8th ASEF Regional Conference on Higher Education (ARC8)

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1. How inclusive are the digital learning and teaching practices currently? Numbers or Stories to tell

• Overall Baseline Data: Students

  ❖ Shut-down of schools and HEIs throughout the country during the first few months (starting from April – Jul 2020);
  ❖ 90% of all level of education got affected by the COVID-19;
  ❖ 30% of Thai students did not have privacy to study in their premises;
  ❖ 24.8% has been reported to have computer units to get access to the internet;
  ❖ 66% and 36% of the students do not own computers or smart phones, respectively;
  ❖ 67.7% of the household has been reported to get access to the internet;
  ❖ Those students who are classified as staying below the average income, 80% of them do not own smart phones/mobile units to get access on the internet;

Source: Office of National Higher Education, Science Research and Innovation Policy Council
1. How inclusive are the digital learning and teaching practices currently? Numbers or Stories to tell

- **Overall Baseline Data: Service Providers/Instructors/Teachers**
  
  - 66% of the teachers/instructors was reported to be ‘moderately ready’ for online teaching and learning;
  
  - 11.5% was reported ‘not ready’ for online teaching and learning;
  
  - The majority of service providers/instructors reported that the key problems included:
    - The lack of trainings on course designs and digital literacy
    - IT infrastructure for online teaching and learning, including internet access

Source: UNICEF Thailand
2. Potential risks being foreseen in the coming years that could jeopardise a greater inclusion in digital learning and teaching practices?

- The IT infrastructure for both students and institutions (national or institutional policies?)
  - Case studies: at MU, 100% WiFi + free sims for students (immediate policy during the lockdown)
  - Some schools in Bangkok could move effortlessly to online learning (e.g. those affiliated with universities/demonstration schools)

- The skill upgrade of educators and professionals in both basic education and higher education + mindsets

- The move towards lifelong learning (for real?)/ new normal education
  - Course designs
  - Graduation regulations
  - Digital literacy for all
  - Other teaching and learning experience: hybrid?
3. Leverage points to promote inclusion in higher education

❖ New normal is the policy catch phrase for the government to promote lifelong learning as a national policy

❖ New normal is the keyword for instructors/students/other stakeholders to explore a new learning experience
  – Institutions: online/hybrid/blended learning platforms/internships/labs/devices;
  – Teaching personnel: IT/digital literacy/new teaching and learning management, interactive/digital pedagogy
  – Other stakeholders: families (how they are going to get involved), industries (how they are going to participate in blended apprenticeship etc.)

❖ New normal is the opportunity
Thank You