



WEBINAR SERIES ON SEAMEO'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Background

COVID-19 has changed the educational landscape globally. In Southeast Asia alone, 1.5 Billion learners all over the world are impacted by school closures and remote learning has been a lifeline for learning. About 247 Million learners are hunkering down and attending online/flexible learning options in varying degrees from their own homes, in compliance with strict social distancing protocols and instructions from the various government to stay home. With lockdowns, enhanced quarantine measures, and school closures, everyone is affected and concerns are mounting up on the unintended effects of school closures to learning. Questions such as access to, quality and effectiveness of non-traditional modes of learning such as distance education, alternative learning modalities, flexible learning options, homeschooling, and blended learning emerged. Doubts on how assessments can be done and the acquisition of necessary competencies of learners, as well as the readiness of teachers to transition to online learning and parents to home-based learning, proved to be challenging in the COVID-19 world.

This Webinar Series on SEAMEO Response to COVID-19 addresses the need to have a platform where key players and education stakeholders can discuss and share initiatives and efforts taken to address education disruptions during the pandemic in Southeast Asia. It shall also feature international experts who will give a snapshot of how the global education community has been addressing COVID-19 challenges thus far. Specifically, the webinar aims to:

- Share the COVID-19 responses of education policymakers, SEAMEO Regional Centres and international development organizations, and educational institutions in Southeast Asia;
- Explore scalability of national response and existing solutions at the regional level that may help contribute to the post-COVID plans of actions and agenda;
- Discuss the situation of learning and learners in a situation where there is total lockdown and how SEAMEO Centres are providing immediate and long-term programmes; and
- Discuss recommendations on Post -COVID-19 rehabilitation initiatives.

Webinar Design

There will be four webinar sessions, each lasting no more than two hours. Each presenter will be given 10 minutes and a short question and answer will follow where participants can ask clarificatory questions on the presentation. Below are the details of the webinar sessions:

Webinar 1: Emotional and Psychosocial Health during COVID-19 Pandemic / 29 April 2020 / 1000 hrs (GMT+7)

Guide Questions:

- As educators, how do we deal and manage emotional and psychosocial health issues brought by the prolonged school closures and lockdown?
- What existing strategies can we utilize to deal with learners with emotional and psychosocial concerns due to COVID-19?
- How can we promote and enhance emotional and psychosocial health during and after the COVID-19 pandemic?

Webinar 2: Learning Continues: Making Distance Learning, Open Education Resources and Online Resources Matter during COVID-19 Education Disruptions / 30 April 2020 / 1000 hrs (GMT+7)

Guide Questions:

- In what better ways can we sustain and enhance learning during school lockdowns?
- What are the available education resources that may best respond to the needs of my learners?
- How can we best contribute to the various distance learning options to ensure acquisition of knowledge and competencies?

Webinar 3: Learning and Mobility in Lockdown: Snapshots from the SEA-Teacher and SEA-TVET Network / 7 May 2020 / 1000 hrs (GMT+7)

Guide Questions:

- How will learning and mobility programmes change after the challenges brought by COVID-19?
- What alternatives do we have in terms of learning and mobility programmes?
- What are the best practices and lessons learned from the SEA Teacher and SEA TVET programmes of SEAMEO and how can we use such as we design a post-COVID-19 scenario for learning and mobility programmes?

Webinar 4: Resilient Southeast Asia: COVID-19 Responses and Best Practices / 14 May 2020 / 1000 hrs (GMT+7)

Guide Questions:

- How did countries in Southeast Asia respond to COVID-19?
- How can educators in countries prepare for education disruptions in the future?
- In what ways can education stakeholders contribute to shape the future of education in Southeast Asia post-COVID-19?

Webinar Participants

Participants invited to attend this webinar series include education officials and other education stakeholders in SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO Associate Member Countries, Affiliate Members, and SEAMEO Regional Centres. SEA-Teacher and SEA-TVET participants shall also be invited. Participants will need to pre-register using the link provided in the SEAMEO Secretariat website and official social media channels.

Webinar Output

The outputs, PowerPoint presentations used, and the video recording shall be placed in the SEAMEO website for easy access. The results of the webinar shall also be featured in policy research fora of SEAMEO. This is just the first set among several planned webinars to help the region in responding to the challenges brought by the pandemic.