

Speech
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REGIONAL TECHNICAL FEEDBACK WORKSHOP:
NATIONAL EFA 2015 REVIEWS IN ASIA-PACIFIC
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Good morning ladies and gentlemen!

Welcome to the Regional Technical Feedback Workshop on the National EFA 2015 Reviews in Asia-Pacific.

As we approach 2015, the target year for meeting the Education for All (EFA) goals agreed upon in the Dakar Framework for EFA (2000), UNESCO called upon all Member States in 2013, to conduct a national EFA 2015 review and to prepare a national EFA report summarizing the outcomes.

The overall aim of the national EFA 2015 review is to assess progress made towards achieving EFA since 2000, and the extent to which countries have kept their commitments.

I am pleased to inform you that 40 Member States in Asia-Pacific are participating in the National EFA 2015 Reviews. In addition to the countries present in this room today, many other countries such as Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Singapore are also preparing reports.

With this in mind, the review in Asia-Pacific is unique.

The EFA review has been a country driven and participatory exercise. UNESCO, UNICEF and EFA partners have participated and coordinated their work in support of Member States and will continue to do so.

Many countries have submitted drafts of their national EFA report for review, which have been reviewed by a pool of experts. Thus, some countries have also received feedback on their draft reports.

It is our hope that the feedback received will help Member States as they finalize the national EFA reports. We also hope that the results of the review will help Member States accelerate actions in the last Big Push to 2015 and inform policy debates on the post-2015 education agenda items at the global, regional and national levels.

This Regional Technical Feedback Workshop is organized as a follow up to the Regional Technical Workshop held in November 2013. The objective of this workshop is to provide feedback to Member States on their draft national EFA report and to provide support towards the improvement and finalization of the draft national EFA reports.

I'm pleased to see that this technical feedback workshop has generated a huge turn-out. There are 26 countries represented in this room.

There are also many colleagues from NGOs, Independent consultants, UNESCO HQs, UNESCO field offices, and UNICEF regional and country offices.

This indicates the importance of the national EFA 2015 reviews in this region, that our region, Asia-Pacific is moving forward together, collectively, in our efforts to achieve EFA, and above all, signifies our determination to reach the unreached and include the excluded and marginalized.

The national EFA 2015 review reports will be useful for national and regional use. These reports will also inform and will be used to shape the future of education globally. Findings in the region will be shared at the upcoming Regional Education Conference 2014 in Thailand and the World Education Forum 2015 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

UNESCO is ready to provide technical support where and when needed. We will also work with our partners to streamline our efforts to support countries in their undertaking of the reviews.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of UNESCO, we hope the sessions and group work over the next 2 days will be useful for you and will help you with your work back home.

We look forward to learning about countries' experiences in carrying out the national EFA 2015 reviews and to providing further feedback to countries on their draft national EFA reports. We trust that the EFA 2015 Reviews will help determine the direction and needs of the future of education in each respective country, and of course in view of the emerging trends and phenomena in our region.

I would like to thank the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia for co-organizing this workshop.

I wish you all the best during this 2-day workshop.

Thank you!