the lives of millions of people around the world.**” - José Escamilla*

In order to do so, the executive director emphasizes **lifelong learning** as a way for students, professors, and alumni to have **continuous development**.

Similarly, he highlighted the role played by skills and governance/operations within universities within the process of **new educational models**.

*“We need to have a **forecast of the skills that’ll be required**, as well as greater participation from industries,”* he stressed.

As Fung sees it, **learning and growth isn't only for students**, but also for teachers, since they should also receive **life and career advice** along with **updated information about the industry** to which they belong.

On a final note, Michael highlighted the **need for a flexible learning environment** that allows **people to come and go seamlessly** as needed to **continue their education over the course of their lives**.

Michael Fung habla sobre el futuro de la educación width="900" loading="lazy">

### **The future of education will be “fair”**

As part of his participation, Fung highlighted the IFE's **vision for the future of education, which is that it must be “fair”** (FAIR: Fit for Purpose, Accessible, Inclusive, and Relevant/Responsive).

*“The **future of education** must be FAIR. Education has to be fit for purpose, accessible, inclusive, and relevant,”* said the director.

The first point, “Fit for Purpose”, refers to the fact that **pedagogical and technological approaches** must be capable of culminating in **effective learning**.

The second, “Accessible”, refers to **accessibility in education**, particularly when it comes to catering to the needs and contexts of different types of students.

In terms of **inclusive and high-quality education**, Fung says that both higher education and lifelong learning are **opportunities that should be universally accessible to all segments of the population**.

Lastly, the director emphasized the final point, ensuring that **education must be relevant and responsive** to the changing needs of both **industries and society**.

Modelo FAIR para el futuro de la educación width="900" loading="lazy">

Regarding the **use of technology**, Escamilla recalled the importance of **thinking of it as a pedagogical tool** that places students and users at the center.

*“In the future, **technology will allow us to develop educational models** that aren't currently possible due to the limitations we have,”* he explained.

According to Escamilla, **artificial intelligence** is first among the **technologies that will be the driving forces** for keeping up with these trends.

*“The important thing to remember is that **technology will never be a substitute for teachers**, but merely a support,”* he stressed.

## Panel IFE sobre el futuro de la educación width="900" loading="lazy"> **The Institute for the Future of Education grasps the challenge**

According to Escamilla, the IFE has identified **5 challenges for the future of education**, which they seek to combat from an institutional perspective.

*“These challenges help us at the institute in guiding everything we do. We organize **our research, innovation, and entrepreneurship** on the basis of these,”* shared the associate director.

Regarding the challenge of **access** and **inclusion**, he proposed developing **skills for worker mobility**, as well as enhancing the **quality** of Higher Education and learning **opportunities** for all **population sectors**.

When talking about **quality** and **relevance**, he proposed **raising** learning outcomes and transforming **teaching methods** to make them more **attractive** and **efficient**.

What’s more, he suggested designing **effective systems** for **skills-based** education and lifelong learning to **improve** learning **outcomes**.

Finally, concerning **efficiency**, he highlighted the importance of making education **affordable** and **convenient** for different **student segments**.

*“We aren’t going to achieve the dream we have for the **future of education alone**. We need the **support and collaboration of many people and organizations** around the world to achieve it,”* Escamilla concluded.

### **2022 National Teachers’ Conference**

From July 4 to 7, **Tec de Monterrey** is holding the **2022 National Teachers’ Conference**, a space with messages from directors about educational advances and future plans, as well as talks from **guest speakers** and **hybrid activities**.

This year’s main theme is “Our faculty: Impact, Closeness, and Technology in a ‘**High Touch-High Tech**’ environment.”

This conference **is being held on-campus at 4 venues**: Monterrey campus, Mexico City campus, Guadalajara campus, and Querétaro campus.

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