

## 國立教育廣播電台 英語奇育記

### 教育新聞中英對照參考

- 教育新聞中文摘要：

今天的新聞是關於印度尼西亞發表了遠大的教育計劃，但卻嚴重缺乏優秀的老師。總統佐科威 ( Jokowi ) 宣布了大膽的人力資本計劃，但該國需要的是提高教學質量，而不是提高支出。總統在 8 月份的國情諮詢中概述了未來提升印度尼西亞人力資本的願景，他相信人力資本是在激烈的國際競爭環境中取勝的關鍵，且敦促該國緊急考慮人力資源在創新中作用，特別是在科技領域。

- 教育新聞英文摘錄：

Vivian: Today' s news is about Commentary: Indonesia has big plans for education but severely lacks good teachers

Joyce: President Jokowi has announced bold plans for human capital but what the country needs is to raise the quality of teaching, not a boost to spending per se, says ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute' s Siwage Dharma Negara.

Vivian: In his state of the nation address in August, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo outlined his vision to develop Indonesia' s human capital. Jokowi said he believed that human capital is the key to win in an environment of fierce international competition.

Joyce: The president urged the country to look urgently at the role of human resources in innovation, especially in the science and technology sectors. He framed his plan in terms of how Indonesia can respond to global economic disruption and escape its dependence on natural resources.

Vivian: He added that the window of opportunity to benefit from Indonesia' s demographic bonus, as the working-age population outnumbered dependents, including the elderly and children, is relatively short. Therefore, Indonesia must focus on education in developing its human capital.

Joyce: Many observers were surprised by Jokowi's pledge and have called it a policy shift. But this emphasis on human development is not new, and had been articulated in many of Jokowi's past addresses.

Vivian: Moreover, the same vision has been articulated by Jokowi's predecessor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. So, the question is what is really new when it comes to education in Jokowi's second term?

Joyce: To realize Jokowi's vision, his administration will spend around US\$36 billion for education in 2020, according to a state budget proposal released in mid-August. This amount is up 30 percent from 2015, but stays within the 20 percent of total public spending mandated by the constitution.

Vivian: In fact, for almost a decade, Indonesia has spent 20 percent of its state budget on education. Still, the country's educational performance continues to lag behind, despite significant investments.

Joyce: Ultimately, to have a reasonable shot at escaping its developing economy status, Indonesia's priority for education must be to meaningfully increase access while building up a critical mass of high-skilled, highly educated workforce.

Vivian: Currently the country's labor force is still dominated by low-skilled labor, with enrollment rates in secondary and tertiary education low by regional standards.

Joyce: About 40 percent of working-age Indonesians only have primary school education, while only 9 percent of the labor force have a university degree, according to Statistics Indonesia. Employer surveys also indicate that recent graduates are not meeting expectations.

Vivian: A closer look at what the money has been spent on is revealing. The increased education budget has been primarily devoted to teachers' salaries, in particular a programme aimed at improving teachers' welfare by offering financial incentives for teachers to undergo a certification process – at a whopping cost of US\$4.3 billion or 15 percent of the education budget.

Joyce: The certification programme, initiated in 2007, targeted 3 million uncertified teachers all over the country. The goal is to raise the level of teachers' academic competency, pedagogical skills and emotional quotient. If they pass, their pay doubles and they can look forward to higher allowances towards professional development.

Vivian: Raising how much teachers are paid has taken a huge part of the education budget in recent years. About 60 percent of the education budget will go to teachers' salaries and allowances.

Joyce: The rest of education expenditure is aimed at increasing access to education, for example through the School Operational Assistance (BOS) Fund, a programme that provides grants to schools with the aim of reducing the public's financial burden of completing 9-years of compulsory education, and the Indonesia Smart Card (KIP), a cash assistance programme to low-income households who want to send their children aged 7 to 18 years to school.

Vivian: Nevertheless, this huge bump in teachers' salaries have not translated into better students' learning outcomes. As a result, Jokowi's administration has come under wide criticism that those certificates mean nothing. It has opened the president up to speculation that such programmes were designed to legitimize dishing out more money to teachers, a critical vote bank.

Joyce: While improving access to education is an important part of the plan to raise workforce standards, the government must focus on raising the quality of education first. Finance Minister Sri Mulyani, too, has acknowledged this. In a recent media interview, she said that the government must improve the effectiveness of education spending.

Vivian: Minister Sri mentioned that Indonesia's educational performance lags far behind Vietnam's, a rising Southeast Asian economy. She pointed to the same budget allocation for education spending in the two economies (20 percent of the government budget) and the disparate outcomes.

Vivian: The other huge challenge to ensuring that teaching conforms to standards set by Jokowi' s government is how much governance has been decentralized within Indonesia. The system empowers local governments at the district level with authority over education resources and personnel, starting from early childhood through to primary school, junior high and senior high school.

Joyce: Therein lies the challenge of how to synchronize central and regional government policy objectives. It is common knowledge that many teachers are recruited because they have contributed to the regional government's team during local elections, sometimes as contracted staff. Their promotions are not entirely based on performance and achievement of minimum service standards set by the central government.

Vivian: Going forward, Jokowi' s administration must improve teacher recruitment, certification and continuous professional development, as well as strengthen oversight of how such programmes fare across various regions and localities.

Joyce: Doing so could address the wide disparity between Java and the other outer islands when it comes to the quality of education and training providers. Jokowi' s commitment to promoting human development is commendable.

Vivian: Whether his vision for Indonesia to capitalize on its demographic bonus can be realized will depend on how Indonesia can raise teaching standards and the effectiveness of how the education budget is spent to these ends.