

POSTEDUCATION

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2020 // WWW.PHNOMPENHPOST.COM/EDUCATION

Special Supplement



PHOTO BY HENG CHHAON

'The creative ability to innovate and invent must be nurtured'

Renowned Malaysian educationist and entrepreneur Lim Kok Wing shares his valuable insights on the future challenges facing the education sector in an interview with *The Phnom Penh Post*.

Q Creativity is considered a key driver of education in the 21st century. Would you agree with this?

First the concept of creativity has to be clearly understood in order to know why it has become a key driver for 21st century education. Creativity has always been an element of human growth that has contributed to how we have progressed as a species on this planet.

Creativity is a natural aspect of mankind that inspires us to improve our current ways of doing things. We therefore invent and innovate continuously.

Today we have reached a point where our progress has become rapid. Every technological advancement has expedited the next transformation which we now see in our daily lives. What used to take months was reduced to weeks and now to mere seconds.

We are now entering a time of huge and rapid changes with groundbreaking innovations in the use of artificial intelligence, the pervasiveness of the internet and the convergence of sciences is leading the world into a new era.

Undoubtedly the effect on mankind is tremendous, and needless to say education can no longer be viewed from a conventional standpoint.

Careers are going obsolete, even as we speak, as technology takes over laborious and repetitive tasks. Industries are changing, moving their processes up the value chain.

However, what still remains the domain of people is our

creative ability to innovate and to invent – and this we must foster and nurture in the next generation.

Q How is Limkokwing University different from other higher education institutions in Cambodia, and what cutting-edge education is offered to remain above the others in a tight market?

What is important to remember is that Limkokwing University is international, and every one of our students is therefore immediately piped into a global network. This network comprises a virtual community of students and alumni from more than 160 countries, not to forget the campuses we have set up in 13 countries, including the one in London.

This global network has enormous value to a young person in learning about other cultures and, in fact, gaining market intelligence in an easy way.

The university has a "Global Campus Programme" that insists students should spend a semester or a few weeks overseas in any of our campuses.

This truly broadens the mind through exclusive experiences that are woven into the programme where they conduct research and interact with top brands with whom we have forged strategic partnerships.

Our collaboration with industry provides students with direct involvement with companies that may hire them, and at the same time they gain valuable insights into what industry expects from them.



The president of Limkokwing University says Cambodia's young population can be an economic goldmine.

Q Are Cambodia's educational policies ready to meet the 21st century learning and technology environment? What needs to be done to accelerate learning in these areas?

Cambodia has made very commendable progress in its commitment to raising the competency of Cambodians as professionals to manage the economic growth it has gained over the past few decades.

Its policies on education are on the right trajectory, and the success of its plans lies in how these policies are implemented on the ground. The calibre of the teaching force is relevant and decisive in ensuring the

nation's youth is properly trained and educated.

To accelerate learning, it is wise to look beyond traditional or conventional education. It will require boldness and courage to do this because most parents are used to the way things have always been done and it will be a huge hurdle to overcome this thinking.

But the future is going to demand that we change all that, so the government may have to first reach out to parents and convince them to embrace the change that must happen.

There is much we can learn from countries like Finland, which has made great strides in reshaping education. Learning from them, we can then customise a blueprint that fits the culture and economic needs of our own nations.

Q As a Malaysian educationist and entrepreneur, what is your advice to Cambodia, where at least 65 per cent of the population is under 30 years of age? What direction should they take in terms of education?

Cambodia can consider itself fortunate to have such a huge youth segment. This points to a future that can prove to be an economic goldmine if their talents are properly nurtured.

The participation of industry must become a priority in shaping Cambodia's education. Industry is at the forefront of change and they know where the future lies.

They have no choice but to embrace new technology or new practices to stay competitive. They know the kind of skills they need, and through their participation Cambodia can build formidable human capital which in itself will attract high-end foreign investors to set up their base in Cambodia.

Like Malaysia, Cambodia should look ahead to raise its economy to the next level, and highly skilled human capital is part of that equation.

