

## INFOSHEET ON KNOWING ASIA

Our schools and IHLs will strengthen students' understanding and exposure towards Asia, in particular the ASEAN region, through the following:

a) Enhancements to the Humanities curriculum:

- i. MOE will enhance the content and coverage of ASEAN countries in the Humanities curriculum. This will include cohort-wide subjects such as Social Studies at the secondary level, as well as elective subjects at both the Secondary and Pre-University levels.
- ii. The curriculum enhancements will be featured in the Lower Secondary Geography, History and Social Studies syllabuses in 2021; the Upper Secondary Geography, History and Social Studies syllabuses, as well as the Pre-University Economics syllabus in 2022; and the Pre-University History and Geography syllabuses in 2023.
- iii. These enhancements will help students develop a better understanding of:
  - How ASEAN has grown to become a dynamic and vibrant region;
  - Commonalities between ASEAN countries and Singapore in responding to larger developmental forces and events;
  - The economic and geopolitical realities of the interdependence between Singapore and the region; and
  - Perspectives of ASEAN countries.
- iv. Here is an illustration of how the various Humanities syllabuses will be enhanced:
  - **Social Studies (Secondary):** There will be more explicit coverage of common experiences shared by Singapore and our ASEAN neighbours. For example, the topic of "Globalisation" will introduce case studies of both Singaporean and ASEAN-based companies tapping on regional opportunities. Students can develop a better understanding of the importance of the ASEAN region as Singapore's economic hinterland.
  - **History (Upper Secondary):** Content will be refreshed to provide students with more exposure to how key developments, particularly the Cold War and other regional developments, interacted to shape Asia and the ASEAN region. For instance, the Vietnam War will be introduced as a case study for students to learn about the Cold War through its extension in Southeast Asia and understand how developments in Southeast Asia intertwined with the Cold War.
  - **Geography (Upper Secondary and Pre-University):** ASEAN countries will feature more prominently as case studies illustrating geographical phenomena and efforts to achieve sustainability.

- v. To support the curricular efforts, teaching and learning resources, such as SLS resources, will be developed. Humanities teachers will also be provided with professional development opportunities to equip themselves with the relevant pedagogies and to develop a deeper understanding of the developments in the region.

b) Supporting schools to undertake ASEAN trips:

- i. MOE supports our schools to provide opportunities for students to undertake age-appropriate overseas trips to ASEAN countries that promote a balanced perspective of the region. Besides funding assistance, MOE will provide schools with trip planning and curriculum resources, such as facilitation guides and country briefs, to help them design rich learning experiences in ASEAN countries.
- ii. To deepen students' learning, MOE will also support schools to include a 10-hour language and cultural exposure component as part of pre-trip preparations to ASEAN countries. Schools will be provided with age-appropriate digital resources for regional languages such as Thai and Vietnamese for a start. Schools can also leverage the enhanced Conversational Chinese and Malay programmes to prepare students for trips to regional countries.
- iii. In designing learning experiences for their students, schools have also been encouraged to tap on their networks, including their alumni, community partners, and foreign schools, to develop a range of programmes, from local engagement sessions to visits to overseas sites of interest, that will help students appreciate the economic vibrancy of the region.

c) Increasing uptake of Conversational Chinese and Malay (CCM) programmes:

MOE will introduce a cultural component to CCM, to cultivate student interest and application of learning. Learning of Chinese and Malay at the conversational level will be complemented with equal opportunities for cultural exposure, e.g. learning journeys to cultural sites and events such as Chinese/Malay festive markets. Students will also be encouraged to apply what they have learned in CCM during their daily interactions with classmates and friends. New resources are also being developed to complement the existing resources on the SLS.

d) '70-70' target in IHLs:

IHLs will increase opportunities for students to gain overseas exposure, in particular to ASEAN, China or India. We aim for 70 per cent of local IHL students to have overseas exposure, via programmes such as internship placements, academic exchanges, service learning trips and overseas immersion programmes, and for 70% of this group of students to have exposure to ASEAN, China or India. This overseas exposure target takes reference from the growing economic opportunities and dynamism in the region.