1. Executive Summary:

Major outcomes, results and impact of the Chair, including on national policies, in relation to its objectives as stated in Article 2 of the Chair Agreement (between the Institution and UNESCO)

We are honoured that Houlin Zhao (Secretary General of the ITU) and Jean Philbert Nsengimana (Minister of Youth and Information Technology, Rwanda) agreed to become Honorary Patrons of the UNESCO chair in ICT4D during 2016.

This year has seen substantial changes in the organization of the UNESCO Chair for ICT4D:

- In line with Royal Holloway’s reorganization of research centres and institutes, the ICT4D Centre, directed between 2011 and 2016 by Dr. Kleine, has been closed, with all ICT4D related activities being centralised within the UNESCO Chair for ICT4D;
- The Chairholder, an unsalaried Emeritus Professor, returned to an active role in revitalizing the UNESCO Chair;
- Membership of the UNESCO Chair has been reorganized, with a new category of Affiliated Members being introduced for those not on the staff at Royal Holloway; and
- New branding, website (http://www.ict4d.org.uk; https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/) and social media presence (@UNESCOICT4D) has been developed.

The Chair’s activities have continued to focus on:

- High quality research, not only in terms of publications, but also in renewed applications for research grants, and new methods of research dissemination, including a series of ICT4D Briefing (https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/ict4d-briefings/);
- International policy impact, through membership of key advisory boards, and also through increased engagement with UN bodies, notably UNESCO, the ITU (in which the Chair has been an active Academia Member, one of only 4 from the UK), and the UNU. The UNESCO Chair remains within the top ten science and technology think tanks in the world in the 2016 Global Go To Think Tank Report by the University of Pennsylvania (ranked 10th).

Doctoral postgraduate support: members of the Chair continue actively to supervise research students in a multi-disciplinary context. Further to support these students, the Chair has initiated a monthly “multidisciplinary conversations” programme which involves discussions around the challenges and successes of multidisciplinary research (https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/postgraduates/multidisciplinary-conversations/).
2. Activities:

Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period

a) Education/Training/Research
(key education programmes and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)

i) Education (leading to certificate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>During the 2016 year Members of the Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Continued to teach a stream on ICT4D within the <em>Master’s programme</em> on Practising Sustainable Development. In recent years, numbers doing this stream have declined, and in the context of the rationalization of Master’s programmes in the pertinent departments it has been decided not to offer the stream in the 2017-18 academic year. The Chair is considering putting relevant Master’s learning resources freely available online for anyone to access, but the IPR issues and delivery mechanisms need to be resolved.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Have supervised 12 PhD students, 9 of whom play an active role (alongside our Master’s students) in our wider postgraduate activities.</td>
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Successful PhD defences during 2016 included:

- Fernanda Scur: *Network Interaction Patterns within Brazilian ICT4D initiatives*
- Man Xu: *Rethinking regional development and spatial inequality: Evidence from county-level China*

For more information about our postgraduate activities see: [https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/postgraduates/](https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/postgraduates/)

Members and Affiliated Members of the Chair also contributed to externally certified courses, including:

| ii) Training (short term) | The Centre for ICT4D currently does not provide formal short-term courses itself on campus, but in the light of last year’s report discussions have taken place during 2016 to identify |
areas where the Chair can indeed deliver successful training workshops. In 2017, we are planning to run a series of workshops on ICTs and Disability in support of initiatives on which we are working with the Inter-Islamic Network of IT.

During 2016, the Chairholder delivered two training workshops in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan:

- 12-13 January 2016: Workshop on *ICTs for Development: mainstreaming the marginalized*, in collaboration with Inter-Islamic Network on IT, and COMSATS IIT.

### iii) Research

The activities of the UNESCO Chair are led by in four main Schools, Departments and Units at Royal Holloway, University of London: Computer Science, Geography, Information Security, and Management, and there are also Affiliated Members from other universities across the world and civil society organisations (full details of membership are available at https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/members/). As a result of restructuring of the Chair in 2016, we are now beginning to work together more effectively as a team, and integrating our Affiliated Members in more of our research activities, particularly our monthly seminars.