■ CONTINUED ON / PAGE 6



Limkokwing University has campuses in 13 countries, including in London in the UK. SUPPLIED



The founder visits the Limkokwing University campus in Phnom Penh. SUPPLIED

Get ready for school year with SCIA

SINGAPORE (Cambodia) International Academy (SCIA) strives to bring high-quality Singaporean education to the heart of Phnom Penh.

To achieve this, SCIA conscientiously implements the best practices that contribute to the success of the Singapore education system.

One key success factor lies in taking a long-term and holistic view of every child's education.

This involves building an ecosystem in which parents, students and the school work closely together.

SCIA teachers partner with parents to plan out students' educational journey, prepare them well for each phase of study and ensure they are poised to progress to their choice of universities and careers.

The partnership to nurture every child applies even beyond the campus, outside of the school term.

During summer holidays, it is crucial to get ready for the new academic year.

Returning to campus can be challenging for students who have become accustomed to staying at home, especially with the Covid-19 schools closure.

Here are a few suggestions SCIA would like to share so that your children are empowered and progress to their choice pathways after planning ahead and preparing well together.

Plan ahead: Begin with the end in mind. Guide your children to set SMART – specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely – goals and map out their journey for the year. The goals should be holistic – as well as academic grades, include milestones for personal growth and character develop-

ment. Planning goals together will keep your child motivated and provide opportunities for spending quality time together.

SMART goals give your child extra motivation to persevere when things get tough. They will also feel a sense of accomplishment when their goals are achieved.

Prepare well: With goals in place, it is time for action. Before the new term, make sure your children have all their learning materials ready. Set up a study corner at home and develop a routine, and start getting into it at least two weeks before the term starts.

Students transiting to new schools need to familiarise themselves with their new environment and teachers if at all possible.

Lifelong learning is essential. Students should enrol in extra courses to expand their knowledge and skill sets, enriching themselves further.

Parents can broaden their understanding by attending parenting seminars and reading the relevant books.

Be poised to progress to choice pathways: Summer break is a good time to reflect, recharge and discover one's passions.

This is especially relevant to high school students, who are at the stage of needing to think about their future university and career paths.

SCIA's academic staff have been working closely with students in their process of self-discovery and informing them of the options available for academic progression.

The institute uses the "3D4L" – Three Ds for Learning" – approach to help students discover, design and decide (3D) by learning (4L) more about their



SCIA strives to bring quality Singaporean education to the growing student population in the Kingdom. SUPPLIED

interests, aspirations, skills and talents, and the opportunities available.

Plan, prepare and progress – the "3Ps" – with SCIA.

In the coming academic year, the institute will launch a comprehensive suite of enrichment courses, parenting seminars and "3D4L" Education and Career Guidance Workshops to augment the ecosystem of their K12 International School.

SCIA believes that through the "3Ps", students will be equipped with the necessary skills and attributes to be successful in all their future endeavours.

Partner with SCIA to provide your child with the best education possible. ■



SCIA conducts numerous informative seminars for parents and students. SUPPLIED





Singapore Cambodia
International Academy

ADMISSION AY20/21 IS NOW OPEN!

Nursery to Grade 12

CONTACT US



English (855) 61 777 818
Khmer: (855) 77 678 849
Chinese: (855) 61 777 817

Email: enquiry@scia.edu.kh

For more information
www.scia.com.kh

WeChat ID: SCIA_Education

Follow Us
Singapore Cambodia International Academy

Address:
One Park, Phnom Penh City Center,
No. 58, Street R8, Sangkat Srah Chak,
Khan Doun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Singapore (Cambodia) International Academy Co., Ltd.
A Member of Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) Group

Pursue endless possibilities

Rethinking the ways of delivering education



AFTER almost a four-month hiatus, education institutions around the country that closed due to the Covid-19 outbreak are now busy preparing to reopen and awaiting the final nod from the government.

A profound impact has been felt in the education sector due to the coronavirus health scare – at home and across the world.

