

EDUCATION

Updates

3rd May 2020

SOUTHEAST ASIA

ASEAN, Apr 28 [The ASEAN Post]: Facing A Pandemic With Disabilities. Just last month, it was reported that the partners of General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA) from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines held a call to discuss the barriers that citizens with disabilities encounter during the pandemic. [LINK](#)

Cambodia, Apr 23 [The Phnom Penh Post]: Ministry, JICA app for online learning. Think! Think! is a good learning tool to improve IQ, deep thinking and social skills. Students can enjoy learning with family at home. Free online lessons were initially available on the ministry's page and the Krou Cambodia community college. The lessons take place three days a week. [LINK](#)

Indonesia, May 3 [The Jakarta Post]: Indonesian female school heads: Why so few and why we need more? These gaps not only indicate gender inequality but also that many schools, in the world's fourth most populous country, are not benefiting from the effective leadership of women principals and the better learning environments they tend to create. [LINK](#)

Indonesia, May 2 [The Jakarta Post]: COVID-19 disruption and the widening digital divide. Recently, the Education and Culture Ministry has turned to use the national television broadcaster TVRI to deliver learning packages. This effort needs to be further expanded as there are still concerns about access and availability of all the learning materials. [LINK](#)

Myanmar, Apr 28 [Irrawaddy]: Myanmar Universities Invent Robots to Prevent Spread of COVID-19 in Hospitals. Two locally-designed and manufactured robots have been deployed at the makeshift Pyaunggyi COVID-19 medical center on the outskirts of Yangon to transport food, medicine and trash, reducing contact between health care workers and patients and lowering the risk of spreading the coronavirus. [LINK](#)

Philippine, May 3 [The Philippine Star]: Various learning strategies eyed for basic education. As the threat of a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection is expected to remain even after the quarantine regulations are relaxed, the Department of Education (DepEd) has started to consider various learning strategies that could be adopted once schools are allowed to reopen. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Apr 27 [The Star/Asia News Network]: As lessons move online, Malaysian teachers and students struggle with uneven Internet access. Even though the government announced free 1GB data daily through selected telcos for MCO, in the rural areas, there is no access to a stable Internet connection. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Apr 27 [Bernama]: Tertiary education students start returning to hometowns today. The decision to allow these students who were stranded on campus following the imposition of the Movement Control Order (MCO) to travel home was announced following the drop in the number of COVID-19 cases. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Apr 28 [Straits Times]: Coronavirus: Fresh grads to get 4 education, training modules for free. From next month, 16,000 fresh graduates from the six autonomous universities can each take four continuing education and training (CET) modules offered by their alma maters for free. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Apr 29 [South China Morning Post]: Singapore expects spike in job losses as coronavirus pandemic hits demand and economists predict 'darkest year' ahead. Businesses in non-essential services would be worst-hit, while the only bright spots in the economy are the health care, education and public administration sectors. There would be greater demand for tech talent as companies shift their activities online. [LINK](#)

Singapore, May 2 [Channel News Asia]: COVID-19: Some students to be allowed to go back to school from May 19 under easing of circuit breaker. "We will focus initially on the graduating cohort that are taking national exams. And so priority will be given to those who require school facilities for their coursework and practical sessions" [LINK](#)

Thailand, Apr 26 [Pattaya Mail]: Thailand's Universities accept discount policy to reduce tuition fees worries. The management of 52 universities agree with a government request to cut tuition fees and offer instalments to relieve the financial burdens of students and parents in the upcoming semester. [LINK](#)

Vietnam, Apr 26 [Vietnet Global]: E-learning to become part of higher education. Around 57 percent of state-owned schools still have no online training, while the figure is just 20 percent for non-state schools. Most schools are thinking of organizing online training for long-term training. However, many schools complain of difficulties when organizing online training. [LINK](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

Asia Pacific, May 1 [Business Wire]: Insights into the Digital English Language Learning Market in the Asia Pacific to 2027. The education sector in APAC is transforming exponentially owing to various initiatives undertaken by governments and private organizations to digitally drive the sector. [LINK](#)

Australia, Apr 28 [ABC News]: How schools in every state and territory in Australia will be handling coronavirus in term two. How schools would operate while nation-wide coronavirus restrictions are in place has been a contentious topic for some time, with the Federal Government allowing each state or territory to make the final call on their own plans. [LINK](#)

Australia, Apr 26 [The Times World University Rankings]: Australian universities, TAFEs dish up snack-sized courses. But commentators question legality, terminology and strategic value. [LINK](#)

[ASIA PACIFIC \(CONT'D\)](#)

