

## **Education Myths in an Age of Unreason: ASEAN Perspectives**

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As the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), Decade of Sustainable Development (DSD), Education for ALL (EFA) and similar regional and national programmes end, thought leaders are in search for relevant and robust ideas for the next level of development. Paulo Freire's (1970), *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Jacques Delors (1996) *Learning the Treasure Within*, and such other works as, for instance, Colin Power's reflective memoirs (2015), *The Power of Education* remains as inspiring materials for educators and other leaders worldwide. In an Age variously characterised as the Age of Unreason, Confusion, Distraction, Disruption, Education is challenged to establish and sustain the eternally successful organizations of schools and universities. At national, regional and international levels, there are a host of educational concepts, which are used to drive educational development. This exploratory paper examines a selection of such concepts, which are universal or indigenous. The examination focuses on the application of such concepts in national and institutional policies and practices in the ASEAN nations. The paper specifically explores the core educational concepts in comparative indigenous perspectives of educational development in the Region, examining the promise of societal transformation through strategic educational initiatives, the myths and the realities. The analysis is also contextualized within the phenomena of global religious, racial extremism, fanaticism and ideological conflicts.



**ASIA LEADERSHIP  
ROUNDTABLE**  
BANGKOK  
2015

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March 8-10, 2015 @ Chulalongkorn University

