

**Regional Policy Seminar  
Towards Quality Learning for All  
in Asia and the Pacific  
Co-organized by KEDI and UNESCO Bangkok  
Seoul, Republic of Korea (28-30 July 2011)**

**Concept Note  
(Final)**

**1. Background and introduction**

The Asia-Pacific is a vast and diverse region covering over 40 countries, ranging from the most populous countries in the world to small Pacific islands. Over the past decade, the region has made tremendous progress in getting children into school with net enrolment rates in primary education in 2008 exceeding 90%<sup>1</sup>. Several governments have shown a strong political commitment toward including all children and achieving universal basic education. Many countries have also further expanded their post-basic education, and some have already achieved universal secondary education. However, there are growing concerns across the region that goal six of the Education for All (EFA) goals continues to be comparatively overlooked and improperly addressed by governments and the international community alike. Goal six commits all countries to improve all aspects of the quality of education. Further progress to complete the EFA agenda by 2015 will require an urgent response, especially in regard to the measures and actions for improving education quality.

In continuation of the tradition of the KEDI-UNESCO Bangkok annual seminar, this year's seminar will focus on a specific theme that most countries in the region are confronted with: how to ensure quality learning for students. While there are wide differences in the understanding of the concept of education quality, and thus the measures that can be undertaken to improve quality, the seminar will focus on two main enabling factors: educational personnel and financing structures. More specifically, the seminar seeks the answers to the question: what teacher management and financing processes enable improved student learning, and thus increase education quality? In addition, the seminar will also discuss how to strengthen international cooperation in support of quality improvement, thereby providing useful inputs for the upcoming Fourth High Level Forum on aid effectiveness which will take place in Busan, Republic of Korea in November 2011<sup>2</sup>.

**2. Objectives**

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO Bangkok (2011) *Regional report on progress towards education for all in Asia and the Pacific*

<sup>2</sup> The main objective of this forum is to identify measures to ensure that development resources have the greatest impact on development.

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- To facilitate the sharing of experiences, knowledge and best practices of national policies to improve the quality of student learning, particularly in the areas of teacher management and education financing.
- To identify the emerging trends in and policy responses to teacher and school management, and education financing for quality student learning.
- To strengthen the regional cooperation in pursuit of EFA goal 6 of education quality.
- To identify the possible areas for improving aid effectiveness in support of quality education in Asia and the Pacific.

**3. Title:** Regional Policy Seminar: Towards Quality Learning for All in Asia and the Pacific

**4. Proposed themes/topics**

- Teacher and school management
- Education financing and governance policies and practices
- The role of development aid in improving education quality

**5. Participants**

- Experts, policy analysts and researchers from KEDI and UNESCO Bangkok
- Country participants: A total of 25 persons from the following countries will be invited: Australia, China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Singapore, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. Each country will be represented by at least one participant who is either (i) a senior government official involved in teacher policy, school leadership, education finance or development cooperation from the ministries concerned (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance) or (ii) a senior researcher from related research institutes and/or universities.
- Guest international experts (FTI secretariat, OECD, ADB, UNICEF, WB, KOICA, AusAID, JICA, etc.)

**6. Dates and venue**

- Dates: 28-30 July 2011
- Venue: Seoul, ROK

**7. Working method and documents**

Preparation for the seminar will be undertaken by UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok, Education Policy and Reform Unit) and Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI) who are co-organisers of the seminar.

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The language of the seminar is English.

The seminar sessions will be organised around the proposed topics whose results will contribute to the achievement of its stated objectives. Discussion and exchange of experiences among the participants will be highly participatory drawing on the country specific experiences of the participants as well as the development agencies' practices and perspectives. Working documents to facilitate the discussion are:

- Background paper on Education and Development (KEDI)
- Background paper on issues relating to the quality of education and learning (UNESCO)
- Research reports by researchers or institutions
- Country reports and presentations

In addition, a special session will be organised to showcase Korean's experiences in improving educational quality and to visit KOICA and/or education institutes in ROK.

#### **8. Funding and organisational arrangements**

The seminar is co-financed by KEDI and UNESCO Bangkok. Participants from selected low-income countries will be financed through these funds. Participants from middle to high income countries and other interested persons (for example, UNESCO experts from the Field Offices, international experts from development agencies) should seek funding from their own or other sources. Participants with special request or requiring further clarification should contact the event organizers directly.

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