The sudden shutdown triggered a myriad of woes – for policy-makers, schools, higher education institutions, teachers, students and parents – which are yet to be addressed holistically.

Academic activities were affected and classroom learning disrupted, with the lives of teachers and students in disarray, while in some cases exams had to be delayed – leaving all stakeholders in uncertainty.

“The sudden closure of schools has impacted hugely on education delivery, which has shifted from the physical to distance and online learning.

“English literate students who had been exposed to digital education and enjoy independent learning were less effected by the closure.

“With schools shut, a lack of social interaction with their peers, as well as between students and their lecturers, resulted in anxiety, stress and other psychological problems among students.

“And these have directly and indirectly impacted students’ learning abilities and educational achievements,” said Sothy Khieng, an adviser at the Centre for Inclusive Digital Economy at the Asian Vision Institute, a Phnom Penh-based think-tank.

The temporary lockdown to contain the spread of Covid-19 has brought previously unthinkable changes to teaching and assessment in schools and universities.

Traditional teaching methodology – chalk and board – has taken a back seat as the virtual classroom became the buzzword in the teaching profession, and it is obvious that

many institutions may be forced to keep this direction for an indefinite period whether they are comfortable with it or not.

Classrooms will now be laid out to accommodate fewer students and schooling hours may have to be adjusted flexibly to avoid overcrowding on campuses.

Schools and private institutions are reorganising their classroom settings, infrastructure and teaching methods to meet new health and safety and hygiene measures for a safe environment for all students.

For the moment, only e-learning serves as a quick-fix solution on a long list of measures needed for the effective delivery of quality education in public and private institutions in this unprecedented situation.

“Online and distance learning will continue, and the role of educators will be transformed from the traditional transferring of knowledge and skills to being a facilitator and coach.

“E-learning is not only delivering lectures on the internet, but should be a shift away from a

standardised one-size-fits-all approach to flexible, accessible and quality education delivery.

“Blending physical teaching with e-learning and distance education will significantly improve the quality of education and be relevant to many young, tech-savvy learners who have shorter attention spans.

“Classrooms should be used for discussions, debates and mentoring, or for practicals and experiments, and less for lectures,” Sothy said.

He also cautioned that private education providers who do not invest in teacher capacity development and the infrastructure conducive to student learning will be more negatively impacted by the new reality. ■



Sothy Khieng, an advisor at the Centre for Inclusive Digital Economy at the Asian Vision Institute

Aii មជ្ឈមណ្ឌលភាសា អេ អាយ អាយ
Aii Language Center
A Mergly J. Quach Education School

New Term Starts on
July 15, 2020
(Online Classes & Homeschooling)
Learn English, Chinese and Thai with Us...
Limited space only.
Enroll now at any campus or via bank transfer.

001082-098 111 0211 036363 347301 999889-19

*Take the "homeschooling" course with a home to school coursework and homework every Friday during working hours.

[aai.mjeducation](https://www.aii.mjeducation.com)
ailanguagecenter@gmail.com
www.aii.edu.kh
info@aii.edu.kh
 MJQ Education

SCHOLARSHIP 15%

*Sister school: AIS
Upcoming Campuses: Sen Sok, Toul Sankae, Chbar Ampov, Tuek Thla, Chamkar Duong, Prek Phnom, Tep Phnom, Phnom Penh Thmey, Siem Reap, Battambang, Kampong Cham, Kampong Speu, Takeo.

Contact us:

Mao Tse Tong Campus (Main Office) 023 221 222	Toul Kork Campus 023 959 666	Chok Angre Campus 023 960 333	Chom Chao Campus 023 914 888
Phsar Thmey Campus 023 999 036	Chroy Chongva Campus 023 977 277		

New Academic Year 2020-2021
Starts on October 12, 2020

Scholarship up to 15%
The Enrollment is opened now...

