

EDUCATION *Updates*

22 June 2020

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Malaysia, 22 Jun: Safety for students, teachers [News Straits Times]. Students in Forms Five and Six will return to school on June 24. They will return in stages and will have to follow strict standard operating procedures (SOP) drawn up by ministries. [LINK](#)

Cambodia, 21 Jun: E-learning centre to open at high school [Phnom Penh Post]. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport plans to establish a centre for digital education at the Preah Sisowath High School in Phnom Penh to develop e-learning programmes. [LINK](#)

Myanmar, 21 Jun: Myanmar grapples with teacher shortage ahead of school reopening [Frontier Myanmar]. Almost two months later than scheduled, Myanmar is, cautiously, reopening its schools. [LINK](#)

Singapore, 21 Jun: Inside the Covid-19 mind of Education Minister Ong Ye Kung: How to prevent a lost generation [The Mothership]. It's a Sunday morning and we're in a Zoom call with Education Minister Ong Ye Kung. [LINK](#)

Indonesia, 20 Jun: Education ministry's partnership with Netflix met with criticism in Indonesia [The Jakarta Post]. A decision made by the Education and Culture Ministry to collaborate with streaming platform Netflix has been met with criticism. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 18 Jun: 'Education ministry's decision to include sex health intro for Form 1' [The Borneo Post]. KUCHING: The decision to formulate a new introductory Sexual Health Education syllabus for Form 1 students is the decision of the Ministry of Education (MoE), said Minister of Welfare, Community Well Being, Women, Family and Childhood Development Dato Sri Fatimah Abdullah. [LINK](#)

Vietnam, 17 Jun: Education ministry mulls delayed back-to-school date [VN Express]. The Ministry of Education and Training may push back the August back-to-school date by at least two weeks as Covid-19 break delays school ending. [LINK](#)

Indonesia, 16 Jun: Schools in green zones allowed to reopen: Education Ministry [Coconuts]. With the 2020/21 academic year set to commence on July 13, the Education and Culture Ministry has approved plans to allow face-to-face learning — though the number of schools that will open will be very limited to begin with. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 16 Jun: Education Ministry launches Delima online learning platform [The Star]. PETALING JAYA: The Education Ministry has launched its online learning platform called the Digital Educational Learning Initiative Malaysia (Delima). [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 15 Jun: Education minister says schools will be inspected to ensure Covid-19 preventive measures work [Malay Mail]. Education Ministry officials at all levels will regulatory inspect schools at random to gauge the efficacy of the standard operating procedures (SOP) to contain Covid-19 when they reopen. [LINK](#)

ASIA AND PACIFIC

Pakistan, 21 Jun: Ministry of Education seeks recommendations from provinces on reopening of school [Daily times]. ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ministry of Education has sought suggestions from the provinces regarding the reopening of schools. [LINK](#)

South Korea, 17 Jun: University is first to agree partial tuition fees refund [University World News]. A major private university in Seoul became the first Korean institution this week to say it would partially refund tuition fees to students. [LINK](#)

Sri Lanka, 17 Jun: Ministry of Education to re-consider 2020 GCE A/L Examination date [News 1st]. COLOMBO: Minister of Education, Dullus Alahapperuma has instructed Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Examination Commissioner and other officials at the Education Ministry to consider whether holding this year's GCE Advanced Level examination as announced on the 07th of September, is in favour of the students. [LINK](#)

South Korea, Jun 16: Education ministry to review measures on growing calls for tuition refund: official [Yonhap News Agency]. In response to growing calls by university students for tuition refunds due to the new coronavirus pandemic, a senior education ministry official said Tuesday that the government plans to review follow-up measures. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

United Kingdom, 21 Jun: Coronavirus: 'We will accept the risks for full-time school' [BBC News]. The Scottish government is pushing ahead with blended learning but many parents want full time education to resume in August. [LINK](#)

Bulgaria, 17 Jun: Commission for Combating Corruption Checks Bulgarian Education Minister Valchev for Conflict of Interest [Novinite]. The Commission for Combating Corruption and Confiscation of Illegally Acquired Property filed a complaint with the Minister of Education and Science Krassimir Valchev, the Commission announced. [LINK](#)

Cyprus, 15 Jun: Education minister highlights value of ailing Fairytale Museum [Cyprus Mail]. The education minister discussed ways of helping support the Fairytale Museum in old Nicosia on Monday after it run into financial trouble during the coronavirus crisis. [LINK](#)

EUROPE (CONT'D)

United Kingdom, 19 Jun: Ex minister calls for four-year post-study work visa [University World News]. The combined impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic on international student applications to the United Kingdom poses an “existential threat” to universities young and old and the government should respond with a bold international education strategy aimed at shoring up the UK’s position as the number two destination in the world, Jo Johnson, former universities minister and brother of the current prime minister, has warned. [LINK](#)

