

CONCEPT NOTE

Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 II (APMED2030 II)

16-18 November 2016
Radisson Blu Plaza Bangkok
Bangkok, Thailand

Background

Following the first Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2030), several countries have organized national consultations on the integration of the SDG 4 targets into national plans, conducted data mapping exercises, reviewed, revived and formed coordination committees, and translated key documents including the Education 2030 Framework for Action (FFA) into local languages. At the regional level, the regional Education for All (EFA) coordination and partnership mechanism has been reformed, building on the previous structure, and renamed as the Regional Thematic Working Group on Education 2030+; the “+ (plus)” signifying the importance of ensuring a holistic perspective to education development and close linkages with the other development goals. Such linkages should be addressed throughout the processes of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the relevant SDG4-Education 2030 targets. The TWG Co-Chairs (UNESCO and UNICEF) have also been working together at the country level with partners to support Member States’ efforts in integrating SDG4-Education 2030 into national processes and plans. Simultaneously, sub-regional, intergovernmental bodies such as the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) have been promoting and accelerating the SDG4-Education 2030 agenda.

By the second quarter of 2016, the Global Education 2030 Steering Committee was established, with its secretariat based in UNESCO Headquarters. This committee aims to ensure coordinated support to Member States and partners to achieve SDG 4-Education 2030 and the education-related targets in other goals of the 2030 Agenda. The FFA was updated and was finalized in August 2016. The thematic indicators will be finalized in September 2016. These updated documents and new

developments at both the global and regional level¹ will be shared and discussed at the 2nd Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED2030 II).

In May 2016, UNESCO Bangkok - Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education launched a follow-up survey, requesting from Member States, updates on their country-level progress in light of the APMED 2030 Outcome Document. This would enable UNESCO and development partners to have a better understanding on the support needed by the Member States in aligning with and implementing SDG4-Education 2030. The responses received indicate that many countries still face difficulties in “unpacking” the concepts and languages of SDG 4 targets to their national/local contexts. More importantly, some states sought guidance on how to effectively and systematically integrate, align and mainstream the targets and indicators into education sector strategic plans and socio-economic development plans. Some countries also reported challenges in finding the ‘right’ entry point(s) to initiate national consultations, mobilizing partners and coordinating with relevant actors and stakeholders.

Translating the SDG 4 targets into national priorities will require their systematic integration into existing national education sector plans, financing and monitoring processes. It will also require locating the entirety of SDG4-Education 2030, under the overall framework of the countries’ sustainable development policies, plans and programmes. Ideally, all stakeholders: government, international development agencies, civil society, private sector and others will need to be mobilized and engaged to contribute to its implementation. Therefore, coordination and partnership mechanisms must be developed at the national and sub-national levels to support the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030. Regional and national monitoring and reporting mechanisms are critical alongside global monitoring.

In response, UNESCO initiated the process of engagement and dialogue with Member States to develop regional technical implementation guidelines to support and guide the implementation processes. Such guidelines should be accompanied by a clear and concrete roadmap for implementation by the Asia-Pacific countries over the next 15 years.

In this context, UNESCO Bangkok - Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education and the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) and Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), with support from the Government of Japan, are co-organizing the second Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED2030 II) from 16 to 18 November 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. The discussions will focus on key priorities, milestones, and actions needed and to be followed up for the implementation of SDG4 - Education 2030. The outcomes of APMED2030 II will contribute to global level processes.

¹ Outcomes of high-level regional events including the Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education in July 2016; Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum on ICT in Education (AMFIE) in November 2016; and the SAARC Summit in November 2016.

Overarching objective

To agree on the SDG4-Education 2030 Implementation Roadmap for Asia and the Pacific.

