

Teacher Professional Development: SEAMEO RELC's Response to Covid-19 For Language Education

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Abstract

The emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic in the education sector was a scramble for online tools by teachers to convert in-person instruction into remote teaching and learning. The ensuing reflective phase followed on the first solutions with the new normal of remote teaching and learning being established and embraced. Careful curricular designs and appropriate remote pedagogies are required to ensure a better integration of support, guidance and interaction in the new learning space. In planning for the post-pandemic era, teachers would need to collaborate and think creatively about how they can use new forms of teaching and learning to address the challenges of equity and inclusivity, and help learners achieve sustainable learning outcomes. This presentation shares how a regional language centre continues to innovate in its offering of language teacher professional development programmes for the Southeast Asian region it serves, and adapts with agility to the new normal of teaching and learning in the post-pandemic era. It calls for continued flexibility for innovative internationalization through a combination of virtual exchange and internationalization at home, and regional cooperation among language teachers for their professional development. It concludes with some recommendations for transcending borders in regional cooperation of language teacher professional development.