In February 2001, two simultaneous, three-day International Online Conferences, in English and in Hebrew, “Opening Gates in Teacher Education” were held. The target audience was teacher educators from all fields, not only those involved in information or educational technology.

For the vast majority of the participating 600+ teacher educators, it was their first experience taking part in an online conference as well as being their first true contact with authentic use of Internet communication technologies. In light of this situation, the participants were offered preparation - technological, pedagogical and psychological - for the totally online event.

This demonstration will illustrate the practice sessions, the real time technical help, the posted presentations before the conference, the psychological preparation, and the testing carried out by the participants before the conference began. Finally, it will look at the effect of these practice sessions and conclude with the belief that pre-conference practice sessions must become an integral part of an online conference to ensure its success. In addition, it will look at the ramifications of this success in terms of eventual integration of technology into the teacher education classroom.

The conference can be accessed at http://vcisrael.macam.ac.il/site