Online classes and Homeschooling

Enroll now at any campus or via bank transfer:

001082-098 111 0211 036363 347301 999889-19

www.aia.edu.kh
www.facebook.com/aia.edu.kh
www.instagram.com/aia.edu.kh
www.youtube.com/aia.edu.kh

Register with the minimum payment of 1 quarter to keep get benefits as follow:

1. Keep the current class for current student. (Valid by September 09, 2020)
2. Free Summer Program for New Academic Year 2020-2021 (from Kindergarten to Grade 12) starts from **August 24, 2020 to October 02, 2020.**
3. Enjoy 15% scholarship until September 09, 2020 and 10% scholarship from September 10, 2020 onwards. (Scholarship applies for the first payment only)

MJQE Aii - AIS
Korea, Korea

Mao Tse Tong (Main office) ☎ (855) 23 221 222	Toul Kork ☎ (855) 23 959 666	Chok Angre ☎ (855) 23 960 333	Chom Chao ☎ (855) 23 914 888	Phsar Thmey ☎ (855) 23 999 036	Chroy Chongva ☎ (855) 99 719 775
--	---------------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------



MJQ Education is the parent company of American Intercon School (AIS) and Aii Language Center (Aii). Together AIS and Aii have six campuses across 15 school buildings, and teach some 14,500 students.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED

Mengly J Quach calls for physical summer schools to inspire safety

WITH a gradual reopening of schools having been announced, Oknha Dr Mengly J Quach, the founder, chairman and CEO of MJQ Education, has offered his thanks to the government and Ministry of Education for their handling of the Covid-19 crisis and called for summer schools to be allowed to take place on campus.

MJQ Education is the parent company of Aii Language Center (Aii) and American Intercon School (AIS).

AIS summer school starts in August, and Quach is urging the government to allow them to go ahead in physical classrooms to ensure levels of safety are at their highest before schools reopen fully.

While he said the schools lockdown put in place to combat the outbreak hit the private education sector hard, with many smaller institutions across the Kingdom going out of business, the announcement has brought optimism, with terms and summer camps set to start in the near future.

"I want to thank the government for ensuring people's safety during this unprecedented global pandemic, and also the Ministry of Education for their care and for giving reassurance to schools, parents and students with the green light to start reopening.

"This announcement is good news for the sector and for schools like us who start

their new terms in October or November. For us, we can continue to offer scholarships and start our summer schools.

"If we were able to open in August then we could run our free summer schools in physical classrooms in preparation for the new term.

"With less students attending summer school, allowing it to take place on campus would serve as a dress rehearsal for full reopening, ensuring that safety measures would be at their highest," said Quach.

He added that such a move would also help to "inspire" students ahead of their return to the classroom.

"Students are saying they



As a medical doctor, I have always ensured my schools have the most stringent hygiene standards. We are well prepared as schools look to reopen

DR MENGLY J QUACH / FOUNDER



Oknha Dr Mengly J Quach, the founder, chairman and CEO of MJQ Education.

are missing school, and are desperate to see their friends and teachers again and get back into education properly.

"Our summer school runs from August 24 to October 2. We run summer school every year to prepare students for the coming academic year. As this year has been difficult due to the Covid-19 lockdown, it is even more important that we can run the programme

physically on campus to give students the opportunity to regain an educational mindset – to be inspired again – in preparation for the new term and to reassure parents.

"While our summer school will be free, other educational institutions could use the income generated to steady themselves after the huge financial hit from the lockdown," said the founder of Aii

and AIS, whose institutions have grown to teach some 14,500 students since being founded in 2005.

While schools on their reopening must adhere to the guidelines laid out by the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health, Quach says his surpass even these.

"As a medical doctor and public health specialist, I have

always ensured my schools have the most stringent hygiene standards. We already have many advantages and are well prepared as schools look to reopen.

"Even before the Covid-19 outbreak, we followed the strictest standards of cleanliness and our staff are well trained. Our restrooms are cleaned every hour, while all our buildings are deep cleaned every week.

"We are also the only schools to have full student health centres, with doctors and nurses on hand. We are very proud of this," he said.

With such measures already in place, he said his schools are all set to welcome back students and are ideally placed to offer peace of mind as the Kingdom's education sector moves into the new reality.

