Introduction to the meeting and study background

UNESCO Bangkok
Who are we?
Past work in regard to “testing”
NEQMAP

- Network on Education Quality Monitoring in the Asia-Pacific
- Established March 2013
- Regional network on learning assessment
- 41 member institutions from 24 countries/jurisdictions
- Activities: research, knowledge sharing, capacity development
NEQMAP KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

Network on Education Quality Monitoring in the Asia-Pacific
Happy Schools Project

- Framework published March 2016 presenting 22 criteria for a “happy school” across 3 categories (People, Process, Place)
- The #2 factor making for an “unhappy” school: *High student workload and stress driven by exams and grades*
- The criteria include *Reasonable and Fair Workload, Sense of Achievement and Accomplishment, Mental Well-being and Stress-Management*
UNESCO’s Education Research and Foresight programme

- The programme aims to strengthen UNESCO’s "observatory" function in education and contribute to the global debate on foundational principles that can guide education policy and practice for the future,

- Strands of work
  1. **Working Papers**: Providing policy-makers, educationists, and academics with insight into various facets of the future of education and learning;

  2. **Policy dialogues**: Encouraging public policy dialogue on foundational principles for a humanistic approach to educational governance in the 21st century based on Rethinking Education (UNESCO 2015);

  3. **Studies and Research projects**
Approach to studies and research projects

• Build on the interdisciplinary house-wide expertise of UNESCO in the social sciences, culture, as well as information and communication

• Mobilize the network of UNESCO institutes and regional bureaux, UNESCO Chairs as well as other research partners to undertake studies on a set of broad themes

• Foster the use of mixed research methods:
  – Focus group discussions with youth and other stakeholders
  – Desk research and literature reviews
  – Synthesis of opinions and analysis of trends
  – Case-studies
Examples of studies and research projects in other regions in addition to our (Asia-Pacific) study on culture of testing

**YOUTH: The relevance of education to the changing realities of youth**

- Exploring youth disengagement from/with education in Latin America and the Caribbean [in partnership with IIEP Buenos Aires and IBE]
- Sub-regional studies on post-primary trajectories in Sub-Saharan Africa [in partnership with UNESCO Regional Offices in SSA]

**CULTURE: The relevance of education policy and practice to local cultures**

- Indigenous knowledge and education policy in Latin America and the Caribbean [with UNESCO Regional Office for LAC]
- Cultural levers for education in Africa [Under preparation with UNESCO Regional Offices in SSA]

**GOVERNANCE:**

- Recognition, validation and accreditation of youth and adult basic education [In partnership with UIL]
- Overview of large-scale learning assessments and use for system-level improvement and accountability

**OTHER PROJECTS:**

- Rethinking Education in Africa [in partnership with Codesria and regional bureaux in SSA]
- Media Information Literacy project in LAC [In partnership with Regional Bureau Santiago & CI Sector]
Culture of Testing Study

The Culture of Testing

Socio-cultural drivers and the effects on youth in the Asia-Pacific region

- Following on from NEQMAP and Happy Schools work and part of the UNESCO Education Research & Foresight programme
- Reflecting UNESCO’s intersectoral perspective
- A timely contribution to debates about Education 2030/SDG 4
- Filling a gap in knowledge about our region
Objective of the meeting

• To create a common understanding of the research framework and research questions, research methodology and tools, drafting of country studies and study timeline
Thank you!