AMERICAS

Canada, 20 Jun: Back to school in Ontario: students will mix part-time classes with learning at home, says province [The Sudbury Star]. Ontario’s two million students are expected to return to schooling in the fall that will mix part-time classes in person with remote learning at home. [LINK](#)

Brazil, 19 Jun: Brazil’s controversial education minister resigns [MacauBusiness]. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro’s education minister, Abraham Weintraub, announced his resignation Thursday after finding himself embroiled in a series of controversies and scandals. [LINK](#)

Canada, 18 Jun: Education Ministry spending millions on new computers and mental health staff [My Timm In Snow]. The Ontario government is investing more money into public education. \$15-million will be spent to buy 35-thousand classroom computers and \$10-million will be used to hire additional mental health workers. [LINK](#)

The Bahamas, 17 Jun: Parents Must Be Careful, Warns Education Minister [The Tribune]. EDUCATION Minister Jeff Lloyd hit out yesterday at the “so-called educational establishments” that are operating without the legal authority to do so, revealing that his ministry has had to shut down several institutions. [LINK](#)

Jamaica, 17 Jun: Karl Samuda Now Education Minister [Jamaica Gleaner]. Press Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister Naomi Francis tweeted today that Prime Minister Andrew Holness made the announcement while addressing a meeting of the council of the Caribbean Maritime University this morning. [LINK](#)

Canada, 16 Jun: All Quebec schools to reopen in September: Education minister [CTV News]. MONTREAL- All Quebec schools will reopen in September, the province’s education minister announced on Tuesday. [LINK](#)

AFRICAS AND MIDDLE EAST

Egypt, 21 Jun: Egyptian high-school pupils, masked and gloved, head into exams [Swiss Info]. Hundreds of thousands of Egyptian high-school pupils armed with masks, gloves and hand sanitizers started their final exams on Sunday, despite objections from some parents worried about spreading the coronavirus. [LINK](#)

Ghana, 21 Jun: Huawei supports Ministry of Education with body temperature sensing cameras [Business Ghana]. The Management of Huawei, the Leading Global ICT Company, has equipped the Ministry of Education with a set of fully installed Body Sensing Camera. [LINK](#)

Jordan, 21 Jun: Education Ministry plans to reopen schools two weeks earlier than scheduled [Roya News]. This consideration comes to fill the gap and implement the remedial program related to fixing students’ basic skills, Al-Nuaimi said during a radio interview. [LINK](#)

Liberia, 21 Jun: 12th Grade Students to Resume Classes on June 29 [Front Page Africa]. Monrovia – In the wake of the increase in Coronavirus deaths and confirmed cases in Liberia, the Ministry of Education has formally announced the reopening of schools for 12th graders in the country. [LINK](#)

Rwanda, 21 Jun: Rwanda’s education minister warns against automatic promotion of learners [PML Daily]. KIGALI— Rwanda’s government is undertaking a series of measures to help stamp out automatic promotion and any teacher who acts contrary to the directives will be held to account, Education minister Valentine Uwamariya told a news conference Friday. [LINK](#)

United Arab Emirates, 21 Jun: UAE Education Ministry targeting September reopening for schools [Arab Business]. Officials in the UAE have raised the possibility of reopening schools in September, subject to strict precautionary measures and in line with advice from health authorities. [LINK](#)

United Arab Emirates, 20 Jun: Ministry of Education launches third phase of specialised training for private schools teachers [Emirates News Agency]. The Ministry of Education, MoE, on Friday, launched the third phase of continuous specialised training remotely for teachers of private schools following the ministry curricula. [LINK](#)

Israel, 18 Jun: Education Ministry seeks injunction to force teachers to extend school year [Times of Israel]. In an effort to extend the school year to make up for lost class time during the weeks-long nationwide coronavirus lockdown, the Education Ministry on Thursday petitioned the National Labor Court to force teachers to work for nine additional days into the summer vacation. [LINK](#)

Qatar, 18 Jun: Ministry of Education holds virtual training programme [MENAFN]. The Early Education Department of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education held recently a series of virtual training workshops and seminars for the coordinators and teachers of the foundation stage and kindergarten. [LINK](#)

Uganda, 16 Jun: Uganda: Education Ministry Moves to Digitize Vocational Institutes [All Africa] Kampala, Uganda — The Ministry of Education and Sports plans to digitize all centres of vocational excellence under the Uganda Skills Development Project-USDP as one of the means to ensure continued online learning during and post COVID-19 era. [LINK](#)

