

LIFELONG LEARNING IN THE 21ST CENTURY: *Opportunities & Challenges*

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INTRODUCTION: RECENT TRENDS IN LIFELONG LEARNING

Various focus areas:

Technical &
vocational
education &
training (TVET)

ICT-led
innovations:
e-Learning &
MOOCs

Adult education &
part-time studies

Comprehensive approach:
Combination of all forms of
learning (formal, non-formal &
informal)

Flexible education:
Customising learning
opportunities based on
individual needs &
preferences

INTRODUCTION: RECENT TRENDS IN LIFELONG LEARNING

21st century skills:

Applied
knowledge

Cross-disciplinary
skills

Soft skills &
communication
skills

ICT proficiency

Global awareness



Must be relevant, useful & universally applicable

UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING

**Lifelong Learning
for Farmers
programme**

**Conducted in
Africa, Asia & the
Caribbean**

**Using ICT to
educate farmers,
improve their
farming
techniques, etc**

UNESCO

**Lifelong learning
to eradicate
violence against
women**

**Study conducted
in 5 Asian
countries**

**Social movement
to raise awareness
& for female
empowerment**

OTHER INITIATIVES

**Examples of
lifelong learning
agenda:**

- **Entrepreneurship
for rural folk**
- **Eradication of
discrimination**
- **Reducing
illiteracy**
- **Community
development**

Varying degrees of success:

Advanced systems & frameworks, e.g.:
South Korea's Credit Bank System & Denmark's liberal education approach

Limited resources & awareness, especially in developing regions

Varying motivations for lifelong learning:

Complement to higher education

Professional training & upgrading

Community development

Opportunity to transform educational approaches



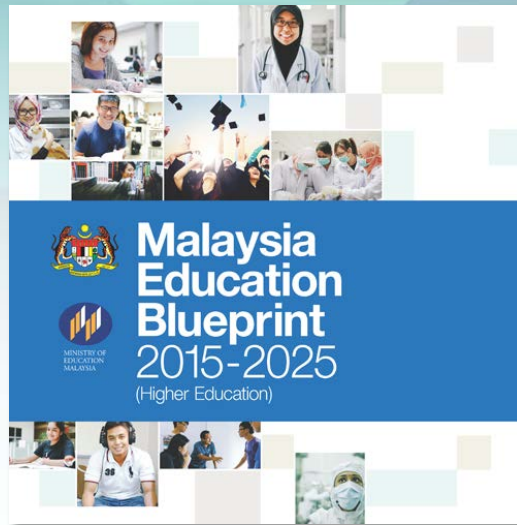
Launched November 2011

Currently at various stages of implementation

Lifelong learning as the 3rd pillar in human capital development

Timeframe & budgets in line with the 10th & 11th Malaysia Plans (2011-2020)

Definition in Malaysia encompasses the educational needs & interests of the working age population (15-64 years)



Lifelong learning included as one of the 10 Shifts in the recent Education Blueprint

4 CLUSTERS OF LIFELONG LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

CLUSTER 1:

Part-time academic programmes, including ODL

CLUSTER 2:

Technical & skills-based courses

CLUSTER 3:

Non-formal programmes for self-improvement, e.g. sewing

CLUSTER 4:

Full-time higher education academic programmes

THE MALAYSIAN CONTEXT: THE CURRENT SCENARIO

Various Government-led initiatives & programmes, including nationwide lifelong learning carnivals

Growing efforts to increase awareness & for enculturation of lifelong learning across society

Growing acknowledgement in the importance of adult education

Increasing focus on accreditation of prior experiential learning (APEL)

Moving towards accreditation structure & credit award system for all lifelong learning programmes

OPPORTUNITIES & STAKEHOLDERS

GOVERNMENTS

Achieving economic growth
via upgrading of the labour
force

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Diversifying programmes
offered

Enhancing available expertise
& resources

EMPLOYERS & ORGANISATIONS

Improving employee
capacities for better
performance at work

INDIVIDUALS

Obtaining additional
qualifications

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Inadequate policies (country- & region-wide):
Crucial to ensure an education & training system that is responsive to global developments

Recognition & accreditation issues, including for non-formal courses & professional training

Overlapping efforts/initiatives leading to inefficient use of resources

Lack of public awareness

THE FUTURE OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Intensify efforts towards professional training & work-based learning

Further leverage on ODL & e-learning

Encourage lifelong learning as a solution to current issues, e.g. graduate unemployment

**Develop policies towards further enhancing awareness & participation:
Important to address all areas & mechanism in lifelong learning provision**

LEVERAGING ON ODL

ODL is a useful, viable & relevant approach to further expand the lifelong learning cause

e-Learning, on its own or in combination with face-to-face study sessions, can widen access & opportunities in lifelong learning



Various courses & programmes, in the form of formal & non-formal learning

Flexible approaches in registration, curriculum, pedagogy, delivery, assessment & support services

A variety of learning materials to suit different learning styles

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Important to encourage continuous dialogue on lifelong learning at national, regional & global levels

Equally crucial to understand the implications of lifelong learning on today's knowledge economy

THANK YOU