Full details of our areas of research expertise, and how these relate to the Sustainable Development Goals are described at https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/research/. Most numbers of researchers focus in the following main areas:

- ICTs and Accessibility (SDG 10)
- Concepts and theories of ICT4D (SDGs 1 and 10)
- Cybersecurity
- ICTs and Economic Growth, including innovation (SDGs 8 and 9)
- ICTs for Education (SDG 4)
- Environment and sustainability (SDGs 7, 11 and 12)
- Gender (SDG 5)

Details of publications resulting from this research in 2016 are listed below
b) Conferences/Meetings
(key conferences and meetings organized by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ONLY INCLUDES CONFERENCE DETAILS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CHAIR. DETAILS OF AFFILIATED MEMBERS ARE NOT INCLUDED

i) Key conferences and workshops hosted by the Chair

See 2.a.iii above for details of two workshops

ii) Other conferences/organizational activities undertaken by the Chairholder and other colleagues

Chairholder:
Moderated Session on “Making money out of the SDGs?” at ITU Telecom World, Bangkok, November 2016

Moderated session by ITU/Child Helplines International at ITU Telecom World, Bangkok, November 2016

Planning Committee for the Global Summit on Internet for All, World Economic Forum, 2016

Other colleagues:

iii) A selection of conference presentations by the Chairholder and other colleagues

Chairholder (Tim Unwin):
Two contributions on international partnerships and ICT for education initiatives in poorer countries of the world at Consortium for School Networking annual conference, Washington DC, 5-7 April 2016

Patriarchy, Islam and ICTs, ICTD 2016, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 6 June 2016.


Information and communication technologies: resolving inequalities?, Ciclo Conferencias Programa Jean Monnet series on Los Desafíos de La Integración Europea, at the Societat Catalana de Geografia in Barcelona, 4 October 2016.

Understanding inequality: geographical journeys, Jean Monnet Action, International Conference, Barcelona, 5 October 2016
Other colleagues:


**Kromidha, E.**, (2016). Exploring connectivism in the context of online social trading. 7th international Conference on Internet Technologies and Society, 6-8 December 2016, Melbourne, Australia.


iv) Invited presentations


Unwin, T. Invited seminar on “Reclaiming ICT4D” at USAID, Washington DC, 7 April 2016

c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships

*(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)*

**Harindranath, G.** (2016), Visiting Scholar, Institute of Information Management and Control, WU Vienna, Austria, 30 May to 5th June.

d) Publications/Multimedia Materials

*(major publications and teaching/learning materials)*

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<td>Multimedia Materials (Other)</td>
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</table>
Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ONLY INCLUDES MATERIAL BY MEMBERS OF THE CHAIR. PUBLICATION DETAILS OF AFFILIATED MEMBERS ARE NOT INCLUDED

i) Theses

Fernanda Scur (PhD 2016): Network interaction patterns within Brazilian ICT4D initiatives

Man Xu (PhD 2016): Rethinking regional development and spatial inequality: Evidence from county-level China

ii) Publications by Members of the UNESCO Chair (excludes Affiliated Members Publications)
(see also https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/research/publications/)


The UNESCO Chair in ICT4D initiated a series of monthly ICT4D briefings (https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/ict4d-briefings/) in October 2016, the first of which were:

- Gwilym Eades on ICT solutions in proactive disaster management (1.1 October 2016)
- Endrit Kromidha on Digital innovations for financial inclusiveness (1.2 November 2016)
Tim Unwin and Bushra Hassan on *Gender and ICTs – still a long way to go...*  
(1.3 December 2016)

e) Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices

The Chairholder designed the UNESCO/Emir Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2016


f) Other
(Any other activities to report)

Policy Impact

During 2016 the Chairholder served a member of the following international and national advisory boards relating to ICT4D:

- Advisory Board, Grazer
- Advisory Board of ITU and UN Women’s EQUALS initiative
- International Advisory Board, United Nations University – Computing and Society
- Steering Committee, World Economic Forum’s Internet for All initiative.
- DFID Digital Advisory Panel
- International Advisory Board, ITU’s m-Powering Development Initiative (Chair m-Learning Working Group, and Advocacy Working Group)
- International Advisory Board, Institute for Social Informatics and Technological Innovations, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

The UNESCO Chair also administers two digital environments:

- The ICT4D Group on Facebook (founded in 2007 from the original ICT4D Collective created in 2004) which now includes 4,892 members;
- A mailing list of 1133 members

These are used to disseminate information, share ideas, and influence policy globally relating to the use of digital technologies in and for development.

Editorial roles in relevant journals of Members of the Chair:


Harindranath, G. also serves as Senior Editor, *Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries (EJISDC)*; Editorial Board Member of the prestigious *Journal of Information Technology (JIT)* - 2016 Impact Factor: 4.775; 2016 5-year Impact Factor: 6.189; and as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Global Information Management (JGIM)*.