"Following the outbreak, all our classrooms are ventilated so clean air circulates and a minimum temperature of 24 degrees Celsius is maintained.

"The wearing of masks will be mandatory, while social distancing measures, hand sanitising and the strictest levels of hygiene will be in place.

"I was the first at the start of the outbreak to release a video to advise people on the importance of hygiene in combating the coronavirus and to reassure them – and my commitment to public safety remains unwavering," said Quach. ■



Social distancing measures will be in place when the schools reopen.



All MJQ Education buildings are deep cleaned every week.



AIS schools have the highest standards of hygiene.

Norton's creative solutions to opening

NORTON University has developed a creative innovation to ensure its thousands of students can enjoy education with peace of mind when it reopens its doors.

As education institutions, students and parents grapple with the fallout of the unprecedented Covid-19 outbreak which has shaken the learning sector, the university has introduced the "NU Mixed Model Teaching and Learning" so its students are taught safely.

The concept was developed by Dr Ung Vannthoeun, vice rector and the dean of

the Faculty of Health Sciences at Norton University, which is located in Phnom Penh's Chroy Changvar district.

The teaching components include realtime and offline communication between tutors and students.

Realtime teaching will be instructed through applications like Zoom, Google Meet, YouTube and Facebook, which will allow students to fulfil the requirements of their scheduled classes.

Learning will also take place via the Google Classroom, Schoology, Wiki School and Class Dojo digital

platforms, which have become vital teaching tools in Norton University's distant learning programme.

While the main components of education will remain heavily reliant on textbooks, this form of home study will play an important part in teaching and research for both students and tutors.

The university's management has a tailored scoring system in place to aid the strengthening of class attendance and students' interactional activities.

All tutors have restructured their teaching plans to avoid close contact

with students to prevent the spread of the virus, while measures have been taken to avoid crowding on campus.

After every virtual lesson, lecturers will assess students to ensure they have complete comprehension, as well as to guarantee full attendance.

Staff at the university will be responsible for ensuring all classes are conducted according to schedule, while remaining alert to fixing any technical glitches encountered by students and lecturers.

The education system in the Kingdom is one of many facing this unprecedented situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the midst of plans towards entering the "new normal", Cambodia's education system will have to transform from the traditional system to one embracing distant learning, which will rely heavily on digital technologies.

Earlier this month, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport announced the reopening of schools, with a controlled number of students and on a staggered basis.

It has widely reported in the media that the government has identified 15 private institutions in Phnom Penh to be the first to reopen. ■



A special monitoring system will be in place to check attendance. SUPPLIED




Realtime models will be used to assist teaching at Norton University. SUPPLIED




Measures have been introduced to avoid overcrowding on campus. SUPPLIED

QUALIFICATION
DIGNITY
VIRTUE
MORALITY





NORTON UNIVERSITY
Educating Tomorrow's Leaders !



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Build Confidence

Be Difference

Commercial Law Taxation International Relation & Diplomacy

Law Software Development Medical Doctor HR Management

Economics Landscape Design Midwife Development Economics

Auditing English Communication Marketing Electronics

Educational Management and Teaching Hospitality & Tourism Management

Building Design and Construction Finance Doctor of Medicine

Architectural Design Pharmacy Management Nursing

Information & Communication Technology Legal & Justice Studies

English for International Relations Computer Studies Accounting

Interior Design Doctor of Dentistry Business English Telecommunication

NUGS

International Master Programs

MBA

MDIS

MSIT

MAA

MFB

MEE

NORTON UNIVERSITY Mobile: 093 888 569 / 093 888 359, Email: info@norton-u.com, www.norton-u.com

CamEd graduates make a difference

FOR the past two decades, CamEd Business School has produced some of the brightest graduates for the growing Cambodian financial sector.

Its founder and president, Casey Barnett, had a vision of transforming CamEd into a prominent business school, one developing a community of accounting and finance professionals who perform on par with those in international financial centres, something that is now a reality.

