2006 Summary

The Regional Thematic Working Group on Education for All (TWG on EFA hereafter) met formally on two occasions in 2006\(^1\). The meetings marked the 17\(^{th}\) and 18\(^{th}\) time the Regional TWG on EFA has met since its inception in 2001.

The revised Terms of Reference, complying with the format provided in the context of the Regional Coordination Meeting (RCM), were presented and endorsed in the January meeting. The TWG on EFA has adopted an expanded coordinating committee consisting of ILO, UNICEF, ESCAP and UNESCO. UNESCO Bangkok retains the chair of the TWG and maintains secretariat responsibilities.

A third meeting brought together the members of the TWG on EFA to discuss, review and endorse plans for regional support to the Asia and Pacific EFA Mid-Decade Assessment\(^2\).

In addition to these formal meetings, members of the TWG on EFA have participated in such activities as the launch of the 2007 EFA Global Monitoring Report and other such related activities.

The TWG benefited from the participation of the following UN agencies in 2006:
- FAORAP
- ILO
- UNESCO
- UNICEF EAPRO
- UNICEF ROSA
- UNODC
- WFP
- World Bank

In addition to the participation of UN agencies, a wide range of regional partners has made significant contribution to the TWG. These organisations include:
- Baha’i International Community, Representative to UNESCAP
- Christoffel-Blindenmission
- International Movement ATD Fourth World
- Plan International Asia
- SIL International
- South East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO)

The meetings provided opportunities to present on-going and related activities including the following:
- EFA Flagship reporting, including the reports back from special working groups on the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI), Education for Rural People (ERP), the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD), and the Thematic Working Group on Disability Concerns (TWGDC), Taskforce on EFA.

\(^1\) 12 January 2006, 27 July 2006

\(^2\) Further details of the Asia and Pacific EFA Mid-Decade Assessment are available online at: www.unescobkk.org/efamda
Regional and Global Initiatives and Events – the EFA High Level Group Meeting 2005, the EFA Fast Track Initiative, and the EFA Mid-Decade Assessment

Key outcomes

− A platform for collaboration and production, highlighting the partnerships formed in the EFA flagship Education for Rural People and UNGEI and joint publications Getting Girls Out of Work and into School and the EFA MDA Technical Guidelines
− The role of the Regional TWG on EFA in steering support for the EFA Mid-Decade Assessment
− Linkages between the TWG on EFA and a network of national EFA Coordinators, who meet each year in Bangkok to maintain and strengthen partnerships and responses to EFA at the regional and national levels.
− The Regional EFA e-newsletter, published monthly and distributed to nearly 3,000 recipients, providing platform for broad information dissemination and exchange

Information Dissemination

The TWG on EFA utilised the UNESCO Bangkok Regional EFA Website (www.unescobkk.org/efa) and the monthly EFA e-newsletter as a means for the dissemination of information. TWG members have contributed significantly to the content of the aforementioned publications.

Future Plans

In February 2007, the TWG on EFA will reconvene in the context of the Regional EFA National Coordinators’ Meeting to support national delegates as they present, review and refine national EFA MDA reports.

Three meetings are planned for 2007.