

Global Trends, Local Wisdom, and the Influence of Information Technology on Lifelong Learning in Asia

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ABSTRACT

Several countries with the world's best education systems have developed lifelong learning systems to support individuals' continuous development. This research investigates the lifelong learning support systems in six Asian countries, including China, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Indonesia. Despite their diversity in essential characteristics, since the 1990s, global trends have been moving towards a more integrated model, focusing on the global knowledge economy. This research analyzes the development of lifelong learning systems through global, local, and digital transformation 4.0. The results show that these countries are currently reforming their education and training systems to expand access, especially for marginalized groups such as women, people with low incomes, and those with low skills. They are also adopting technology and distance learning. Partnerships between the government, social partners, businesses, and civil society institutions play a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness of learning programs. Investment in learning programs is increasing, with companies realizing the importance of investing in human resources. Individuals are encouraged to invest in their lifelong learning, and recognizing informally acquired skills is essential for motivating individuals to learn. Some countries have integrated core skill development into their education and training, and many countries have made lifelong learning the primary focus of their education policies, with collaborative efforts between governments, businesses, and individuals supported by social dialogue

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