



18 November 2020

Assalamualaikum Wr Wb

Dear IECP Proprietors and Managers,

We hope this email finds you in best of health in this Rabiulakhir.

2 We are glad to see our partners progressing well despite these challenging times. Physical classes have resumed with the safe management plans in place while some prefer to conduct online classes even after the 'Circuit Breaker' has been lifted.

PROGRESSIVE EASING OF MEASURES FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

3 MCCY has updated via their Media Factsheet¹ on 26 September 2020 on easing measures for religious activities and worship services.

4 Home-based IECPs are limited to 5 persons at a time² while centre-based IECPs must not exceed 50 persons in a classroom setting, including the religious worker/teacher³ (and supporting workers, if any). Where necessary there can be multiple groups of up to 5 persons, so long as each group is separated by at least 1 metre with no mingling across groups. As best practice, we encourage a greater separation of 2 metres between groups of students attending religious classes.

5 If your IECPs intends to conduct events or programmes above 50 persons, please send in your Safe Management Measures (SMMs) to cpro@mccy.gov.sg or simply visit www.go.gov.sg/smm-iecp

¹ <https://www.cpro.gov.sg/media/MediaFactsheetonProgressiveEasingOfMeasuresForReligiousActivities.pdf>

² <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/faq/sectorspecific/education>

³ Persons who are speaking to a group in a classroom or lecture-style setting, where they largely remain at the spot from which they are speaking, may wear face shields in lieu of masks, and must be at least 1 metre away from any other individual.



IECP ACTIVITIES WITH FOREIGN SPEAKERS

6 The ARS Office has been monitoring online activities and we found that online sessions are conducted by foreign speakers or teachers which would normally require the Miscellaneous Working Pass (MWP) if they were to enter Singapore in-person.

7 As the MWP is not issued during this period, we would like to remind our partners to inculcate *amanah* while providing religious education online. Based on our observations, we found some IECPs engaging foreign speakers whose MWP has been rejected in the past. With the rising number of online classes IECPs must adhere to the following guidelines:

- i. Constantly update the ARS Office on new programmes via GoBusiness portal. New programmes can only be offered after approval. IECPs are accountable and responsible for every program especially religious talks which feature international speakers
- ii. Highly-encouraged to engage ARS-certified local speakers for both online and face-to-face programmes until foreign speakers are permitted to visit Singapore
- iii. Scrutinise and assess speakers based on the Code of Ethics (COE). The handbook may be found via www.ars.sg under 'Publications and Downloads' tab
- iv. IECPs that offer degree and diploma courses in their twinning programs with foreign Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) may continue to engage foreign speakers online subject to prior updates and approval.

8 We would also like to remind our IECPs that proprietors of IECPs are liable to be penalised under Muslim Religious School Rules Section 87 of AMLA should there be any contravention.

ADVERTISING ON ARS NEWSLETTER

9 ARS Newsletter has been a monthly platform since late 2018 for asatizah to get updated with our asatizah on religious matters, contemporary issues, CPE programmes and job opportunities. To date, we have published 24 newsletters with over 68,000 reads.

10 To facilitate our asatizah and IECPs with more job opportunities, we are providing an advertisement space for IECPs to place their job opportunities on our newsletter for free. Please feel free to fill in the form by clicking [here](#). Should you require further clarifications or assistance, please contact us via cpe_ars@muiss.gov.sg



ASATIZAH TRAINING CREDITS

11 On 5 September 2020, Minister Masagos Zulkifli announced the launch of the asatizah Training Credits (ATC) as part of efforts to strengthen the skills development of asatizah. In line with the greater government push for upskilling and the recommendations from the Committee of Future (COFA) the ATC aims to encourage ARS asatizah to upskill themselves with competencies deemed critical in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. Each asatizah will be given \$200 worth of training credits to attend selected courses under five skills categories – Digital Literacy, Technology Enabled Learning & Delivery, Grit and Resilience, Personal Development and Teamwork and Collaboration.

12 These credits will complement existing government upskilling schemes and employers training support. The credits must be utilised by December 2021. Course registration for company sponsored asatizah starts on 16 November 2020.

13 As an example, a 2-day course on Technology Enabled Learning Delivery costing \$500 will only cost \$50 after SSG subsidy. This nett course fee \$50 can then be claimed from the ATC for each asatizah.

14 Employers who register their asatizah for these courses will also be eligible to benefit from SSG's Absentee Payroll scheme. This will require the employers to first pay the nett course fee (after SSG subsidy) to the training providers before reimbursement of the ATC from Muis.

15 Hence employers will be reimbursed for the nett course fees from Muis when they sponsor their asatizah training and are also able to claim Absentee Payroll from SSG – subject to existing SSG requirements. What's more, these courses will also be allocated CPE hours and will count towards CPE re-certification.

16 A total of 15 workshop runs over 7 courses have been lined up from end November to December 2020. Please register your asatizah for these courses as soon as possible. The course calendar for 2021 will be sent out separately by end Dec 2021.



17 Details on the ATC can be found in the attached ATC info kit. Should you have any queries, please direct them to cpe_ars@muiss.gov.sg.

18 On this note, we would like to thank our IECF partners for your continuous support and understanding during this unprecedented period. Let us continue to play our part in fighting COVID-19 and make *do'a*. May Allah Al-Hafiz protect us, our community and our country from harm. *Amin ya Rabbal Alamin*.

Thank you and *wassalam*.

OFFICE OF MUFTI (ARS OFFICE)

ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE (MUIS)