Today, the private business school has built a strong reputation in producing top-notch accounting and financial experts – many of whom have landed lucrative jobs in the Kingdom's competitive banking and financial industry.

"The quality of our students is recognised by international auditing companies such as PwC, KPMG, Ernst & Young and Deloitte. Our academic staff comprises qualified international professors and lecturers. We also use advanced educational technologies and systems," said CamEd's senior vice-president Sam Sokuntheary.

CamEd provides one of the world's most highly recognised courses – the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) – a qualification highly sought after by employers – and the Certificate in Accounting Technician, an equally distinguished course that imparts accounting skills.

"Students should join these courses because professional



CamEd Business School's main campus in Phnom Penh. SUPPLIED



Managing partner of K Professional Accountants Darith Khun. SUPPLIED

accountants, auditors, tax auditors, and tax consultants with qualified knowledge and experience are highly needed by the private and public sector," said Sokuntheary.

CamEd is also a stepping stone for idealistic future entrepreneurs, which is something Darith Khun – a CamEd ACCA graduate and currently a managing partner at K Professional Accountants – will certainly vouch for.

"Starting my journey with ACCA years ago was the wisest decision I have ever made – I will never be able to articulate fully how much ACCA has shaped both my professional and personal life," Khun said.

With an ACCA qualification behind him and backed by a top performance track record, Darith was appointed to provide oversight and support for many countries in Asia and Africa on country financial management, audit and risk management, internal control and governance.

"ACCA has given me the confidence I need to tackle all professional challenges. I am certain that it continues to equip me with the necessary skills and expertise to overcome all challenges in the current uncertain global economy to forge a better future.

"It also furnished me with three important elements to

become a highly recognised professional accountant. ACCA has moulded me into becoming a valuable asset for my country by equipping me with comprehensive technical knowledge and strong English comprehension, and by imparting a code of ethics and conduct," said Khun.

CamEd is a university officially affiliated with the US-based Chartered Financial Analyst Institute – which is another major achievement for the institution.

CamEd's qualifications are designed to ensure that every graduate receives all the competencies and skills needed to work in a wide variety of organisations and roles. ■

■ CONTINUED FROM / PAGE G

Q The Covid-19 outbreak is changing the entire business world, and the education sector is also braced for major changes in the future. Do you see a major paradigm shift in the way education is delivered in schools, colleges and universities?

The pandemic has merely expedited what I have always thought a foregone conclusion. I think it is the new generation that give you clues to how education is going to change.

We have what is known as Generation Z, which is an entire generation that grew up in the era of the internet. They embrace technology in a way that no other generation has.

It is not so much the Covid-19 outbreak that is forcing change, it is this generation who will dictate how and what they wish to learn.

As I see it, education is going to be about skills and talent. Young people do not want to spend too much time on theoretical study – they want hands-on, experiential learning.

Notwithstanding anything else, they know how to get information.

Q Employers complain that universities fail to produce suitable candidates for the fast-changing labour market. How can education institutions resolve this to improve employment opportunities and raise productivity at the work place?

'Education to be about skills and talent'



Lim Kok Wing says young people want hands-on, experiential learning. SUPPLIED

This brings me back to my earlier answer that industry has to be very involved in how people are being educated and trained. The yardstick to measure learning has to change.

The regulatory system must work with industry to create what is really needed. All

institutions have to comply with the regulatory demands so the change can really happen if all stakeholders can agree on the yardstick by which to judge competencies.

Soft skills need to be given greater importance. The ability to think and solve any kind of problem should be emphasised.

Young people know how to get the skills they need, but most of them lack life skills. They do not know how to cope with life. By addressing their emotional intelligence, we imbue them with confidence and the ability to cope with stress and pressure on the job.

Productivity and efficiency can only happen if those employed are passionate about what they do. This requires a paradigm shift in management practices to engage in constant training to upskill their employees, instead of replacing redundant labour with new skilled people.

Q As a veteran expert in the creative industry, how do you see the Cambodian creative sector developing? What needs to be done to better unearth creative talent in the Kingdom?

