

*Excellencies Education Ministers of ASEAN Member Countries,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to the Organiser for making this special event happen, so that we can share experiences and learn from each other about policy making in the coming prospect.

Through TVs and newspapers, I am very impressed by the actions that our member countries have managed to cope with this unexpected situation and what we have done to reopen schools while ensuring safety of our students and staff.

As for Vietnam, the overall situation so far has also seemed positive. The disease is basically under control as it has been more than 60 days without COVID 19 community infection.

To add into the experiences of other countries, we would like to share some actions taken so far in Vietnam.

First, our responses have been rapid. The Ministry of Education and Training has revised the school year plan and curriculum framework to adapt to the new timeline.

We have also paid special attention to digital transform and the switch of teaching methods over the country. Besides, online classes offering by teachers to their own students, we encourage teachers to share online resources.

In addition, our concerns are also disadvantaged children who are unable to access digital devices from home for learning. As a result, our teachers have developed lessons to be broadcasted on over 28 TV channels throughout the country to ensure education continuity for all students.

You may ask about students who don't have TV at home. We don't leave them behind. Our teachers, even bring handout directly to students' houses.

Our education managers and teachers have also improved their perception and responsibilities. Everyone has been willing to get involved and even beyond the boundary of classroom and school campus.

Regarding reopening of schools, we focus on three aspects:

Firstly, ensuring quality learning for all students to make up for the social distancing, with special consideration of disadvantaged students affected by the pandemic.

Particularly, we have successfully managed to make sure that our national high school graduation exam and other high stake exams happen as scheduled. This is very important to ensure teaching and learning quality.

Secondly, it is important to understand students' difficulties. We need to pay special attention to students who don't return, or who return but not follow up with school work. It will be essential to develop personal pathway to engage those students and their families.

Ministry of Education and Training setup several programs to support for students. For example, Vietnam Student Forum hosted by Department of Student Affairs to develop media content for guiding students in various academic and life skills during social distancing period.

Thirdly, we also found that this is an opportunity to promote digital transform in education. Thousands of video clips are made and shared by our teachers. We are compiling these materials as common sharing resources. We also think of sharing these materials in English to teachers and students within our region.

This pandemic is clearly not the problem of one single country. We are trying our best to ensure the wellbeing and continuity of education for children. This is our common responsibility as educational officials in ASEAN countries.

Thank you!