



Microsoft (Thailand) Limited Winner of the 2018 AMCHAM CSR Excellence Special Award “Excellence in Developing Smart People”

Name of CSR initiative: Equip All Youth to be Future Ready through Digital Skills and Computer Science Education

A core part of Microsoft’s mission is to equip youth around the world, young Thais among them, with digital skills, helping them achieve their goals and overcome educational disadvantages in today’s digital economy. Young people play an important role in innovative development and Thai youth are on par with their peers worldwide.

Microsoft, together with its partners -- the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES), Ministry of Education (MOE), National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (NECTEC), Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA), Code.org, UNESCO, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Change Fusion,

Redemptorist Foundation For People with Disabilities, International Rescue Committee (IRC), and the Mechai Foundation -- have provided essential digital literacy and computer science training for over 400,000 students since 2014. These programs especially target youth with low access to computer science training. This includes students with physical disabilities, residents of the three southernmost Thai provinces, displaced youth in refugees’ camps, and female inmates; as well as NGO staff, volunteers, and educators. These education initiatives ensure that more young Thais are future-ready and have access to the key digital skills that employers seek.

Experts predict that automation will impact or replace more than half of jobs globally. Digital skills are essential to open the door to greater economic opportunity. Unfortunately, these skills are beyond the reach of many youth, especially those who live in impoverished and marginalized communities. By giving students access to computer science training – foundational to education

in the 21st century – they become prepared not only to use apps and websites today, but to create the apps and websites of the future.

Program beneficiaries typically show further interest in advanced curricula and repeat participation in similar STEM programs offered by Microsoft and partner organizations. These include the UNESCO & Microsoft Hackathon for Culture and Peace; and the Accessible Learning Hackathon: Solving the Right Problems for Students with Disabilities, in partnership with Ministry of Education and UNESCO.

In 2018, Microsoft jointly founded the Coding Thailand project with the Digital Economy Promotion Agency (DEPA) and code.org. Which aims to promote computer science education. Codingthailand.org is a Thai language computer science learning website, which offers code.org’s high quality curriculum and resources at no cost. Built on Microsoft’s Azure platform, the website provides a sustainable online community where knowledge and entertainment are combined to spur youth interest in computer science. ■