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Thailand Education Policy Review

Key Issues, Challenges & the Way Forward
Bangkok, Thailand
Sep 1st 2016

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Contents

- Introduction
- Key Issues and Challenges in the Thai Education Sector
- Main Findings
- Next Steps
- Q & A



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OECD-UNESCO

The review identified key policy issues and challenges facing the Thai education system and provided recommendations to the Government for further consideration in its reform design.

This is the first time that the OECD and UNESCO join forces to provide a concerted education policy advice to a country. The UNESCO Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems is promoting education policy reviews among Member States during the ongoing biennium.



Key Issues and Challenges

- *Education Finance*: Thailand invests a significant share of its wealth in education, especially in primary education but is not fully receiving the return it might have expected.
- *Regional disparities* The gap in overall student outcomes between Thailand and high-income countries remains large.

Key Issues and Challenges

- School facilities and resources: The average quality of educational resources in Thai schools is among the lowest of any country participating in (PISA).
- Teachers: Teacher shortages in key subjects such as mathematics, science, foreign languages and Thai.
- Small schools: Student outcomes show significant disparities between urban and rural areas and across regions in Thailand.

Main Findings

Curriculum

- Lack of clarity of the intended curriculum.
- Education staff needs more training and support to implement the standard-based curriculum.
- Limited capacity to assess how well the curriculum has delivered its intended outcomes.
- Curriculum review processes need to be put in practice.

The way
forward:

Thailand should as a first step implement a thorough and consultative curriculum review and revision process, to improve teaching and learning and to align the curriculum with broader social and economic development goals.

Main Findings ICTs in Education

- Lack of infrastructure to support effective ICT use in schools.
- Digital learning materials are not fully incorporated into the basic education system.
- Teachers need more confidence and capacity to use ICT effectively in the classroom.
- Lack of adequate capacity to monitor and assess ICT use in schools.
- Lack of a coherent framework for its significant investments in ICT.

The way
forward:

Thailand needs to create a coherent national strategy aligning policies to enhance the use of ICT in education. Informed by a review of the basic education curriculum, this strategy will ensure that all key areas for investment are given sufficient attention.

Next Steps

Thailand's 15-year National Education Plan and the Ministry of Education's Four-Year Action Plan are both set to expire this year.

The strategy should prioritise the expansion and improvement of Internet access in all regions of the country;

Proposed revisions to the curriculum, student assessment and students' classroom hours have been announced, to be part of the new policy.



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Questions



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Acknowledgements:

The Team at the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, Education Sector, UNESCO and UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education.