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ENHANCING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PLANNING

The Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia continues to improve the quality of the Malaysia Education system in all schools throughout the country towards achieving the transformation of national education. The MOE focuses providing a conducive, safe and comfortable environment in schools. In terms of equity in education, the MOE has planned various initiatives to ensure that the best education is provided to every child regardless of their abilities, gender, socioeconomic background, location and ethnicity. Currently, Malaysia education system plans to continue addressing the disadvantaged group of students and community in general. Some ongoing initiatives include bridging education and skill attainment gap, increasing participating rates at primary and secondary levels, as well as improving physical and non-physical facilities to urban and rural schools. In the digital era and with the new teaching and learning norm, the MOE continues its efforts to support and ensure schools are equipped with computers, hardware, software and internet connectivity. To continue strengthening and sustaining quality education in Malaysia, the MOE has also undertaken efforts and initiatives in other focus areas such as leaders and teachers. Thus, various programmes have been planned and implemented to boost leadership, teachers and management competencies, and to create excellent school leaders and teachers. Progress and continuous efforts have been very positive, nonetheless, there are still issues and challenges faced by the MOE in enhancing quality education related to rural and remote schools, students' performance, the Covid-19 pandemic, and digital education. Thus, moving forward, the MOE needs to continue strategizing initiatives to enhance the quality of education especially in this new norm.

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