

INTERNATIONAL TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Global Country Chapters Network | ITA GCCN

INAUGURAL STRATEGIC MEETING

Official Proceedings & Full Transcript Report

12th April 2026 | 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM PKT

Virtual Platform | Webinar ID: 1099612172

24

Registered

18

Attended

11+

Countries

Report Prepared By

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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

The ITA GCCN Inaugural Strategic Meeting marked a historic milestone for the International Teachers Association, officially launching the Global Country Chapters Network — a 'Glocal' framework designed to empower educators worldwide through locally rooted, globally aligned professional development.

Held on 12th April 2026 via virtual webinar platform, the meeting convened distinguished educators, academics, and education leaders from across 11 countries over a three-hour session. The proceedings covered a broad agenda including the ITA dual-pillar global strategy, educator leadership and communication development through the Global Educator Communication and Leadership Academy (GECLA), the role of AI in research and entrepreneurship, alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), and the transformative character-building responsibility of the teaching profession.

This document constitutes the official proceedings and full transcript report of the meeting, compiled for reference, distribution, and institutional record-keeping.

Meeting Details

Event Title	ITA GCCN Inaugural Strategic Meeting
Date & Time	12th April 2026 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM (PKT)
Platform	Virtual Webinar Webinar ID: 1099612172
Convened By	Muhammad Umaid – Global Project Director, ITA GCCN
Presiding Chairman	Peter Cooper – Chairman, International Teachers Association
Total Registered	24 Participants
Total Attended	18 Participants (75% Attendance Rate)
Countries Represented	Egypt, India, Thailand, Maldives, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Turkey, Greece, Pakistan, UAE, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Greece, Somalia
Session Duration	Approximately 3 hours (175 minutes)
Report Generated	12th April 2026 – 8:08 PM PKT

Key Themes & Discussion Areas

- Glocal Strategy — institutionalising local country chapters within a globally coordinated framework
- Educator Leadership & Communication — GECLA certification pathway and professional development
- AI Integration — role of Artificial Intelligence in education, research, and entrepreneurship
- UN SDG 4 (Quality Education) — alignment of ITA activities with global sustainability goals
- Teacher Character & Values — the foundational role of educators in shaping societal values
- Global Collaboration — building cross-border networks for mutual educator empowerment

SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

Name	Role / Designation	Country	Session Time
Muhammad Umaid	Global Project Director, ITA GCCN ITA Consul Pakistan	Pakistan	Full Session
Peter Cooper	Chairman, International Teachers Association (ITA)	Thailand	~00:06–01:40
Dr. Deepak Kumar Behera	Educator & Researcher GCNN Speaker	India	00:17–00:24
Chitra Kannan	IGCSE CS Educator ICT Coordinator Digital Marketer	Maldives	00:38–01:00
Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Sherif	Teacher, Educationist & Governance Expert	Nigeria	01:11–01:29 02:44
Dr. Soumya Ranjan Jena	Assistant Professor, Chandigarh University	India	01:43–01:59
Prof. Nilesh Narayan Prasad	Author, Scientist & Global Education Director, ITA	India	02:05–02:25
Dr. Khaled Hamed	Global Director of Education UNESCO Collaborator	Egypt	02:25–02:33

FULL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

1. Introduction & Welcome [00:00:22 – 00:06:05]

The webinar commenced at 3:00 PM PKT with an automated recording notification. The host, Muhammad Umaid, welcomed all participants and introduced himself as the Global Project Director

for ITA GCCN. He expressed particular pleasure at the attendance of ITA Chairman Mr. Peter Cooper and facilitated a brief video presentation before proceeding with formal introductions. Mr. Umaid then warmly introduced Chairman Cooper and invited him to deliver the opening address.

2. Chairman's Opening Address [00:06:05 – 00:08:06]

Peter Cooper, Chairman of the International Teachers Association, opened the session by expressing his pleasure and honour at inaugurating the Global Country Chapters Network meeting. He extended special gratitude to Muhammad Umaid — the ITA Consul for Pakistan and Project Director for GCCN — for conceiving and driving this initiative forward.

