East Asia
PRC, DPRK, Japan, Mongolia, ROK

Session 4
Towards implementation: Examining implications opportunities and challenges of the new education agenda
Chair: Mr Tsolmon Ariya, Mongolia
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Question 1 – Translating the global agenda into the national context

• Most of targets under SDG 4 are reflected in all countries’ existing education sector plans.
  
  E.g.
  
  - China’s 13th 5-year plan (2016-2020)
  - DPRK’s long-term education strategy up to 2032
  - Mongolia’s long-term 2030 strategic education plan (under preparation) is being aligned with SDG 4.
Question 2 - Priorities

• Quality of education is a priority for all countries.
  - Japan, ROK: social emotional wellbeing linked to ESD and GCED
  - China, ROK, DPRK, Mongolia: especially in higher education
  - DPRK: Learning Assessment

• ROK: TVET

• DPRK: Free compulsory education up to upper secondary level (12-year education)

• Japan: Addressing disparities between the poor and the rich
Questions 3 & 4: Opportunities and Implementing Challenges

Opportunities
- Mongolia: increased government funding
- ROK, DPRK: ICT (introduction of K-Mooc in ROK; curriculum for e-learning in DPRK)

Challenges
• Financing:
  - Japan, ROK: difficult to increase allocation to education due to aging population and decreasing # of students
  - China: increased demand for pre-primary and primary education due to the end of the one child policy
  - DPRK: lack of finance
  - Competition among sub-sectors / education sector vs other sectors

Asia-Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED2030) | 25-27 November 2015 | Bangkok, Thailand
• Others
  - Mongolia: schooling for nomadic children (separation from parents)
  - Gender balance in higher education: Mongolia (female dominance), DPRK (male dominance)
  - Mongolia: policies not based on evidence; TVET under Ministry of Labour; low teacher status
  - China: Changing labor market needs
  - Japan, China: whether to make upper secondary education compulsory
Question 5 – lessons learnt from EFA and MDGs experiences

• Strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms
• China, Mongolia, ROK, DPRK: Participation of relevant stakeholders (civil society, other ministries/sectors)
• China: effective national coordination mechanisms
• ROK: Advocacy on SDGs at country level