



Kingdom of Cambodia
Nation Religion King

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
Speech

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SEAMEO Ministerial Policy e-Forum: Education in a Post-COVID-19
World

Video Conference, 18th June 2020



- *Honorable Mohd Radzi bin Jidin, SEAMEO Council President*
- *Honorable Ong Ye Kung, Council Vice President*
- *Honorable Ministers*
- *SEAMEO Director,*
- *Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Allow me to begin with my sincere thanks to Excellency President, Vice-President and SEAMEO Secretariat Director for making this E-Policy Forum possible. I am glad to meet all honorable Ministers and hope you and your families are well.

Covid has transformed the world, our lives and our education system. Globalization has made the spread even faster. Therefore, we should not allow Covid to divide us. We must be united to fight against this pandemic.

I. Education and Policy Responses

When the first cases were reported in Wuhan, China, our Ministry launched a campaign of hand washing, school health and sanitation. We teach the students how to protect themselves from Covid. We have 20 students in Wuhan, with whom we maintain regular contact and provide support and we learned from them about the virus and the protection.

When the first case was reported in Cambodia, we closed all the schools across the country and prepared for policy responses. We worked on creating digital contents for our digital education and e-learning platform, by creating video of learning contents and disseminate them by using Facebook, YouTube and e-learning system to provide education. Online education was launched.

A month later a new digital TV channel was established to provide distance learning to increase the outreach. For those students with no Internet connection, we allow the students to form small groups for self-study and paper-based distance learning with guidance from the teachers. We introduce online administration to process paperwork for education officials.

II. Good Practices to Manage Education System

Somehow we have transformed the crisis into opportunities, with the following “**Good Practices**”:

Number One: Communication to education officials, students and parents about Covid and education changes;

Secondly, Digital Education Forum and the Establishment of the Center for Digital Education to provide digital education.

Thirdly, Harmonization of digital platform and soft-ware used for e-learning using Google Suite and Google Apps, while using traditional distance learning methods for those with no Internet access;

Fourthly, Partnership with other ministries and all stakeholders;

Fifthly, Digital administration of schools.

Last but not least, digital education for teacher training. Even after Covid, digital education will be part of our education system.

III. Strategies and Principles for School Reopening

At present, our Ministry prepares for a 3-phased gradual school reopening:

During the first phase, only around 10 to 15 high standard schools with high safety standards that can implement the Ministry's **Health Safety Guidelines** will only be allowed to reopen. They will offer both face-to-face and e-learning to minimize the risks of infections. We will learn from the first phase before proceeding to the second phase for middle standard schools and the third phase for minimum standard schools.

To conclude, I would like to wish you Honorable Ministers good health and stay safe.

Thank you for your kind attention.