

**KNOWING ASIA**

MOE will continue to support schools in strengthening students' understanding and exposure towards Asia, through the following:

1) **(Update)** Support schools in designing rich overseas learning experiences in Asia, especially in ASEAN countries

- a. All schools to have at least one overseas partner school, with which to engage in student exchanges, whether virtual or in-person. This will ensure that our students continue to have opportunities to learn about and interact with overseas counterparts despite COVID-19.
- b. Provide guidelines on how to organise local-based internationalisation programmes such as the types of activities, modality as well as the following key considerations:
  - i. Help students to understand the histories, cultures, languages and economies of Asia, in particular ASEAN, and these countries' interconnections with Singapore; and
  - ii. Encourage students to interact with peers from these countries.
- c. Professional development resources for educators including online learning modules, talks and workshops to equip them with strategies on driving internationalisation efforts and to deepen their knowledge of contemporary regional developments
- d. The Trips for International Experience (TIE) Fund, which schools could use to fund physical overseas trips to Asia previously, has been adjusted so that schools can continue to tap on it to organise local-based internationalisation programmes.

2) **(Ongoing)** Enhancements to the Humanities Curriculum

- a. Progressive enhancements to the Humanities curriculum will feature developments in Asia more prominently across the Social Studies, Geography and History subjects at the secondary levels. Curriculum enhancements in the Lower Secondary Geography, History and Social Studies syllabuses have been completed in 2021. Some of the enhancements include:
  - i. Lower Secondary Geography: Featuring more examples from ASEAN, to deepen students' understanding of regional geography and how countries in the region have sought to create a more sustainable environment.
  - ii. Lower Secondary History: Stronger focus on how historical developments in Singapore were often shaped by the interplay between local, regional and global developments, and to deepen

- students' appreciation of the importance of bilateral and multilateral ties between Singapore and regional countries after independence.
- iii. Lower Secondary Social Studies: Increased coverage of the ASEAN region, to provide more examples of ASEAN cooperation and efforts to overcome regional challenges (e.g. haze, cyber security).

b. We are also on track to implement enhancements to Upper Secondary Geography, History and Social Studies syllabuses, as well as the JC/MI Economics syllabus in 2022, and the JC/MI History and Geography syllabuses in 2023. These enhancements will help students develop a better understanding of:

- i. How ASEAN has grown to become a dynamic and vibrant region;
- ii. Commonalities between ASEAN countries and Singapore in responding to larger developmental forces and events;
- iii. The economic and geopolitical realities of the interdependence between Singapore and the region; and
- iv. Perspectives of ASEAN countries.

3) (Ongoing) Introduce conversational Southeast Asian language learning in conjunction with overseas trips

a. Under the enhanced Conversational Chinese and Malay (CCM) programmes, there have been more opportunities for students to learn conversational Chinese and Malay languages beyond English and their own Mother Tongue Language. In 2022, more resources will be available on the national e-learning platform, Singapore Student Learning Space (SLS), on conversational Thai and Vietnamese language.

4) (Update) Strengthen Education and Career Guidance (ECG) efforts

- a. Provide resources to ECG Counsellors to facilitate students' understanding of the regional market when making education and career decisions.
- b. Students from Primary 5 to JC/MI can visit the My SkillsFuture portal to explore various education and career pathways, including regional opportunities.

5) (Ongoing) "70-70" target in IHLs

a. MOE remains committed to the "70-70" overseas exposure target for students in the Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), where we aim for 70% of SC/PR IHL students to have some form of overseas exposure during their IHL years, and 70% of this group to have exposure in the ASEAN region, China or India. As we transit to a COVID-resilient world, we will press on with our efforts to ensure that our students remain connected to the region and the world – and continue working with our IHLs to create

opportunities for students to develop cross-cultural skills to participate actively in economic opportunities in Asia and around the world. These include virtual programmes, webinars, joint student research projects and remote internships. The IHLs will continue to explore opportunities to resume physical overseas exposure programmes where feasible, taking into account students' well-being and prevailing travel advisories.