

## Concept Note

### Theme: The Relevance of Higher Education in the Digital Era

We are now in the process of transforming to the digital era or industrial 4.0, an era where information and knowledge are the most important values. Its main drivers are the development of digital information and communication technologies, which have resulted in a massive change in all aspects of social organization including education institutions. In one hands these creates unique opportunity within each institution to develop in a manner that suites their interest. On the other, it is imperative that educational institutions are moving ahead to equip their students with a broad set of knowledge, skill, work habits that are indispensable for the future workforce. However, one of the challenges is that not all ASEAN+3 Countries are well-equipped to handle the disruptive changes brought about by the new technological revolution, universities in the region still lack the necessary foundation for them to be on the edge of ground-breaking technologies. These bring us to the crucial question on how to deal with this massive change and how universities, students and all education sectors response and take a positive action in the digital era?

With regard to the theme, student participants may take the followings into consideration as guideline for preparation of the 'policy paper' and 'country position' for the Educational Forum and 'speech' for the Young Speakers' Contest:

1. Digital applications that can make learning more efficient
2. The need of personalized learning in higher education
3. How to improve digital literacy in developing countries
4. Social media in higher education: strategies, benefits and challenges

