

Preface

Welcome to the 9th International Conference on Blended Learning (ICBL 2016), which was formerly known as International Conference on Hybrid Learning (ICHL). This year, ICBL 2016 was held at Peking University, Beijing, China, during July 19–21, 2016.

Undoubtedly, blended learning or hybrid learning has become one of the promising approaches to teaching and learning. It aims to integrate traditional learning with innovative means, such as e-learning and open online learning, in order to create a new learning environment to enhance learning effectiveness and enrich learning experience. Hybrid learning literally refers to the combination of traditional learning and nontraditional learning. Blended learning emphasizes not only the combination but also the integration of various modes of learning. This aligns with the latest practices in the field, and hence, our conference name changed accordingly.

ICBL 2016 provided a platform for knowledge exchange and experience sharing among the researchers and practitioners in all areas of blended learning. The theme of ICBL 2016 was “Blended Learning: Aligning Theory with Practices.” The focus was placed on how the theoretical ideas and concepts of blended learning can be adopted as good education practices to enhance learning effectiveness and enrich learning experience. The conference was included keynote addresses and parallel paper presentations.

This year, we received over 60 paper submissions. After a rigorous review process, 34 papers were selected for inclusion in this volume. The selected papers cover various areas in blended learning, including collaborative and interactive learning, open and flexible learning, content development, assessment and evaluation, pedagogical and psychological issues, and experience, strategies, and solutions of blended learning.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following parties who made the conference a success: (a) the conference Organizing Committee; (b) the international Program Committee; (c) the organizers and co-organizers; (d) the sponsors; (e) the publisher of the conference proceedings; and (f) all the conference participants.

We trust you will enjoy reading these papers.

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