2006.10.26

1.1. Initial Discussion with Minister of Education (9.00 am- 10.00 am)

Dr. K.C.Tung/UIS Regional Adviser from UNESCO Bangkok office, Ms.Akemi Yonemura, Programme Specialist from UNESCO New Delhi office, Mr.S.U.Wijetarne, Additional Secretary/ Planning and Performance Review, Mr.W.Dharmadasa, Additional Secretary/Education Quality Development, Ms.B.P.Withanage, National EFA Coordinator, and Mr.Prithi Perera, Secretary General UNESCO Sri Lanka met the Hon.Susil Premajayantha, Minister of Education.

- UNESCO delegation explained to the Hon. Minister the process of regional MDA and its usefulness to the country.

- Hon. Minister informed that two committees are already working under his guidance to prepare action plans to implement an accelerated programme to develop Early Childhood Care and Education and improve Literacy in Sri Lanka.

- Hon. Minister accepted the need for enhancement of EFA Unit in the Ministry with all necessary facilities and staff.

1.2. Meeting with Thematic Working Group Members- chaired by Mr.S.U.Wijeratne, Additional Secretary/PPR (10.00am-1.00pm)

- Dr. K.C.Tung made a presentation on EFA MDA focusing on Why MDA of EFA, EFA global monitoring report, Proposed report outline, What to be assessed for each goal?, MDA structure, Funding agencies support, Framework for the assessment, Evidence based policy making, Objectives of Regional MDA, Timeline and milestones, Regional support for MDA.

- Ms.Badra Withanage presented National EFA MDA Action Plan describing Country objectives, Scope of the assessment, Key questions to be addressed, Data gaps, Proposed studies under each goal and Country structure.

- The studies proposed under each goal were presented by respective members of each group.

EFA Goal 1 ECCE: Dr.Ms Indrani Thalagala - Head/ECCE Department/ Open University

EFA Goal 2 UBE: Dr.P.Sethunge- Head/Department of Education/University of Peradeniya
Dr.GD Lekamge- Dean/Faculty of Education/Open University

EFA Goal 3 Life Skills Ms.B.P.Withanage-National EFA Coordinator
It was mentioned that Gender and Quality are cross cutting themes and will be covered by other themes.

All presenters were instructed to present time targets of the respective studies.

2006.10.27

*Meeting with Donor Agencies and Thematic Working Group Members* - *Co-chaired by Mr. W. Dharmadasa, Additional Secretary/ EQD and Mr. M. Gammanpila/ Consultant/ Monitoring of Foreign Funded Projects (10.00am-1.00pm)*

- Mr. W. Dharmadasa, Additional Secretary/ EQD welcomed Dr. Ko Chi Tung from UNESCO, all representatives of donor agencies, academic staff of universities and National Institute of Education and officials of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. He expressed the importance of implementation of education for all concepts in Sri Lanka as a developing country.

- Mr. Prithi Perera, Secretary General UNESCO Sri Lanka, said that the cooperation with relevant UN agencies viz; UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, World Bank who together with UNESCO, are co-conveners of EFA, as also, other development partners, is essential in the assessment process and to contribute to enhancing EFA goals. He also emphasized that the EFA assessment will further strengthen the ESDFP at the national level and that monitoring and assessments are an important and integral part in managing the ESDFP, as also in contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals committed to by all UN member states.

- Dr. K. C. Tung made a presentation on EFA MDA focusing on *Why MDA of EFA, EFA global monitoring report, Proposed report outline, What to be assessed for each goal?, MDA structure, Funding agencies support, Framework for the assessment, Evidence based policy making, Objectives of Regional MDA, Timeline and milestones, Regional support for MDA.*

- Ms. Badra Withanage presented National EFA MDA process describing *Country objectives, Scope of the assessment, Key questions to be addressed, Data gaps, Proposed studies under each goal and Country structure.*

- The studies proposed under each goal were presented by respective members of each group. A discussion took place after each presentation.

1. **EFA Goal 1 ECCE:** Survey to identify ability of pre school children to acquire skills related learning in the primary schools
   Presented by Dr. Ms Indrani Thalagala - Head/ECCE Department/ Open University
Discussion points;

- UNICEF representatives pointed out that the access and coverage for ECCE should be an essential part of the assessment. National EFA Coordinator said that data on access and coverage is already being collected by Ministry of Child Development and Women's empowerment.

- Secretary General Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO said that pre school nutrition indicators should also be included in the assessments, since these have an effect on a child’s mental and physical development e.g intake of iodized salt post natal and pre-school.

EFA Goal 2 UBE: Survey to examine policy and practice of inclusive education in Sri Lanka
Presented by Dr .P.Sethunge- Head/Department of Education/University of Peradeniya

Discussion points;

- The teams were requested to think about the possibility of combining some of the proposed research to save time, money and duplication of resources.

- It was also requested to include Muslim and Plantation Schools in the sample.

Presented by; Ms.B.P.Withanage - National EFA Coordinator

EFA Goal 4 Literacy: Status of the country and proposed Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP/UNESCO)
Presented by; Dr.Chandra Gunawardena - Former Dean/ Faculty of Education/
Open University of Sri Lanka

Discussion points;

- Secretary General UNESCO said that functional literacy should also be assessed within the Literacy assessment. Dr.Tung said that it can be done during country adaptation of the study.

EFA Goal 5; Gender: Covered by other themes.

FA Goal 6 Quality: Survey on Essential Learning Competencies of Primary School Children
Presented by; Dr.Suranimala Lekamge - Head/Primary Education/NIE

Discussion points;

- It was mentioned that Gender and Quality are cross cutting themes and will be covered by other themes.
• Secretary General UNESCO Sri Lanka requested all working groups to check whether there are duplications in studies proposed in ESDFP and EFA MDA. He also suggested developing a network with online data capturing facilities at provincial and or zonal levels; in order to not only facilitate the data collection, but also to provide more up-to-date information. This will encourage ownership and motivation at the provincial/ zonal levels.

**Donor Responses**

All donor agencies expressed their interest in participating in EFA MDA and in providing financial support to the selected studies under respective action plans, geared towards achieving each goal as indicated below;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Plan Item</th>
<th>Amount Rs</th>
<th>Equivalent in USD</th>
<th>Name of Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Survey to identify ability of pre school children to acquire skills related learning in the primary school</td>
<td>2,800,000</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>World Vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Conduct an island wide survey to identify non-school-going children and reasons for non-attendance</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey to examine policy and practice of inclusive education in Sri Lanka</td>
<td>1,640,000</td>
<td>16,400</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP/UNESCO)</td>
<td>35,000,000</td>
<td>350,000</td>
<td>WB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04. Assessment of implementation and effectiveness of existing secondary education (6-11) education programmes related to life skills and lifelong learning in Sri Lanka.</td>
<td>1,490,000</td>
<td>14,900</td>
<td>GTZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05. Study on Essential Learning Competencies at Primary Education</td>
<td>850,000</td>
<td>8500</td>
<td>Plan Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06. Administration on EFA MDA</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,080,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>430,800</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Finally Mr. Gammanpila and Mr. Prithi Perera thanked all donor agencies for their participation and contribution. They also thanked UNESCO mission and all the officers for the support they extended to make the donor cooperation meeting a success. It was also underlined that the MOE should now present concrete proposals with detailed budgets showing expected outcomes and indicators of success for each action plan, in order to turn the donor pledges to cash. This is to be done as soon as possible.

*Prepared by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Education*