Chairman Cooper outlined the project's foundational focus areas:

- Professional teacher training through structured Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs
- Addressing local curriculum gaps and fostering pedagogical innovation
- Advancing digital literacy across educator communities
- Strategic collaborations and academic publications as pillars of ITA's global engagement

He relinquished the floor to Muhammad Umaid to lead the substantive proceedings, expressing full confidence and continued support for the GCCN mission.

3. ITA Dual-Pillar Global Strategy [00:08:06 – 00:16:57]

Muhammad Umaid presented the foundational strategic document for the ITA GCCN, introducing what he termed a 'dual-pillar global strategy' — a framework designed to position ITA as a locally rooted yet globally impactful ecosystem for educators worldwide.

PILLAR ONE	PILLAR TWO
Local Impact through Country Chapters Establishing ITA as the heart and soul of educator communities in every nation — translating international mandates into tangible local transformations through national chapters.	Global Communication Excellence Building a high-performance ecosystem of educator communicators and leaders who can represent ITA on the world stage and foster international collaboration.

4. Empowering Societies Through Education [00:16:57 – 00:24:36]

Dr. Deepak Kumar Behera delivered a compelling presentation on the multi-dimensional role of educators in building regional resilience, framing education not merely as an academic endeavour but as a societal imperative.

Dr. Behera articulated three core dimensions of educator impact:

- Economic Resilience — educators as drivers of skill development, innovation, research capacity, and digital readiness in their communities

- Health Resilience — educators as catalysts who promote health awareness, enable behaviour transformation, and foster community engagement
- Social Integration — the importance of integrating education, economic development, and health as interdependent pillars of a balanced, resilient society

He underscored the role of global platforms such as GCL in fostering cross-border collaboration and cultivating educational leadership at a systemic level.

5. GECLA — Global Educator Communication and Leadership Academy [00:24:36 – 00:38:12]

The Global Educator Communication and Leadership Academy (GECLA) was introduced as a cornerstone initiative within the GCCN framework. GECLA is specifically designed to strengthen the leadership and communication capabilities of educators at all levels.

GECLA operates on a zero-cost global implementation model — the value lies not in financial investment but in the material, effort, time, and commitment that participants bring to their professional development journey.

Key features of GECLA as presented:

- An institutional alternative to paid speaking clubs, making leadership communication development accessible to all educators
- Strengthens educator community capacity and develops national leadership pipelines
- Supports international collaboration aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4
- Five-level certification pathway recognising progressive skill development:

Level	Certification Title	Focus Area
1	Foundation Communicator	Core communication and presentation fundamentals
2	Developing Educator Communicator	Structured communication for educational contexts
3	Proficient Leader Communicator	Leadership through communication in teams and institutions
4	Advanced Global Communicator	International platforms and cross-cultural communication
5	Distinguished Global Educator Communicator	Mastery — international representation and mentorship

6. Leadership & Communication in Education — Miss Chitra Kannan [00:38:12 – 01:00:23]

Miss Chitra Kannan was introduced as an IGCSE computer science educator and ICT coordinator with 17 years of international experience, currently based in the Maldives. She is a certified digital marketer with expertise in guiding student projects focused on real-world sustainability and industry contexts, and has delivered webinars on Leadership & Communication: From Principle to Practice in Education

Core Themes — Leadership for Educators

- Leadership defined as the ability to set clear directions, inspire others, and facilitate action — extending beyond formal titles to every educator
- Leadership is vital for: clarity of purpose, building trust, fostering shared vision, and transforming ideas into real outcomes
- Communication extends beyond speaking — it encompasses active listening, genuine understanding, and clear expression
- Effective communication aligns people toward common goals, reduces confusion, prevents conflicts, and builds strong relationships

