Presentation Outline

• Introduction

• Japan, ROK and Singapore…
  o What are the common features of their societies?
  o How do they foster lifelong learning?
  o What are some of their best practices vis-à-vis lifelong learning?
  o What are the lessons learnt?

• Conclusion and Some Final Thoughts
The Report

- Published in 2015 by UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

- Originally commissioned by the National Steering Committee on Building a Learning Society (2012-2020) in Viet Nam as a reference document to assist policy makers and education experts

- Summarises the three countries’ key policies and strategies, analyses the priority building blocks called for in each case and identifies some policy lessons learnt
What are the common features of their societies?

- Influence of Confucianism
- ‘East Asian miracle’: Rapid and generally sustained economic growth
- Knowledge-based economy
- High productivity, new technology development and improved quality control
- Rapidly ageing populations
How do they foster lifelong learning? (Policies, Action Plans, Governance, Financing)

- Revised Basic Act on Education (2006)
- Lifelong Learning Promotion Law (1990)
- Lifelong Learning Policy Bureau (MEXT)
- Lifelong learning councils (provincial, district, city levels)

- Lifelong Education Act (1999; 2007)
- National Institute for Lifelong Education (NILE)
- Lifelong learning councils (provincial, district, city levels)
- Employment Insurance Fund

- ‘Desired Outcomes of Education
- Ministry of Education, Ministry of Manpower, Institute for Adult Learning, Workforce Development Agency
- Lifelong Learning Endowment Fund
What are some of their best practices vis-à-vis lifelong learning?

• **Quality formal education**
  - High PISA performance
  - High GER
  - High teaching standards
  - Teacher salaries are competitive and incentives given to keep upskilling

• **Learning cities and community-based learning**
  - Kominkan and Citizens’ Universities (Japan)
  - Lifelong education centres (ROK)
  - Community Development Councils (CDCs)
What are some of their best practices vis-à-vis lifelong learning? (2)

- **Workplace learning**
  - Skills Development Fund (Singapore)
  - Employment Insurance Scheme (ROK)
  - On-the-job training provided by employers and large corporations (Japan)

- **ICT and e-learning**
  - Internet users per 100 people has approximately doubled in the three countries since 2000
  - Singapore Institute of Management University, Korea National Open University, Japan’s Cyber University and Open University
  - iN2015 ICT Master Plan (Singapore)
  - Japan Open Courseware Consortium (JOCW)
What are some of their best practices vis-à-vis lifelong learning?

(3)

- Recognising learning outcomes
  - Academic credit bank system (ROK)
  - Workforce Skills Qualifications (Singapore)
  - National Trade Skill Testing and Certification System (Japan)
What are the lessons learnt?

• Building a learning society entails the formulation of comprehensive concept of lifelong learning.

• A learning society attaches importance to both quantitative expansion and quality enhancement of its lifelong learning system.

• A learning society strives to develop an equitable and inclusive lifelong learning system.

• A learning society relies on the active participation of all stakeholders.
What are the lessons learnt? (2)

• A learning society needs to be underpinned by learning regions, cities and communities.

• The policy of building a learning society needs to be backed by financial resources.

• The policy of building a learning society must be based on robust, evidence-based research.
Conclusion and Some Final Thoughts

• The lessons shared are only suggestive and tentative; they are not cure-all prescriptions.

• A country’s vision may change over time, and the learning society has to keep pace.

• Building a learning society demands vision, political commitment and multi-stakeholder coordination.

• Learning societies can only be built in cultures that promote experimentation, innovation and collective learning.
Thank you!

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