12th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators
25-28 July 2011
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Meeting Terms of Reference

I. Background
The Education for All (EFA) initiative was first launched in March 1990 at the World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand. Participants from 155 countries and representatives of 160 governmental and non-governmental organizations adopted the World Declaration on EFA which reaffirmed that education is a fundamental human right and urged countries to intensify efforts to address the basic learning needs of all.

At the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal in April 2000, National Governments and the international community re-affirmed its vision of Education for All through the drafting and signing of the Dakar Framework for Action. This Framework committed signatories to the attainment of six goals with focus on early childhood care and education, universal primary education, life skills and life-long learning, adult literacy, gender parity and equality, and quality education. The Framework also foresaw the need for national monitoring of EFA progress. The EFA goals were further linked to national and international development frameworks in September 2000 when 189 nations came together at the United Nations Millennium Summit and endorsed the Millennium Declaration identifying the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Following the Dakar Forum, UNESCO Bangkok continued to support regional Member States by conducting regular regional meetings of National EFA Coordinators, with direct links to the Regional Thematic Working Group (TWG) on EFA in order to support planning, implementation and monitoring of EFA through information sharing and technical advice.

At the 11th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators held in Bangkok from 18-20 November 2010, participants from 25 countries and EFA partners from across the region, reiterated their commitment to strive to accelerate progress in meeting the EFA goals by 2015, with a focus on addressing marginalization in education. Countries also pledged to intensity efforts to improve the quality of education, and increase access to early childhood care and education, literacy programmes, and secondary and higher education. At the meeting, the Korean National Commission for UNESCO also kindly offered to host the 12th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators.
II. Meeting Objectives

The meeting will be a forum to discuss with countries and EFA partners on how to accelerate progress towards 2015 and the kind of support needed for this. It will also be a venue for countries to learn from the experience of the host country, the Republic of Korea, in relation to the contribution of education to national development.

Discussions will focus particularly on (1) Using data and evidence for improved policy and learning (2) making education more relevant and responsive to the needs of national development; (3) governance and the roles of State and non-state providers in financing EFA; and (4) improving data collection, monitoring, evaluation and assessment, among others.

Drafts of the regional End-of-Decade Notes on EFA Progress by EFA goal will also be presented for comments and validation by countries.

III. Meeting Outcomes

Based on the above objectives, the following are the expected outcomes of the meeting:

1. Country papers clearly stating status vis-à-vis the EFA goals and what is being done to accelerate progress to 2015
2. Countries learn from each other and from EFA partners on good practices towards achieving the EFA goals by 2015
3. Country representatives and EFA partner review and validate the End-of-Decade Notes on EFA Progress for each EFA goal
4. Recommendations on how to scale-up efforts to accelerate EFA progress related to the focus areas (see Meeting Objectives) and identification of support needs related to these areas.

IV. Participants

Participants to the workshop will be the designated National EFA Coordinators from countries in the Asia and the Pacific region. The National EFA Coordinator/Focal Point should be someone with responsibilities for directing and coordinating EFA follow-up work at the country level.

UNESCO and UNICEF will cover the travel costs of one official representative per country while the Korean National Commission for UNESCO will cover the accommodation costs. Travel and accommodation costs of additional country representatives should be secured by the participants themselves.

Members of the Thematic Working Group on EFA, UNESCO and UNICEF regional and country education officers, representative(s) from UNESCO Paris and UIS Montreal, and other organizations involved in education are also invited to participate in the meeting at their own cost.

V. Date and Venue

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The main meeting venue will be the office of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO: UNESCO Hall,
11th Floor, Korean National Commission for UNESCO
26, Myeongdong-gil(UNESCO Road), Jung-gu, Seoul
100-801, Korea
VI. Format
The meeting will be divided into two sessions:
- Plenary Sessions
- Working Group Sessions
The medium for communication for the meeting will be English.

VII. Preparatory Work by Participants
Countries invited to the meeting are requested to prepare a brief paper on “Status of EFA Progress” which will clearly state where the country stands now vis-à-vis the EFA goals and what is being done to accelerate progress to 2015. The paper should also identify support needed related to scaling-up of efforts meet the EFA goals. Please see the Country Paper Guidelines for the suggested outline of the paper and recommended references.

UNESCO will use the country papers as reference for the End-of-Decade Notes on EFA Progress for each EFA goal, which is prepared jointly by UNESCO, UNICEF and other TWG on EFA members. At the meeting, countries will also be requested to comment and validate the End-of-Decade Notes on EFA Progress. Draft copies of the notes will be shared to all confirmed participants prior to the meeting.

VIII. Contacts
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