Cambodia is a highly creative country. There is an abundance of talent. The country has the "living legends" of master craftsmen and crafts-women. Find them, recognise their status and preserve the knowledge. They serve as an inspiration to a younger generation of Cambodians.

By creating awards that recognise creative talent, we raise their profile and give merit to local creative professionals. In Italy, a designer is viewed as a superstar and is highly respected, but in Cambodia, as elsewhere, it is still the conventional professions such as doctors, engineers and accountants who are honoured by society.

In Botswana, our final semester students have to learn entrepreneurship and they are mentored by a panel of industry leaders. They are challenged to set up enterprises and learn to manage a business. Some of the best ideas are recognised by the government and given seed money to become real businesses.

This is something Cambodia can consider. The Limkokwing University is ever willing to assist in sharing the mechanics of this programme. ■

Invictus all set to bring accessible quality learning to capital safely

With Cambodia's schools set to reopen gradually, Clive Swale, the principal of Invictus International School Phnom Penh, talks to *The Post* about the Singapore-based institution's efforts to bring its accessible quality education safely to the Kingdom.

Q Can you tell *The Post* more about Invictus?

Invictus strives to provide a high quality international education at accessible prices in central Phnom Penh.

Originally starting out in Singapore, Invictus has quickly established itself as one of Singapore's leading international schools, with an excellent result achieved in the recent International School Assessment (ISA) by our Year 3 and Year 6 students.

Invictus now has six campuses across Asia, and also operates the "Invictus Family", a virtual international school accessible across the whole of Asia.

Q What sets Invictus apart from the other international schools in Cambodia?

Invictus is very unique in its offering through a comprehensive international curriculum in a central location and at affordable fees.

We offer all-through education from Year 1 to Year 13 combined with the widely recognised Singapore Mathematics teaching method as well as bilingual English/Mandarin and English/French options.

All this at very reasonable rates. For example – unlike other international schools – we do not charge any annual capital fees.

In addition, we offer our students "seamless transfer" to our Singapore and Hong Kong campuses, subject to vacancy availability and local government visa approval.

This enables our students to continue their education and learning without disruption.

tion were their parents to be relocated to these countries.

Q Can you tell us about Invictus Phnom Penh's plans to open in August?

The school is scheduled to open for the new 2020-21 academic year in August. Renovations are progressing well, and while we experienced some delay due to the Covid-19 outbreak, we will be ready to open on time.

There are currently some uncertainties around when international schools can open in Cambodia, and we are currently applying for a permit to open at the start of the new academic year.

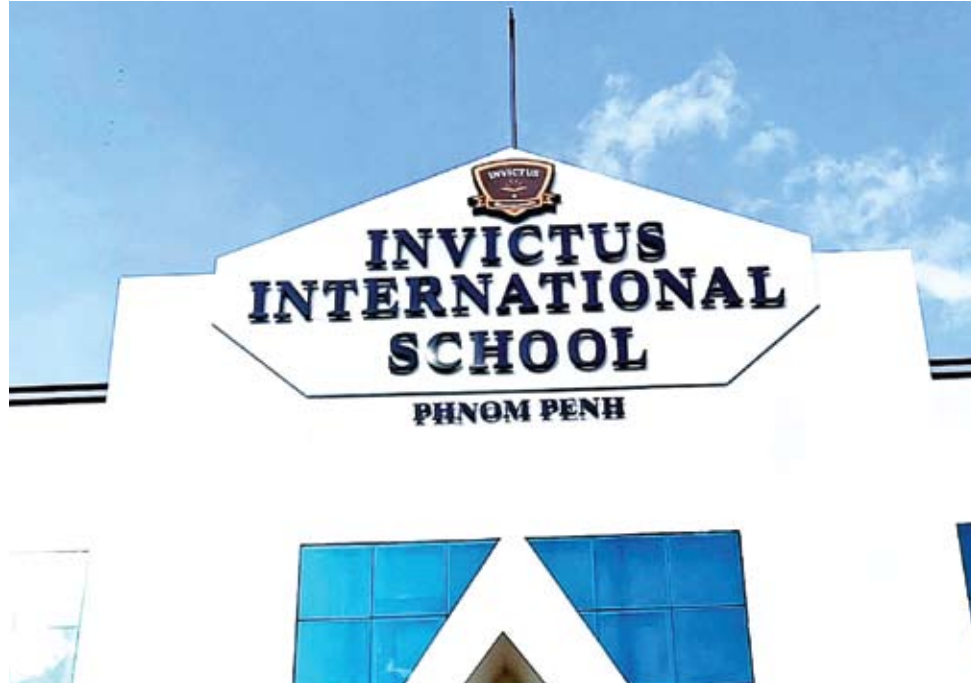
In the event that we are unable to open in August due to government guidelines, the school is fully equipped to conduct home-based learning as a temporary measure.