UNESCO

UNESCO, 19 Jun: UNESCO and Global Education Coalition partners organize online training to support teachers and students in Palestine. Since early March 2020, 1.43 million children across Palestine have become dependent on distance learning as a result of school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [LINK](#)

UNESCO, 19 Jun: KCON:TACT 2020: CJ Group and UNESCO ensure #LearningNeverStops for girls amid COVID-19. Each year, CJ Group and UNESCO come together during KCON, the world's largest Korean culture convention attended by over 1.1 million, to promote girls' education. [LINK](#)

UNESCO, 19 Jun: Supporting teachers in back-to-school efforts after COVID-19 closures: A toolkit for school leaders. UNESCO, the Teacher Task Force and the International Labour Organization have released a toolkit to help school leaders support and protect teachers and education support staff in the return to school. [LINK](#)

UNESCO, 18 Jun: Build back better: Education must change after COVID-19 to meet the climate crisis. In May, as the COVID-19 pandemic dominated the headlines and every aspect of our lives, a study found that in 50 years one billion people could live in insufferable heat. [LINK](#)

UNESCO, 18 Jun: New UN report shows countries failing to protect children against violence. While global attention is focused on containing the COVID-19 pandemic, one out of two of two children across the world continue to be affected by physical, sexual or psychological violence, according to a new report released by WHO, together with UNESCO, UNICEF, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the End Violence Partnership. [LINK](#)

UNESCO, 17 Jun: Empowering adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa during COVID-19. School closures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted almost 92% of the world's student population. [LINK](#)

UNESCO, 15 Jun: How online science workshops are reaching girls and beyond in Peru amid COVID-19. Samantha, aged 9 from Lima, Peru, was selected to attend this year's science programme run by UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education laureate, the Mini Academy of Science and Technology, or MaCTec. [LINK](#)

ICESCO

ICESCO, 21 Jun: "The Ultimate Journey" Exhibition at "ICESCO Digital Home". In response to the request of ICESCO, to "Layan Cultural Foundation", His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammad Al-Saud, Chairperson of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, kindly agreed to virtually exhibit the rare paintings of "the Ultimate Journey" Exhibition, on "ICESCO Digital Home". [LINK](#)

ICESCO, 20 Jun: In an ICESCO virtual meeting: National Commissions discuss post-COVID-19 world action priorities. ICESCO will hold a key virtual meeting for the National Commissions for Education, Science and Culture in ICESCO Member States. The meeting will be held Monday 22 June 2020, at 9 a.m. GMT (10 a.m. Rabat time), under the theme "Post-COVID-19 world: what action priorities and procedures for education, science and culture?" [LINK](#)

ICESCO, 19 Jun: Virtual Meeting at ICESCO: We need a better understanding of AI potentials and cooperation to address AI dependence. The future challenges and prospects of benefitting from the remarkable possibilities of AI applications in developing the educational process was the subject of the webinar "Artificial Intelligence and Education: Best Practices and Policy Recommendations." [LINK](#)

ICESCO, 17 Jun: Extraordinary Virtual Conference of Culture Ministers of Member States of ICESCO concludes its proceedings. At the close of the Extraordinary Virtual Conference of Culture Ministers of the Member States of ICESCO; held today with the participation of 50 countries and 22 international organizations, under the theme "Sustainability of cultural action in the face of crises (Covid-19)", the Ministers of Culture and the heads and representatives of the participating regional and international organizations undertook to promote the position of culture in tomorrow's societies to face future challenges, support and develop digital culture, raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage, and encourage the culture of solidarity and cultural synergy. [LINK](#)

ICESCO, 17 Jun: Islamic World Ministers of Culture unanimously commend ICESCO's efforts. The Ministers of Culture taking part in the Extraordinary Virtual Conference of Culture Ministers of Member States of ICESCO, held by ICESCO, under the theme "Sustainability of cultural action in the face of crises (Covid-19)", reviewed the initiatives and experiences of their countries to ensure the continuity of cultural action. [LINK](#)

ICESCO, 17 Jun: AIMalik to the Extraordinary Conference of Culture Ministers: ICESCO strives to develop the relationship between culture, tourism, and sports. Dr. Salim M. AIMalik, Director-General of ICESCO, reaffirmed that digital culture is the new face of future cultural action, adding that this makes it imperative to adopt a firm working method to sustain the cultural action, develop cultural tourism and empower the sporting culture by using AI applications in cultural action and making recourse to innovators in these fields. [LINK](#)

ICESCO, 15 Jun: Deadline for submission of nominations for ICESCO Awards extended. ICESCO announced the extension of the deadline to submit the nominations for the awards of short films, drawing, story writing, musical composition or creative work, and "Bayan" for creative expression in Arabic for non-Arabic speakers, until 31 July 2020.