Teacher Leadership in Practice

- Teachers exercise leadership daily: in classrooms, departments, schools, and communities — shaping professional culture and guiding learning
- Teacher leadership encompasses: designing meaningful learning experiences, guiding student values, collaborating with peers, and representing the school in the wider community
- Effective communication requires: clear explanations for students, honest dialogue with colleagues, and transparent progress updates with parents
- Outcome: higher student engagement, fewer misunderstandings, stronger relationships, and a positive school culture that encourages innovation

Miss Kannan expressed her vision for GCCN as a safe space to practice leadership and communication, share real project ideas, and build a genuine community of educators who feel connected rather than isolated. Her presentation received considerable praise from Chairman Cooper, who noted only minor adaptational suggestions for management-level audiences.

7. ITA GCCN Leadership Positions & Application Process [01:00:23 – 01:11:16]

The session outlined the formal application process for ITA GCCN leadership roles, specifically Regional Project Directors and Country Project Directors. Applicants are required to:

- Hold active ITA membership
- Provide professional details including current designation, institution, years of experience, academic qualifications, and certifications
- Demonstrate leadership experience including team management and project coordination
- Articulate a strategic vision aligned with UN SDG 4
- Outline potential international partnership strategies
- Demonstrate familiarity with ITA frameworks and institutional values

8. The Role of Teachers in Shaping Character & Society [01:11:16 – 01:29:20]

Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Sherif, introduced as a teacher, educationist, and governance expert from Nigeria with experience spanning from the classroom to policy-making, delivered a thought-provoking address on the character-forming responsibility of educators.

"While academic subjects are taught for examinations, the characters built in students follow them into every aspect of society — influencing their behaviour in public and private life for decades to come." — Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Sherif

Mr. Sherif raised a fundamental question: if graduates of our educational systems still exhibit negative behaviours such as corruption, dishonesty, and professional misconduct, does this not indicate a deficit in the values and sensibilities imparted by their education?

He identified several systemic issues within the teaching profession:

- Teaching is often treated as a 'last resort' profession rather than a vocation of choice
- Teacher recruitment is frequently based solely on academic performance, without regard for character
- Many teachers remain unaware of their profound and lasting impact on students' character development
- Schools must become primary environments for character formation, as children spend the majority of their formative time there

His recommendation was clear: educational institutions should prioritise the character of teachers in recruitment processes, recognising that good teachers instil good qualities, while teachers of poor character can have lasting negative impact on their students' development.

9. ITA GCCN Network Structure & Governance [01:29:20 – 01:38:16]

The organisational architecture of the GCCN was formally presented, establishing a five-tier operational hierarchy designed for accountability, scalability, and institutional effectiveness.

Tier	Role	Responsibilities
Tier 1	Global Project Director	Strategic oversight, international representation, final approvals
Tier 2	Regional Project Directors	Manage country chapters within assigned region
Tier 3	Country Project Directors	Lead national operations and chapter development
Tier 4	Chapter Managers	Day-to-day activities, local events, member engagement

Tier	Role	Responsibilities
Tier 5	Educator Members	The backbone — active participation and local implementation
Advisory	Senior Advisors	Expert guidance without line management responsibilities

Regional divisions include: South Asia, Europe, Middle East, North America, Africa, East Asia Pacific, and Latin America. Governance follows a structured vertical reporting pathway ensuring accountability and information flow from ground-level educator members up to the Global Project Director. All new appointments at Country and Regional Director levels require approval from the Global Project Director.

10. Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Research & Entrepreneurship [01:43:19 – 01:59:29]

Dr. Soumya Ranjan Jena, Assistant Professor at Chandigarh University, presented a comprehensive overview of the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in both research and business environments.

