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KRISHNA

Hi, there. As we were doing the last time I spoke with you, the OCW team and I

RAJAGOPAL:

continue to work from our homes and produce OpenCourseWare remotely in light of the ongoing pandemic. My very best wishes to all of you and yours. Be well and stay well wherever you are.

Throughout this prolonged season of challenges and uncertainty, we continue to find inspiration in the persistence of OCW learners and their dedication to learning. We are heartened to be of service during this time. Now going six months strong from home, the team is committed to maintaining the quality of OCW for you and all the many of you who are turning to OCW at this time.

Use of OCW remains strong with a substantial increase in daily site visits compared to last year. With so much happening online these days, the importance of video and reaching learners is profound. That's why we're so excited to have recently surpassed 2.6 million subscribers to the OCW YouTube channel.

We're also thrilled to share that the first season of Chalk Radio is now available in full. This season of the podcast brought critical and timely conversations about remote teaching during the pandemic, about the relationship between language, identity, culture, and power, and about the benefits and potential of teaching with OER. We invite you to listen if you haven't already. And all of you should stay tuned for the second season debuting later this month.

Next year, OpenCourseWare will celebrate its 20th anniversary. As we approach this milestone, we are reflecting on what OCW means to the world today, a world that looks and learns very differently than we could have imagined back in 2001. What has not changed is MIT's commitment to the simple, but bold idea that openly sharing educational resources created by MIT's teachers for MIT's students for anyone to use can change lives, expand minds, enhance careers, and help to make a better world for all of us.

And the stakes are high. As we see every day, with an ongoing global public health crisis, with a painful nationwide reckoning with the systemic advantages and disadvantages that have shaped so much of our lives, and with the daunting reality of our rapidly changing climate, in all these ways and more, our fates are interconnected.

In the face of all of this embracing our lifelong curiosity, our need to learn and adapt has never been more important or more personal. We believe that free access to knowledge and open educational resources like OCW can be powerful tools in helping us to understand these deeply complex issues. You can read more about the role of open educational resources in creating a more just world and a new piece on our website from OCW director, Curt Newton.

The primary way we are preparing to mark OCW's 20th anniversary is by reimagining the OCW platform to better realize MIT's unchanging commitment to sharing its teaching in the service of learners like you for the next 20 years. The NextGen OCW platform will further improve global educational equity and access by allowing millions more learners around the world to learn from OCW.

Currently in the prototype phase, new features include a seamless user experience optimized across all your devices, from smartphones to mobile to desktops, so you can learn with OCW wherever you are. An enhanced search experience to make course content across the full broad sweep of OCW and our new Open Learning Library easier to find. And a vastly streamlined process for authoring OCW content on our side that will make it much easier and quicker for MIT's teachers to share perspectives and pedagogies, educational technologies, and tools of today and tomorrow with all of you around the world keeping OCW current, vibrant, and full of energy.

Recently, one of my colleagues, who was trying to capture the magic of MIT in a phrase, said that students and teachers here are vibrating with energy. NextGen OCW will share some of that magic, some of that energy, some of those vibrations, with millions of learners like you for years to come. We look forward to sharing our and your new platform with you next year and hope you will join us in celebrating 20 years of OpenCourseWare, the power of Open, everyone who helped us get here,

and the millions of you who have learned with us. Whether you're a student, an educator, a lifelong learner, or just discovering OCW for the very first time, we're so glad you're here. Thank you for being a part of OCW.