Q What's Invictus' approach when it comes to online learning?

Our approach is to mimic the way we learn at our physical campus. This is also the approach with Invictus Family, our homeschool offering.

More than any other virtual platform, we provide "synchronous" – live – learning for the vast majority of the schedule. Many platforms depend heavily on "asynchronous" – on demand – learning which removes much of the live interaction that we feel is so important.

We have invested in the learning platforms and tools that enable us to provide an excellent learning environment and optimal experience



The Invictus Phnom Penh campus is on Norodom Boulevard in the centre of the capital. SUPPLIED



The international school is scheduled to open for the new 2020-21 academic year in August. SUPPLIED

for both students and teachers. The hours of the classes and the content would be the same.

Q Can you tell us about the Invictus Early Bird discount? How much are your fees for both Primary and Secondary levels?

For a limited time, we are offering the first 100 primary school students who sign up for our Phnom Penh campus an "Early Bird" discounted fee

of \$5,000 per year.

We are also offering the first 50 secondary school students an Early Bird discounted fee of \$5,500 per year.

These special fees are applicable for the academic year 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Our standard school fees – post Early Bird – are \$8,000 per year.

Q What do you offer at Primary and Secondary levels?

For primary, we are offering the International Primary Curriculum – IPC. The IPC takes a global approach, consisting of specific learning goals for every subject, for personal learning and for international mindedness.

It is based on the UK national curriculum, which we combine with Singapore Mathematics.

Another unique aspect that we have introduced is the opportunity for students to select

Chinese Mandarin or French as a second language, and Khmer as a third option for students.

In secondary school, we will be using the Cambridge International curriculum. In Year 9, the students will take the Cambridge checkpoint before moving onto Cambridge IGCSEs and finally Cambridge A Levels.

Q How did your successful sister schools in Singapore and Hong Kong adapt in the unprecedented Covid-19 crisis?

Our schools in Singapore and Hong Kong were ordered to physically close during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. We quickly adapted to the situation by reverting to virtual learning to ensure continued learning for our students.

In addition we are strictly following local government guidelines to ensure a safe and smooth reopening of schools.

Q How are you reaching out to students and parents at this time?

We are engaging with parents and students through our social media accounts and strategic partnerships and giveaways with businesses in Phnom Penh.

Q In what ways are you optimistic for the short, medium and long term future?

Invictus means "unconquerable", and the disruption from the Covid-19 outbreak has only strengthened our mission to provide quality and accessible education in Phnom Penh.

Our approach to learning nurtures individuals in innovative and inspiring ways to be lifelong learners who contribute positively for a better tomorrow.

Advocating this approach motivates us to evolve and adapt in these challenging times, with the help and dedication of our teachers and the use of modern technology.

We believe that discerning parents are primarily on the outlook for good quality international education and want access at reasonable fees, even if that's at the expense of fancy facilities, which typically demand a high premium.

Education is a long-term investment. Our unwavering commitment to providing quality international education will ensure our long-term success in Cambodia. ■

For more information, please visit our website <https://www.invictus.com.kh/> or call +855 (0) 9222868



Clive Swale, the principal of Invictus International School Phnom Penh. SUPPLIED