AI in Scientific Research

- Enables faster data analysis and significantly improves research accuracy
- Facilitates comprehensive literature reviews and identifies hidden patterns in complex datasets
- Provides real-time research support and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration
- Assists with image and signal processing, big data experimentation, and evidence-based conclusions
- Improves research productivity, scalability, and cost efficiency

AI in Entrepreneurship & the Job Market

- AI drives data-driven decisions and operational efficiency in businesses of all sizes
- Lowers barriers to entry for small businesses and startups by automating complex data analysis
- Has the potential to significantly reduce the high failure rate of new businesses by improving decision-making
- Critical warning: professionals who do not upskill in AI risk job displacement as organisations increasingly automate tasks

The session generated considerable discussion, with audience members questioning how AI can be harnessed by educators and administrators. Dr. Jena emphasised that the responsibility lies with individuals to proactively develop AI literacy and competence.

11. UN SDG 4 — Quality Education [02:05:43 – 02:25:40]

Professor Nilesh Narayan Prasad, a distinguished author, scientist, and Global Education Director for ITA, delivered a presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals, with particular focus on SDG 4: Quality Education.

SDG 4 — Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Launched in 2015, the 17 SDGs run through to 2030, with SDG 4 specifically addressing the transformative power of education.

Professor Prasad made a compelling argument for sequencing in addressing global education challenges:

- SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) must be addressed before SDG 4 can be realised — children experiencing malnutrition cannot effectively engage in quality education
- Government free-education initiatives must be accompanied by targeted awareness campaigns in remote areas to reach guardians and students who remain unaware of available opportunities

He defined quality education not as the mere acquisition of degrees but as the fostering of:

- Humanity and moral values
- Social skills and civic sense
- Skill-based, practical learning that enhances employability and real-world value

Professor Prasad concluded with a commitment to future panel discussions to further explore SDG 4 implementation and the practical role ITA can play in advancing these goals globally.

12. Dr. Khaled Hamed — Global Education Initiatives [02:25:40 – 02:33:13]

Mr. Khaled Hamed, Global Director from Egypt, was invited to share his extensive experience and contributions to global education. His profile encompasses roles as: International Project Manager, Global Director of Education, Board Member of ITA Accreditation, Education Ambassador for Colombia and Latin America, and Coordinator for the Global Sustainability Future Network.

Dr. Khaled presented his flagship educational initiative — a comprehensive curriculum integrating multilingual education, computer science, and music — which he has been developing for four years across Colombia and Latin America. The project has achieved remarkable reach:

Students Reached	4 million students across Latin America
Development Period	4 years (ongoing)
Curriculum Areas	Multilingual Education, Computer Science, Music
Regions	Colombia, Latin America, Africa (Green Living Focus)
Global Experience	25 years as an educator UNESCO conference participation

13. Q&A, Feedback & Strategic Clarification [02:33:13 – 02:44:59]

The session included an open feedback segment addressing constructive questions raised by participant Atya via WhatsApp prior to the session. Three key points were addressed:

Query / Concern	Response / Clarification
<i>Lack of specific directional goals and community responsibilities</i>	Clarified: GCCN focuses on local impact through leadership development, teacher training, and CPD programmes aligned with SDG 4
<i>Absence of SOPs and role-based workflow documentation</i>	Acknowledged: existing roles provide initial framework; participants are actively invited to contribute to developing further SOPs collaboratively
<i>Verification process for each step of role-based workflows (RBW)</i>	Addressed: verification will be provided through ITA certifications and the Credly platform for enhanced skills recognition

14. Character Building in Children — Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Sherif (Continued) [02:44:59 – 02:53:02]

Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Sherif resumed his address, this time focusing on practical strategies for character transformation in children. Referencing Dale Carnegie's foundational work on influencing people, he outlined a compassion-centred approach to teaching:

- Love and compassion form the root of effective character development — children learn and internalise values when they feel genuinely loved and respected
- Teachers must actively resist greed and biased treatment, committing to treating all students with equal dignity and warmth
- Patience is essential — bad habits should be corrected through love, explanation of consequences, and gentle guidance rather than physical punishment
- Educators are encouraged to maintain a spiritual commitment to their students' wellbeing and future success

15. Closing Remarks & Declaration [02:53:02 – 02:55:16]

The closing segment, presided over by Muhammad Umaid, celebrated the exceptional quality and emotional depth of the three-hour session. Key closing remarks included:

- Praise for all speakers' emotional involvement, passion, and professional preparation
- Recognition that the session's energy made its three-hour duration feel significantly shorter
- Gratitude for the new professional friendships and collaborative bonds formed during the meeting
- Acknowledgement of ITA Chairman Peter Cooper for creating and supporting the GCCN initiative

"The ITA GCCN journey has officially begun."

