

Speaker Profile:

Dr Venkataraman Balaji

Vice President | Commonwealth of Learning



Plenary Topic

'The Impact of AI and Digital Technology on Higher Education Quality and Workforce Development'

Panel Discussion Topic

'Delivering Quality, Relevant and Cost-Effective Higher Education: Challenges and Opportunities for Small Island Developing States'

Dr Venkataraman Balaji is the Vice President of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), based in British Columbia, Canada. He previously served as the Director of Technology and Knowledge Management at COL. He is a specialist in the area of Information and Communication Technology applied to human development. His work at COL in applied technology focussed on testing new models and practices in technology-mediated outreach, which could be deployed in support of learning at all levels. His role also included work related to MOOCs and Aptus.

Dr Balaji has been active in developing and directing several international research and development projects in the area of learning technology, focussing on areas with serious limitations on infrastructure and access. His work towards creation of rural knowledge centers in India in the '90s has been covered extensively in professional publications and global media. He served as a leader of a consortium of research institutes and universities that created a suite of semantic web applications called Agropedia, along with innovative mobile-based services learners in underserved communities.