Objectives

- To officiate the regional network of national SDG4 coordinators
- To update Member States on the latest global, regional, sub-regional and national developments on SDG4-Education 2030
- To share experiences and identify the challenges and opportunities (resources, capacity, infrastructure, etc.) at the country level in the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030
- To discuss and agree on the region's implementation strategy, key priorities, milestones, and actions towards the achievement of SDG4-Education 2030

Expected Outputs

- Terms of Reference (ToR) of the regional network of national SDG4 coordinators
- Documentation of Member States' planning and localization processes of SDG4-Education 2030
- Draft annotated outline of the regional technical implementation guidelines
- Draft regional implementation roadmap, clarifying key priorities, milestones, and actions towards the achievement of SDG4-Education 2030

Country Preparatory Work

To prepare for the discussions during the APMED2030 II, country participants will be requested to complete a pre-meeting survey on their planning and localization processes of SDG 4-Education 2030, the feasibility of the implementation strategies as presented in the FFA and provide a list of relevant national SDG 4-Education 2030 reference documents (e.g. list of integrated indicators, Terms of Reference of the SDG4-Education 2030 focal point, etc.). Countries that are not able to participate in APMED2030 II are encouraged to respond to the pre-meeting survey.

Participants

Each Member State will nominate up to three **senior** officials from ministries of education or other relevant institutions. It is suggested that the country delegation would comprise of one official in charge of the national coordination of SDG 4-Education 2030 (i.e. national focal point for SDG4-Education 2030), one official responsible for education planning/statistics and another official responsible for thematic area(s) of SDG4-Education 2030 that is considered a national priority. Other participants include SDG 4-Education 2030 co-convenors, international development agencies, UNESCO Institutes and Centres, high-level representatives from sub-regional, intergovernmental organizations, CSOs/NGOs, teacher unions, the private sector and academia.

The organizers will cover the accommodation and travel costs (daily subsistence allowance) of up to two officials from least developed countries (LDCs) and one official from lower-middle-income countries (LMICs). All other participants are expected to cover their own travel costs and other expenses. The organizers will provide all participants with lunch and coffee breaks on all three days of the meeting and one dinner on the 16th of November 2016.

*All **country nominations** should be sent to UNESCO Bangkok **by Friday, 30 September 2016**.* Upon receiving the official nominations, individual invitation letters will be issued to facilitate visa applications and travel preparation.

*All **participants** must **complete and return their registration form** to UNESCO Bangkok by **Monday, 10 October 2016**.*

Modality

This technical meeting will be conducted over three days. A set of reference documents will be used to inform the discussions. The meeting will employ a combination of plenary sessions and parallel group discussions, and will refer to relevant reference papers and guiding questions.

The main purpose of the parallel group discussions will be to generate specific and concrete inputs to the draft regional implementation roadmap to be agreed on at the end of the meeting, which will be finalized for endorsement after the meeting.

Day 1: Updates on the latest global, regional and national developments on SDG4-Education 2030, with focus on the progress and challenges integrating and implementing the strategies to meet SDG 4 targets.

Day 2: Discussion on the implementation of the SDG4-Education 2030 targets, implementation strategies, and monitoring indicators.

Day 3: Agreement on the region's Implementation Roadmap and next steps towards the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030

For more information

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Key Reference Documents

- Incheon Declaration
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002331/233137E.pdf>
- United Nations - Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>
- Framework for Action Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002456/245656e.pdf>
- Thematic Indicators to Monitor the Education 2030 Agenda – Technical Advisory Group Proposal (October 2015)
<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/43-indicators-to-monitor-education2030.pdf>
- 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report – Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/ED/GMR/images/2014/2016_Concept_Note_rev2.pdf
- Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good?
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002325/232555e.pdf>
- Putrajaya Declaration (outcome document of the Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education)
<http://www.unescobkk.org/news/article/putrajaya-declaration-on-early-childhood-care-and-education-in-asia-pacific/>
- Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP on ESD)
<https://en.unesco.org/gap>
UNESCO Roadmap for Implementing GAP on ESD (November 2014)
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1674unescoroadmap.pdf>
- UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12949&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

- UNESCO Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation, Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1974)
http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=13088&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html