With collective determination, we are committed to making a positive change in the world.

ATTENDEE REPORT

A total of 24 individuals registered for the Inaugural Strategic Meeting. 18 participants attended the live session, representing a 75% attendance rate across 11+ countries.

First Name	Last Name / Organisation	Country	Duration (min)	Status
Khaled	Hamed	Egypt	170 min	Attended
Prof Nilesh Narayan	Prasad	India	174 min	Attended
Dr. Deepak Kumar	Behera	India	124 min	Attended
Peter	Cooper	Thailand	173 min	Attended
Unmeshsinh	Rajput	India	165 min	Attended
Chitra	Kannan	Maldives	172 min	Attended
Dr. Soumya Ranjan	Jena	India	125 min	Attended
Ekeh	Juliana	Nigeria	49 min	Attended
Yasmeen	Khatton	United Arab Emirates	75 min	Attended
Sunil	Kumar	India	127 min	Attended
Mohsin	Shahzad	Pakistan	63 min	Attended
Abdul Ganiyu	Sherif	Nigeria	165 min	Attended
Quazi	Atahia	Bangladesh	163 min	Attended
Abdurrahim	Dursun	Turkey	7 min	Attended
Athanasios	Katsoulis	Greece	109 min	Attended
Ayesha	Ejaz	Pakistan	87 min	Attended
Mansoor	Ul Haq	Pakistan	141 min	Attended
Oparah	John Courage	Nigeria	21 min	Attended
John	Maina (Neurotech Institute)	Somalia	—	Registered
Maryam	Bello	Nigeria	—	Registered
Ayazhan	Dauletkeldy	Kazakhstan	—	Registered

First Name	Last Name / Organisation	Country	Duration (min)	Status
Akaninyene	Obot	Kenya	—	Registered
Dr. Sahana VM	Vats	India	—	Registered
Ramatu	Aminu	Nigeria	—	Registered

KEY OUTCOMES & NEXT STEPS

KEY OUTCOMES	RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS
- Formal inauguration of ITA GCCN declared - Dual-pillar global strategy formally presented and endorsed - GECLA five-level certification pathway launched - Five-tier organisational hierarchy established - International network spanning 11+ countries activated - Commitment to UN SDG 4 alignment formalised	- Distribute application forms for Country & Regional Director positions - Develop and circulate detailed SOPs and role-based workflows - Launch GECLA onboarding for Foundation Communicator level - Schedule follow-up SDG 4 panel discussions - Formalise collaboration with Dr. Khaled's Latin American curriculum initiative - Establish Credly certification pipeline for GECLA completions

CLOSING STATEMENT

The ITA GCCN Inaugural Strategic Meeting of 12th April 2026 stands as a landmark event in the history of the International Teachers Association. Bringing together educators, researchers, authors, and education leaders from across the globe, it formally inaugurated a network that aspires to transform the professional landscape of teaching — locally, nationally, and globally.

The diversity of voices heard — from Nigeria's call for character-led education, to India's vision of AI-empowered research, to Egypt's reach of 4 million students in Latin America, to the Maldives' articulation of educator leadership — reflects the extraordinary breadth and depth of what ITA GCCN can achieve.

The journey has begun. The network is live. And with collective determination, professional integrity, and a shared commitment to quality education for all, ITA GCCN is positioned to make a meaningful and lasting positive change in the world.

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