Japan, Apr 29 [Channel News Asia]: Japan's two-month-long school closure is not a pretty sight. Japanese educators, who pull in some of the world's longest hours, and have demurred from introducing new technology and teaching methods into the classroom because of lack of familiarity and resistance to change. [LINK](#)

Japan, Apr 30 [The Japan Times]: 20% of Japan's postsecondary students mull dropout amid virus crisis. According to the survey, 4.8 percent of respondents said they are strongly considering dropping out of school due to falls in their own income from part-time jobs or in their parents' salaries, and 15.5 percent said they are giving some consideration to the option. [LINK](#)

PR China, Apr 27 [Bloomberg]: How to Get 260 Million Kids Back to School After the Virus. For families around the world, it's a snapshot of how the pandemic is toppling the structures of daily living, even after outbreaks subside: From four-times-daily temperature checks to social distancing rules that make socializing impossible, kids' new school realities. [LINK](#)

PR China, May 1 [Fast Company]: This school in China has a brilliant solution for keeping kids 6 feet apart. These social distancing hats were inspired by ancient headwear. [LINK](#)

RO China, May 3 [Channel News Asia]: Ratio of teachers in review panels too high: groups. TAIPEI—Non-governmental children's education groups have called for the Ministry of Education to put more parents and experts — and fewer teachers — on planned review committees that are to decide the fate of teachers considered to be underperforming. [LINK](#)

South Korea, Apr 28 [The Korea Times]: Distance learning has developed resilience for students. "We started off spending hours and hours creating videos and screencasts for students to access each day, we then moved towards more live teaching using Zoom. It was very challenging at the start." [LINK](#)

[EUROPE](#)

Europe, May 2 [University World News]: Universities beyond the coronavirus crisis – What awaits? Now we are entering a phase in which we can catch our breath and begin to look forward, assessing the opportunities and threats that the crisis poses. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, Apr 27 [BBC News]: Return to school in children's interests - Ofsted. While home and online learning were "imperfect substitutes" for school, adult health and infection risk needed to be considered. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, May 2 [The Mayor EU]: Aberdeen ensures laptops and internet access for local students. ABERDEEN: Many individuals and families who had their educational needs hampered due to the lack of the necessary hardware like computers or laptops or due to the lack of stable internet connection. [LINK](#)

France, Apr 30 [FRANCE 24]: Women on the front line (3/3): For those teaching remotely, much of the job is reassuring parents. Almost 70 percent of primary and secondary teachers are women, and [they] are determined to keep teaching – even if they are not in the classroom. [LINK](#)

[AMERICA](#)

Ottawa, Canada, Apr 9 [CTV News]: Ontario cancels final exams for high school students due to COVID-19 pandemic. Students also don't have to worry about their grades falling due to the Learn at Home program. [LINK](#)

United States, May 2 [USA Today]: Is online school program backed by Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg the answer for coronavirus closures? Surveys and interviews routinely find that many students prefer learning directly from teachers and get tired of looking at screens. [LINK](#)

[AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST](#)

Jordan, Apr 29 [The Jordan Times]: Gov't announces loan eligibility criteria for educational institutions. Conditions and requirements for private educational institutions to benefit from financial facilitations provided by the Central Bank of Jordan have been approved. [LINK](#)

Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Apr 29 [World Bank Blogs]: Innovation in responding to coronavirus could pave the way for better learning outcomes in MENA. Countries like Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Morocco are among those leading the charge, employing multi-modal approaches and building innovative partnerships overnight. [LINK](#)

[EDUCATION ARTICLES](#)

Commonwealth, Apr 30 [gov.uk]: UK education providers are helping teachers, parents and students respond to the impact of COVID-19 worldwide. free or discounted resources for students, schools, universities and training providers. [LINK](#)

Global, Apr 30 [World Bank Blogs]: COVID-19's immense impact on equity in tertiary education. Emerging tertiary education powerhouses China and South Korea were among those affected first. Within weeks, however, the virus was global, and every continent and nearly every country had to react. [LINK](#)

Global, May 1 [The World Economic Forum in collaboration with Business Insider]: Plastic partitions, temperature checks, and socially distanced classrooms: How countries are reopening schools following coronavirus closures. Reopening strategies range from keeping windows open for ventilation to spacing desks six feet apart and resuming classes for students of a certain age. Here's a look at the six countries and provinces that have reopened schools so far. [LINK](#)

Global, Apr 27 [University World News]: Time to strengthen multilateralism in higher education. Recent decades have witnessed increasing interconnectedness across borders. Countries or issues which were previously unfamiliar or distant have become immediate in ways we were previously able to ignore. [LINK](#)

Research, Mar 23 [The Lancet]: COVID-19 and medical education. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak has rapidly transitioned into a worldwide pandemic. This development has had serious implications for public institutions and raises particular questions for medical schools. [LINK](#)