ADB’s Initiatives and Strategies for a New Vision of Education Development and Cooperation

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The Changing Region
- Challenges for Education
• The trend of developing countries reaching middle income status is increasing

• Knowledge and technology driven development require greater share of the human resources to master high-level skills and adapt through lifelong learning.

• Middle income countries (and countries progressing toward middle income status) must focus on innovation, including for efficient adaptation of technology, and an appropriate accumulation of human resources to avoid technology-skills mismatch and resulting middle-income trap.
• Inequality is rising
• education inequality is a major factor contributing to the total income inequality.
• the share of total income inequality explained by education inequality has been on a steady increase.
• Strengthening *inclusiveness* of education systems is important for supporting inclusive development and creating a broad human resource base for inclusive economic growth.
• The disparities are evident within countries and also becoming evident within the region (between countries).

• Countries in the region increasingly seek opportunities for regional cooperation and cross-border collaboration, including in education and skills development.

• Acceleration of collaborative efforts particularly for harmonization of education and skill qualifications is becoming highly important to support mobility of students, faculty, and workforce, and regional integration in development and economic growth.
- **Strategy 2020**: Education a core operation area

- **Education by 2020; A Sector Operations Plan**: education contributing to meeting the challenges of innovation, inclusiveness, and integration
Basic Education: Overall, enrollment rates have improved toward UPE, but why problems of quality and completion are persistent? Provide more support to innovative partnerships with private sector and communities?

Secondary Education: Expansion and transformation of basic education toward USE. Not feasible with public funds alone? Partnerships needed for improving quality and sharing costs?

Skills Development: From TVET to skills development for employment? Greater role of industry in training provision, to improve relevance and cost-efficiency. Demand increasing for new type of skills, including non-cognitive skills (“soft skills”).

Higher Education: Countries expand and diversify HE to support further development and improve competitiveness. How to expand without undermining the quality? Demand increasing for Centers of excellence and diversified networks of HEIs.

Lifelong Learning: Sound formal education is necessary but no more sufficient. Boundaries between formal, nonformal, and informal learning become blurred.

Sectorwide Implications:
- Equitable access and inclusive education.
- Regulation, decentralization - the changing roles of government and stakeholders.
- Rationalization of financing of education
- Innovation in PPPs and private education.
- Transforming education with the help of innovative ICT and social media
- Sustainability.
Education Sector Operations in 2012-14

- $2.5 billion (vs. $3.3 billion in last 10 years)
- 60% in skills development and higher education
- Sectorwide reform needs, synergies, sustainable financing
- Role of regional projects increasing
Demand increasing for support to:

- PPPs in education and skills development
- Use of innovative ICT/social media tools for education
- Skills for employment (including new type of skills)
- Diversified higher education systems: centers of excellence, 2nd and 3rd tier institutions, the nexus of HE and science and technology
- Sector synergies: reform needs arising for basic and secondary education, sectorwide reforms and sustainable financing
- Regional cooperation and cross-border collaboration in education
TIMELY, ASIA-SPECIFIC ISSUES FOR POLICY AGENDA
• Access (enrollments) vs. inclusiveness in education
• Patterns of exclusion
• Sectorwide inclusiveness perspective is increasingly important
• Education policies and systems that are inclusive provide opportunities for each individual to achieve his or her full learning potential and acquire relevant knowledge and skills to effectively serve as members of the society and contribute to inclusive development.
• Expanding at an alarming rate in Asia (Asia global “leader”)

• Households in certain countries spend staggering portions of their incomes for this

• Poor quality of education in schools not the only reason

• Can seriously undermine inclusiveness, quality, relevance, and cost efficiency of education.
Private Schools & Education Institutions

- Expanding range of types and varying quality
- Increasing complexity of the trend
- Growing trend/importance
- Particularly at higher levels of education
  privatization of public institutions increasing
- Regulatory frameworks needed for enhancing coordination and synergies between public and public education
THANK YOU

More information at: www.adb.org/education