The Chairholder, Tim Unwin, also serves on the following journal editorial boards:

*Space, Society, Development*, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Tbilisi State University, Georgia. (2015-)

*International Iranian Current Sociology* (2009-)

Editorial Board, *triple-c (cognition-communication-cooperation) open-access journal for a global sustainable information society* (2009-)

*Information Technologies and International Development*, (Regional Editor Europe 2005-8; Board 2008-10; Emeritus Board 2010-)


*Children’s Geographies* (2003-)

*Third World Quarterly* (1991-)

**ICT4D Seminar Programme convened by the UNESCO Chair at Royal Holloway, University of London**

8th November 2016. Emmanuel Lallana (Ideacorp) together with colleagues from De La Salle University in the Philippines, Dr. Julio Teehankee (Dean, College of Liberal Arts), Dr. Cheryl Ruth Soriano (Chair, Dept of Communications) and Dr. Sherwin One (Associate Professor of Political Science) *Exploring the role of ICT in Inclusive Disaster Governance and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in the Philippines.*

**Honours**

The Chairholder was appointed Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George in the Queen’s Birthday Honours, 2016 for Services to the Commonwealth as Chair of the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, and as Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation.

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**3. Future Plans and Development Prospects:**

*Outline of action plan for the next biennium and short/medium and long-term development prospects. Please do not hesitate to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced*

2016 was a year of unexpected change for the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D, with Dr. Kleine (who had previously been Director of the ICT4D Centre) leaving RHUL, and the College also restructuring its research groups, leading to a new identity for the UNESCO Chair. In the light of this our future short- and medium-term plans are as follows:

**Short term-plans (2017-18)**

- Focus on building the Chair’s profile and visibility within RHUL to encourage new members actively participating in the work of the Chair
- Renewed focus on gaining success at research grant applications
- Ensuring high quality publications – concentrating on quality, rather than quantity
- Ensuring completion of PhDs and MPhils on schedule
- Maintaining high impact of our research and practice through engagement in international forums and policy making, and publicising this impact more effectively
- Effective continuation of seminar series and multi-disciplinary conversations for postgraduates
- Developing closer engagement with UN bodies, especially UNESCO, ITU, UNU
- Identifying new sources of funding, and exploring options for external funding for senior posts within the UNESCO Chair
- Implementing at least two training workshops in areas of our expertise
- Building closer relationships with private sector to ensure mutually beneficial learning/research synergies, delivering impact and potential sponsorship for activities
- Enhanced marketing, with continued ongoing development of website and social media

**Medium-term (2017-20)**

- Expansion in the number of effective partnerships with civil society, the private sector, and bilateral donors
- Development and implementation of specific short courses on aspects of ICT4D
- Continued enhancement of long term research, particularly substantial grants from UK Research Councils
- Ensuring long-term viability of UNESCO Chair in ICT4D for next renewal with UNESCO due in August 2019.
- Developing independent sustained financial revenues for the Chair.
### Appendix:

1) **Human Resources**

The activities of the UNESCO Chair are led in a collective manner by 12 staff in four main Schools, Departments and Units at Royal Holloway, University of London: Computer Science, Geography, Information Security, and Management. These are full time members of their own Departments, but participate in the Chair’s activities because of synergies in their research interests, their teaching, and the intellectual excitement of being part of this unusual multidisciplinary group.

There are also 12 Affiliated Members from other universities across the world and civil society organisations (full details of membership are available at [https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/members/](https://ict4d2004.wordpress.com/members/)).

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2) **Financial Resources**

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<tr>
<th>Please tick sources of financial contribution and specify the amount in U.S. dollars</th>
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Give details of financial contributions, material resources and space.

The financial arrangements for the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D are unusual, especially since the Chairholder as an Emeritus Professor is unsalaried, and devotes his time for free to catalyzing the group. Almost all teaching and research activities at Royal Holloway, University of London, are funded through departments, which limits the independence and vitality of truly multi-disciplinary entities such as the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D. Nevertheless, space and salaries are provided for individual staff in each ‘contributing’ Department. A surplus from delivering ICT4D events, particularly the ICTD2010 conference, has in the past been used to support staff travel, postgraduate scholarships, research and other activities relating to the Centre. Limited amounts continue to be available its activities.