FOSS FOR GOOD: A PANDEMIC REALITY CHECK - PREPARING SCHOOLS FOR THE NEW NORMAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

12 – 15 JULY 2022
IN-PERSON FORMAT

Sponsored by the

SINGAPORE COOPERATION PROGRAMME

under the

FOSS FOR GOOD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE

FOSS for Good Technical Assistance Package

FOSS is an informal grouping of small states at the UN. From an initial membership of 16 in 1992, the FOSS now comprises 108 countries across all geographical regions and at all levels of development, representing over half of the membership of the UN.

The "FOSS for Good" technical assistance package commemorates the 30th anniversary of FOSS in 2022. This package was announced by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, at the General Debate of the 76th UN General Assembly in September 2021. The package is designed to provide a peer-learning platform for all FOSS members to share experiences, best practices, and solutions to tackle common challenges. It will focus on priority areas such as digital transformation and COVID-19 recovery, which are pertinent issues for many FOSS members. The package will run from 2022 to 2023 under the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

Singapore Cooperation Programme

Singapore has provided technical assistance to other developing countries since the 1960s. As a country whose only resource is its people, Singapore believes that human resource development is vital for economic and social progress. Singapore itself has benefited from training provided by other countries and international organisations.

In 1992, the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) was established to bring together under one framework the various technical assistance programmes offered by Singapore. Through the SCP, the range and number of training programmes were increased to share Singapore's development experience with other developing countries.

To date, over 137,000 officials from more than 180 countries, territories and intergovernmental organisations have participated in our courses and study visits. The SCP is managed by the Technical Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore.

Course Objectives

Under the "FOSS for Good" technical assistance package, Singapore will be hosting an in-person course entitled "**FOSS for Good: A Pandemic Reality Check - Preparing Schools for the New Normal Learning Environment**". This course will share Singapore's best practices of how schools and institutions adapted and worked around the new normal amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the COVID-19 situation, the nature of teaching and learning has undergone substantial changes. Leveraging on technology to support learners' continued learning has become ever more urgent and crucial in the new norm. Schools need to be prepared for similar disruptions and to harness technology tools to develop an effective ICT programme and infrastructure that can be implemented quickly and cost effectively, using available resources, so that learning is not

disrupted.

Synopsis of Topics

Topics to be covered include:

- Overview of Singapore's education system;
- The impact, challenges and limitations as a result of COVID-19 on the education system, educators and students;
- Innovation and initiatives that are good practices as a result of the pandemic, such as the increased use of technology and out-of-classroom approaches; and
- Approach(es) in providing quality education moving forward from the pandemic.

Duration

The programme will be conducted daily from **12 to 15 July 2022** in Singapore.

Methodology

The course will include lectures, group discussions, Q&A sessions, and site visits.

Participants should bring along their own internet-enabled learning devices such as laptops or tablets (mobile phones not recommended) for this course. This is in the event the participant is required to self-isolate temporarily due to a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. S/he will still have the option to participate remotely in the course.

The course **may be converted to an online modality** should circumstances warrant.

Application Information

Applicants should be:

- Mid-to-senior level government officials from FOSS member states;
- Ideally from the education ministries and related government agencies, including principals and educators;
- Nominated by their respective governments;
- Proficient in English;
- Fully vaccinated with WHO EUL COVID-19 vaccines; and
- In good health.

Application Procedure
(Closing date for nomination: **3 June 2022**)

The Government of Singapore is pleased to invite the respective National Focal Point for Technical Assistance (NFP) to nominate **one (1)** suitable applicant. Selection of candidates will be based on merit. Should there be more applicants than training places, the Government of Singapore seeks the understanding of the NFP in the event that its nominee(s) is not selected.

All NFPs can submit the names of their nominees online at **https://go.gov.sg/foss-pandemicrealitycheck2022** by **Friday, 3 June 2022**. NFPs are also required to endorse nominees via email links. Instructions and FAQs for Applicants and NFPs can be found at the links below:

- Applicants: https://go.gov.sg/start-guide
- NFPs: https://go.gov.sg/start-nfp

Note:

- Participants who complete all course assignments and attend at least 66% of learning sessions, will receive a certificate of completion from the SCP.
- Please refrain from making telephone and email inquiries on the status of your application while your application is being processed.
- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore** will inform all applicants of the outcome of their applications. The NFP will also be informed directly.
- Flight arrangements are to be made only upon receipt of the Letter of Acceptance to the course.

Terms of Award

The course is sponsored by the Government of Singapore under the "FOSS for Good" technical assistance package.

Under this programme arrangement, the Government of Singapore will bear the following expenses for the successful applicants (thereafter known as participants) during their training in Singapore. These expenses include:

- Course fees;
- Accommodation for the entire duration of the course. Complimentary breakfast is provided in the hotel from the first day to one day after the course;
- A daily training allowance of One Hundred and Twenty Singapore Dollars (S$120) from the

first day to the last day of the course. A proportionate reduction in the daily training allowance will be made if you are unable to attend the full duration of the course;

- Transportation between course venue and site visits;
- Basic insurance coverage (Group Hospitalisation and Surgical; Group Personal Accident) for participants during their stay in Singapore, in accordance with the policy of a local insurance company. This does not cover any pre-existing conditions/illnesses and/or any outpatient medical/dental treatment. Participants are personally liable for all medical expenses beyond what is covered by the insurance policy.

Note:

(a) The nominating government will be responsible for its participants' round-trip airfares;
(b) Participants are to bear their personal expenses that might be incurred prior to receiving the allowance; and
(c) As the basic insurance coverage is limited, participants are strongly advised to purchase comprehensive travel insurance which includes medical evacuation in case they encounter any unexpected emergencies.

Regulations

Participants are required to comply with the following:

(a) Strictly observe course schedules and not miss training sessions; and
(b) Carry out instructions and abide by conditions as may be stipulated by the nominating Authority or government and the Government of Singapore and its appointed trainer, with respect to the course.

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