Speech

Ministerial Forum on Education Beyond 2015

APREC

Gwang-Jo Kim, Director, UNESCO Bangkok – Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education

Bangkok, Thursday, 7 August 2014
18:30 – 19:00

Your Excellency Ms Suthasri Wongsamarn, acting Minister of Education of Thailand,

Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening and welcome to the Ministerial Forum on Education Beyond 2015, the second segment of our Conference.

Your presence at the Ministerial Forum signifies the importance you personally, and your country as a nation, value education.

This forum plays a crucial role, as the outcomes of our discussions and our priorities for the post-2015 education agenda will be reported and we will hear from Ministers as they debate and share their views on the future prospects and key issues of education post-2015.
May I thank the Ministry of Education of Thailand once again for generously hosting this important event.

I would also like to thank Japan and the Republic of Korea again for their contributions and continued support to education and EFA. Thank you also to UNICEF for their continued support and partnership.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to report that the sessions on the first day and today have been productive, fruitful and thought-provoking. Thank you all for your active participation, enthusiasm and dedication.

The outcomes of our discussions on EFA achievements, remaining gaps and challenges, lessons learnt and regional perspectives on the proposed post-2015 agenda have now been condensed and consolidated into the Report of the Regional Dialogue on Education Beyond 2015. This will be presented tomorrow.

As mentioned, during this ministerial forum on education beyond 2015, there will be a Ministerial Roundtable.

Important issues and future prospects of education will be covered. We will also refer to the discussions that have taken place yesterday and this morning. We will refer to your requirements and priorities on the future education agenda.

I look forward to the sessions that remain in our conference tomorrow.
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our region is rich with a long history and culture.

We are a rapidly developing region but we have extraordinary development challenges. It is only through right education we can address these challenges and achieve peace, prosperity and happiness.

Over two decades of EFA movement that began right here in this country has taught us important lessons that can guide us in our quest for a new education agenda.

We have also had a series of consultations on education post-2015 at the regional and national levels.

The Asia-Pacific region is undoubtedly unique and thus, our regional perspective will play a vital part in shaping the global agenda.

I look forward to learning more about your views and priorities for the future education agenda and look forward to a dynamic and fruitful ministerial roundtable discussion.

Thank you.