



SPEECH - DRAFT

SEAMEO Ministerial Policy e-Forum (SMPeF) on Covid-19 Response

Day/Date : Thursday/June 18, 2020
Time : 09.30 - 11.30 WIB
Theme : Education in a Post Covid-19 World

Session : School Opening and Education after the Lockdown
Time : 11.10-11.15 WIB

1. Opening

- Excellencies, Education Ministers of SEAMEO Member Countries
- Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen
- The Indonesian Minister of Education and Culture, Excellency Nadiem Makariem, extend his apologies for not participating in today's forum
- He would also like to thank SEAMEO Secretariat Director **Dr Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela** for inviting, and
- The Minister of Education of Malaysia, **His Excellency Dr Radzi Jidin** for hosting the forum
- Allow me to convey Minister Nadiem's statement

2. Background

- Covid-19 pandemic is disrupting all sectors, including education.
- Never have I imagined to witness a nationwide closures of schools and universities in Indonesia as well as in many other countries.
- Indonesia does not have the perfect solution for this problem, but we continue to seek the most appropriate approach.

3. Learning from home

- To ensure the continuity of education, Indonesia implement distance learning. We are doing it via online, offline, and a combination of both.
- We encourage our teachers and lecturers to use video conference, digital documents, and other online technologies in performing their duties.
- To support them, we initiated massive collaboration with relevant stakeholders to provide subsidized internet quota, free online educational platform and free educational content.
- Everyday we also aired educational and cultural programme on the national television. The TV-based learning program is intended to close the gap of connectivity especially in our rural areas.

4. Safely welcoming Academic Year 2020/2021

- With regard to Indonesia's approach to school opening, we just recently announced a Joint Decree on Guidelines for Learning for New Academic Year



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during Covid-19 Pandemic Period by four ministries (Mins of Health, Mins of Education and Culture, Mins of Religious Affairs, and Mins of Domestic Affairs).

- We believe that coordination is key during a crisis period such as now.
- The Joint Decree was developed with the principle to ensure the health and safety of our students, teachers, education personnel, family and the community as top priority.
- At the moment 94% of total students in Indonesia, located in 429 districts/cities, are still categorised as part of red/orange/yellow zone. These zones are not allowed to start face to face learning method, hence will continue distant learning via online, or through other means.
- Meanwhile the rest of the 6% (85 districts/cities) categorised as part of the green zone, may start face to face learning at school with strict terms and conditions.
- We have decided to implement a very stringent requirements for schools in the green zone if they wanted to conduct face to face learning. For instance, parents as the final decision maker, the implementation of strict health protocol, two months of transition period, and gradual eligibility mechanism based on school levels depending on the students' capability to implement health protocol.
- Similar approach is also being implemented for University students during this pandemic period, where all theoretical subjects must be delivered online, practical subjects that cannot be delivered online must be given at the end of the semester, and also stringent health protocol should students need to come to campus.

5. Closing

- Covid-19 pandemic initiates the-so-called 'new normal'.
- One new normality in education is the ability to study and work from anywhere.
- We could also think the same for SEAMEO: we could collaborate from anywhere.
- So despite of this crisis, we look forward to furthering our collaboration with other SEAMEO Member Countries.
- Thank you.

Session : Question and Answer

Time : 11.15-11.30 WIB

1. How did C-19 transformed your educational system?

- To respond to Covid-19 pandemic, we adjusted our policies.
- Among others, we cancelled our national exam, adjusted our school exam, pushed forward distance learning, and processed student's enrolment with online system.



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- We also adjusted the utilization of our school operational assistance to cater the school's needs during this challenging time.

2. How can regional cooperation in Southeast Asia foster greater results to achieve SDG 4; promoting equitable and quality education and lifelong opportunities for all?

- The pandemic situation taught us about the importance of solidarity and collaboration.
- The same goes for our effort to achieve SDG 4.
- The more we have regional initiatives and dialogues, it will increase our chances in tackling the obstacles that have been blocking us in providing equitable and quality education.