

# Literacy and Lifelong Learning

## Activity Summary 2012

### Regional Activities

#### Regional Conferences and Workshops

A **Regional Meeting on Alternative Learning/Schooling Programmes for Primary Education to Reach the Unreached** was held on 7-9 November in Bangkok. The event was organized in collaboration with UNICEF ROSA and UNICEF EAPRO offices. The meeting brought together policymakers, practitioners and experts from 23 countries in Asia and the Pacific to build momentum and to raise awareness of the importance of providing alternative and flexible schooling programs for out-of-school and at-risk children. Each country developed a Country Action Plan and some will be technically or financially supported by UNESCO Bangkok in 2013.

<http://www.unescobkk.org/education/news/article/regional-meeting-on-alternative-learningschooling-programmes-for-primary-education-to-reach-the-unr/>

The **Regional Conference on Lifelong Learning for All through Community Learning Centres** was held on 26-28 September in Bangkok. In attendance were 99 participants representing 25 countries, including speakers from Japan, Korea, South Africa, the USA and France. Participants discussed innovative approaches to managing CLCs and shared experiences on three key topics: (1.) Running effective literacy programmes, (2.) New content to be taught as part of life skills, and (3.) Innovations to reduce poverty through lifelong learning in CLCs.

<http://www.unescobkk.org/education/news/article/lifelong-learning-for-all-through-community-learning-centres-regional-conference-26-28-septembe/>

The **All Children Reading Asia Regional Workshop** was held on 17-20 September in Bangkok. The event was jointly organized by the Global Partnership for Education, AusAID, DfID, USAID and UNESCO Bangkok. The Asia regional workshop aimed to initiate concrete planning and rapid action to improve early-grade reading skills. It reflected GPE's commitment to cut in half the number of non-readers in 20 countries within a period of 5 years. More than 150 participants attended, representing Ministries of Education, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor partners from the region. All participating countries developed national action plans.

<http://www.unescobkk.org/education/news/article/all-children-reading-asia-regional-workshop/>

The **Regional Consultation Workshop on Developing Literacy through Mobile Phones: Empowering Women and Girls** was held on 27- 28 November 2012 in Bangkok. The meeting aimed to promote discussion and knowledge-sharing related to successful literacy initiatives in Asia which target women and girls through the use of mobile devices and ICT, raising awareness of the potential for mobile learning to help achieve Education for All goals. The workshop brought together subject-matter experts, government and NGO representatives, and case study authors who provided recommendations that will be incorporated into a comprehensive regional review in 2013. This workshop was led by the Division of Teacher Development and Higher Education of UNESCO HQ and supported by UNESCO Bangkok.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/icts/m4ed/policy-research-and-advocacy/mobile-phone-literacy-project/>

#### Research and Publications

A **Regional Handbook on Life Skills Programmes for Non-Formal Education** was published. The handbook was developed for an audience of education policymakers, experts in curriculum development, materials developers and teacher trainers in the field of NFE. The publication will also be useful to NFE practitioners such as Community Learning Centres (CLCs) personnel, teachers, instructors, and researchers. It aims to provide information about life skills programmes, serving as a practical guide to implementing education programmes to enhance life skills.

<http://www.unescobkk.org/resources/e-library/publications/article/regional-handbook-on-life-skills-programmes-for-non-formal-education/>

As part of the regional research initiative on “**Lifelong Learning and Employment Prospects/Employability**”, country case studies documenting **Australia** and **Hong Kong** were carried out to identify the relationship between lifelong learning (LLL) and employment prospects in policy and practice in those countries. The report aims to document existing LLL policies, strategies and programmes which contribute to the enhancement of employment prospects or employability of working-age citizens in the those countries. The draft country cases will be finalized and published in early 2013.

The **Infographics on the Facts on Literacy** leaflet was produced as an easily-readable summary to illustrate the regional literacy situation, showing the costs of illiteracy, country statistics and groups that remain marginalized. The factsheet was disseminated through social networking sites and also distributed during regional events.

[http://www.literacyportal.net/others/infographic\\_appeal\\_6Sep.png](http://www.literacyportal.net/others/infographic_appeal_6Sep.png)

**COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRES: ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2011 REPORT** was produced as an outcome to the regional conference in September 2011. The report discusses how to assure quality in literacy and NFE programme delivery, decentralization mechanisms, conducting literacy assessments and fostering coordination among stakeholders. <http://www.unescobkk.org/resources/e-library/publications/article/community-learning-centres-asia-pacific-regional-conference-report-1/>

To meet the goal of Education for All (EFA), the **Asia-Pacific Regional Guide to Equivalency Programmes** was developed to encourage the provision of education not only through formal education programmes, but also through non-formal education programmes that give access to children, youth and adults who have been unable to complete basic education. The guidelines include 10 modules on how to initiate equivalency programmes, concepts, policy frameworks, curricula, capacity development, delivery mechanisms, resource mobilization, community participation and how to monitor and evaluate such programmes. <http://www.unescobkk.org/resources/e-library/publications/article/asia-pacific-regional-guide-to-equivalency-programmes/>

**Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) 2010 - Regional Mid-term Evaluation: Summary Report.** The United Nations Literacy Decade 2003-2012 has been a major effort to attain literacy for all. Country evaluation reports were developed in 11 LIFE countries in Asia and Pacific and the regional synthesis report was developed through a regional consultation meeting held in December 2010. The report was e-published and could be downloaded at <http://www.unescobkk.org/resources/e-library/publications/article/literacy-initiative-for-empowerment-life-2010-regional-mid-term-evaluation-summary-report/>

## Networks

A **Portal site for ALPs and flexible learning** was developed ([www.alp-edu.net](http://www.alp-edu.net)). Officially launched in December 2012, the site includes information on 35 primary-level alternative education programmes that are currently being implemented in the Asia-Pacific region. More cases and resources will be updated and included on the site in 2013.

The **CLC social network platform** (<https://www.facebook.com/clcnet>) was created to connect CLCs together and to encourage the sharing of information, activities, facilities and resources. Included in the pilot site are 71 CLCs in Thailand that have been connected through this network. Anyone can view the locations, recent activities, staff and financial information as well as the training each CLC offers. In addition, there is a test function for NFE students to search easily training programs offered by CLCs in this platform.

The **APPEAL Resource and Training Consortium website** was re-launched to create a regional network of 12 member institutions that promote literacy, NFE and lifelong learning. On the site, visitors have access to materials and publications, as well as information related to the main function, history, projects, activities cases, and target groups of each member are available. <http://www.artcinfo.net/>

## Country Activities

### Equivalency Programmes

### **Mobile teachers programme in Lao PDR**

APPEAL continued to support the Department of Non-Formal Education (DNFE), Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR in developing a primary equivalency program (EP) through the use of mobile teachers. The programme was first initiated in May 2010 and it was developed as part of the broader Education for All - Fast Track Initiative framework, jointly funded by Australia, the Global Partnership for Education and the World Bank. Prior to 2012, curriculum and teaching/learning materials are developed, and master trainers, mobile teachers and teaching assistants were trained. In January 2012, the program was piloted in 114 villages of Savannakhet province. 2,437 children, including 1,338 females aged 6 to 14 enrolled in the program. APPEAL continued to provide technical assistance to the Government of Lao PDR throughout 2012.

### **Lower secondary equivalency program development in Lao PDR and Myanmar**

APPEAL launched a project to assist Lao PDR and Myanmar in the development of lower-secondary equivalency programs. An initial situational analysis was conducted in Myanmar as a preparation to develop an EP curriculum. The analysis identified possible routes for UNESCO technical assistance, potential challenges, next steps and recommendations. In 2013, APPEAL will assist the Government of Myanmar to develop an EP framework and a curriculum. In Lao PDR, the project design was completed in 2012 and APPEAL will assist the Government in developing teaching/learning materials for lower secondary-level EP in 2013.

### **Capacity Development on Literacy and NFE Programmes in Mae Hong Song**

A community survey of 15 villages was conducted, and from the data collected, a series of learning materials on life skills was developed. Materials were finalized and will be distributed to the entire province in early 2013. These materials will also be disseminated to neighboring countries, especially to those in the ASEAN region that have a similar context to Mae Hong Son. In addition, a study visit to Bangkok was organized to develop the capacity of district-level education personnel. The programme was designed by UNESCO and the meeting served to inspire participants to positively work towards implementing lifelong learning programmes in MHS with new skills and knowledge. Through collaboration with the Programme Management Unit of the UNJP, APPEAL coordinated a study visit for Mongolian senior government officials to visit such NFE programs in Thailand.

### **Youth Empowerment through Mobile Learning Project**

Two motivational events were organized at TK park in Bangkok in the months of September and November for Thai youth to meet influential and well-known public figures. These individuals included 3 television celebrities, 1 Paralympic gold medalist and 3 motivational speakers. The total number of participants increased from 76 to 219 people representing 5 districts of Bangkok. In addition to the event, 6 celebrities and a music band were interviewed. The current Youth Empowerment Facebook group has more than 3,800 members. Messages of inspiration are sent daily.

### **Flood Response**

A needs assessment report was completed on the community learning centres damaged by the 2011 floods. The report surveys 20 of the most severely damaged CLCs (out of a total 116 CLCs). An Implementation Partner Agreement (IPA) has been under discussion with the Ayutthaya Provincial ONIE office for the procurement of supplies and for disaster risk reduction trainings. The project launching ceremony was held in Ayutthaya on September 9, 2012 with the UNESCO Director-General, the Ambassador of Japan and the Permanent Secretary of the Thai Ministry of Education in attendance.

### **International Literacy Day Events in Phuket and Bangkok**

Events were held in two cities in celebration of the 2012 International Literacy Day. In Phuket, more than a thousand ONIE government officials and CLC staff, along with members from UNESCO Bangkok gathered to celebrate the event through various sports activities. In Bangkok, the Director-General of UNESCO also presided over the celebratory ceremony. UNESCO Bangkok displayed informational booths in both Phuket and Bangkok.