

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF THE NEW NORMAL IN SCHOOL EDUCATION:

An Online Workshop for Policy-makers, Teacher Educators and School Leaders

5-8 October and 12 October 2020

PROGRAMME BRIEF

Introduction

The global COVID-19 pandemic has had huge disruptive effects on normal life, difficult as it already was in many countries. For schools, students and parents, the impact of closed schools and children stuck at home with little or no access to learning, the effect has been devastating. Experts estimate that a whole year of learning could be lost, meaning a whole cohort of students could be permanently lagging behind in their learning.

The crisis and the response to it has exposed weaknesses in educational systems, while creating opportunities to reshape school education to a new paradigm that is more resilient and robust. This pandemic is not the first, nor will it be the last, to impact countries and schools. Such crises are becoming increasingly likely with climate change, technological disruptions and globalised connectivity.

The solution lies in neither a top-down approach from policy makers, reactive changes to teacher preparation and in-service training, nor temporary makeshift arrangements by under-resourced principals and teachers. All parties need to be involved in developing strategies that can be implemented in the near-term as well as long-term. A dialogue across all levels of education is therefore critical in making informed policy to prepare for the new normal in school education.

There exists now a small window of opportunity to learn from each country and experts and in developing a dialogue of expectations and requirements as we move ahead to the next phase of meeting post-COVID-19 challenges, knowing that the world will never be the same again. It is also an opportunity to address the rigidities in the education system of many countries that were exposed by the pandemic.

The HEAD Foundation (THF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are proud to organise this five day online workshop for policy makers, teacher trainers and school leaders, led by international education experts, to chart the way forward and address the key issues.

Expected Programme Outcomes:

1. Commitment to increase the nature and pace of education reform, and to dedicate more resources to education
2. Greater awareness of the 'new normal' in education, and what it means in terms of new skill sets, technology and training.
3. Greater alignment between policy-makers, school leaders and teacher trainers
4. ADB's and THF's commitment to support initiatives that turn crises into opportunities to speed up reform, build system resilience and support decentralisation.

Proposed Participant Learning Outcomes:

1. Gain a good overview of what countries including Singapore are doing to meet the challenges and opportunities of a post-COVID world in education.
2. Examine how decentralisation can stimulate innovation as well as flexibility in the delivery of curriculum and assessment, and prepare students better for the future.
3. Learn how policy-makers can synergise better with school leaders and teacher trainers so that policies specifically pertaining to curriculum, assessment, pedagogy and technology can be reformed in a relevant manner to ensure enhanced support and resources for the 'new normal' in school education.
4. Create alignment between curriculum, teaching, assessment and learning in school and non-school environments to meet 'new normal' educational challenges.
5. Learn how other countries are managing school re-opening and student learning recovery.
6. Discover approaches to re-envision the classroom to promote and sustain student-centred and creative pedagogies.
7. Master strategies and skills needed to promote hybrid delivery of curriculum.
8. Learn ways to empower students and teachers and parents to manage new challenges in 'new normal' schooling.

Participant Profile

There will be 60 participants from Cambodia, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Bangladesh and Kyrgyz Republic. These 60 would comprise:

- 30 school leaders/principals and division heads/superintendents.
- 15 teacher training institution leaders (each country represented by one teacher training institution, with a least one participant at the level of Dean or equivalent)

- 15 policy-makers (include representatives from Manpower and Finance/Trade ministries, if relevant)

10 ADB staff will also be attending the workshop, with the country focals for education (of the 5 participating countries) giving a presentation on Day 1 about the state of education and progress in their respective countries.

Proposed Programme Schedule

Day/Duration	Group		
	School Leaders (Group 1)	Teacher Trainers (Group 2)	Policy-makers (Group 3)
DAY 1	Plenary Session 1		
5 October 2020 3.30-3.50pm SGT	Ice Breaker (country specific) Session Leads: ADB focals for education		
3.50- 4pm	Break		
Opening Session 5 October 2020 4-4.30pm SGT	Opening Remarks Mr Vignesh Naidu, Director, Operations, The HEAD Foundation Dr Brajesh Panth, Chief of Education Sector Group, Asian Development Bank		
	Plenary Session 2		
Session 1 5 October 2020 4.30-6.30pm SGT	State of Education and Progress (15min presentations by each country) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges, Priorities and Progress (Govt official) • ADB's country education initiatives (ADB focal for education) Moderator: Belinda Charles (TBC)		
DAY 2	Group Sessions (in parallel)		
Session 2 6 October 2020 3.30-6pm SGT Format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 mins ice-breaker • 45 mins presentation by expert • 15 mins Q&A • 30 mins breakout room discussion • 30-40 mins summary and wrap-up 	Group 1 Reopening Schools Safely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues in reopening schools • Distance learning options • Minimising learning loss • Engaging parents and stakeholders 	Group 2 Preparing Teachers for the New Normal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies and dispositions needed by teachers and teacher educators for the new normal • Challenges to teacher education programmes 	Group 3 Flexibility in Curriculum and Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for Reform • Providing autonomy within a national system • Building resilience



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities and support for teacher educators • Action Possibilities for Change 	
	Mr Andrew Paterson	A/Prof Christine Lee	Dr N Varaprasad
DAY 3	Group Sessions (in parallel)		
<p>Session 3 7 October 2020 4-6pm SGT</p> <p>Format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 mins presentation by expert • 15 mins Q&A • 30 mins breakout room discussion • 30-40 mins summary and wrap-up 	<p>Group 1 Technology and Pedagogy – Envisioning the Classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybrid delivery of curriculum • Technology infrastructure needed • New pedagogies and skills needed • Assessment models • Minimising learning loss 	<p>Group 2 Technology and Pedagogy – Envisioning Teacher Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting new skills for hybrid model • Effectively integrating pedagogy with technology • Class management in distance education 	<p>Group 3 Technology and Pedagogy – Making It Happen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of ed-tech • Is high-tech the only goal? • Resilience and robustness vs access and equity • Providing support and resources • Defining minimum standard of connectivity to each school and home • Technology for the ‘last mile’
	Mr John Yeo	Prof Lim Cher Ping	Mr Jeffrey Xu

DAY 4	Group Work (in parallel)
<p>Session 4 8 October 2020 4-6pm SGT</p> <p>Format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 breakout rooms (1 room per country) • Faculty to visit rooms to observe discussions 	<p>Group Work Sessions – Integrated presentation preparation by each country</p> <p>Facilitated by respective country’s ADB Focal for Education</p>
DAY 5	Plenary Session 3
<p>Session 5 12 October 2020 2-4.30pm SGT</p>	<p>Integrated presentations by each country (20 mins + 10 mins Q&A each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actionable suggestions on improving education • Align expectations of school leaders • New training framework for teachers • Reform initiatives from policy-makers. <p>Facilitated by Dr N Varaprasad</p>
4.30- 4.45pm	Break and post-programme survey
DAY 5	Plenary Session 4
<p>Session 6 12 October 2020 4.45-6.15pm SGT</p>	<p>Panel discussion to provide feedback and suggestions on a pragmatic way forward</p> <p>Chair: Rie Hiraoka (TBC)</p> <p>Panellists: Dr Brajesh Panth Prof S. Gopinathan Dr N Varaprasad 2 faculty</p>

Programme Deliverables

1. Consolidated training content and reading materials.
2. Videos of faculty presentations (for public).
3. Pre- and post-training participant surveys.
4. Programme evaluation report.
5. A 3-page report, **The Way Forward**, based on the outcomes and consensus reached during the workshop (for public).
6. 3-month post-training evaluation discussion.