

Press Release

February 21, 2020

Sumitomo Corporation partners with Kenan Foundation Asia to improve the effectiveness of teachers and empower the next generation of students with a transformative 21st-century education



Sumitomo Corporation Thailand Ltd. and Kenan Foundation Asia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to implement the "Teacher Professional Development" project that will support teachers in developing high-impact, evidence-based teaching practices and contribute to transforming the Thai education system to better align with the complexity of the 21st century. Kenan Foundation Asia has developed a unique curriculum that leverages international best practices to assist Thai teachers in delivering hands-on, inquiry-based learning that has proven to help students in developing subject matter knowledge and 21st-century skills. Using its proven educational model, Kenan will equip teachers with high-impact teaching practices and resources necessary to bring experiential learning to the classroom. In addition, the project will provide mentorship support through professional learning communities (PLCs), so that teachers can continuously develop their ability to deliver innovative learning in the classroom. With the support of Sumitomo Corporation Thailand Ltd., Kenan Foundation Asia will improve student outcomes and empower the next generation to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the 21st century.

Sumitomo Corporation Thailand Ltd., led by Mr. Shinji Nakano, President and CEO (middle), Mr. So Matsuoka, Executive Vice President (second from left), and Mr. Anant Leighrahathorn, Division GM, Corporate No. 2 (left), and Kenan Foundation Asia, led by Mr. Piyabutr Cholvijarn, President and Vice Chairman (second from right), and Mr. John DaSilva, Director of Partnerships and Communications (right), signed the MOU on 18 February 2020 at Sumitomo's office in Bangkok.

Mr. Shinji Nakano, President and CEO, Sumitomo Corporation Thailand Ltd., stated that "Sumitomo Corporation aims to be a global organization that also benefits society. The company was established in Japan in 1919. Last year we celebrated our 100th anniversary, and initiated the '100SEED' project to enable company employees around the world to address social problems, with a focus on sustainable education in the countries where we operate. We are committed to helping all students in society to have access to quality education. As

such, we aim for all schools in our communities to receive sufficient teaching and learning materials in order to raise the level of education for Thai students. Partnering with Kenan Foundation Asia on this vital project demonstrates our commitment to supporting sustainable development in Thailand.”

Mr. Piyabutr Cholvijarn, President and Vice Chairman of Kenan Foundation Asia, said, "Kenan is a non-profit organization that runs educational programs across Thailand to inspire students, develop skilled teachers, and build strong school leaders. Kenan’s training and learning materials are based on world-class programs that we adapt to the Thai curriculum to make learning fun and transformative for students and to bring Thai education in line with global standards.”

This three-year project will train over 30 science and math teachers from lower-secondary schools in Ang Thong province on high-impact practices, such as Inquiry-based Science, Active Math, and Enhanced Project-based Learning, during its first phase. In addition, after the training, Kenan will lead a series of PLCs, where trained teachers can receive support from colleagues and education experts. The project will also provide training for school administrators from participating schools to acquire the knowledge and ability to analyze teaching practices and provide informed advice to teachers and students, thereby creating lasting positive changes within their schools.

Mr. Piyabutr added that “Kenan Foundation Asia aims to see the Teacher Professional Development program guide teachers into 21st-century education and improve student outcomes. The Kenan education team works across Thailand to enhance Thai teachers’ effectiveness in the classroom and give opportunities to underprivileged students to build the skills they need to flourish in the careers of tomorrow.”

For more information, please contact

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