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7. Education Policy

Building National Capacities to Develop Appropriate Policies and Plans for the Integration of ICT into Education

The future initiatives and activities related to “Education Policy” that will be implemented through the UNESCO ICT in Education programme include:

➤ Finalization of the online ICT in Education Toolkit for Policymakers, Planners and Practitioners. The completed toolkit will be made available in early 2006.

➤ Preparation of a printed manual of the Toolkit for easy reference by high-level decision-makers and other users.

➤ Creation of a version of the Toolkit on CD-ROM for distribution in those countries and areas without a reliable internet connection.

➤ Development of a video documentation process for training and presentation of Toolkit modules.

➤ Conducting of regional and national training courses for policy makers on how to use the Toolkit.

Planned locations and dates are as follows:

» Indonesia MoE (November 2005, Indonesia).
» Bhutan MoE (January/February 2006, Bhutan).
» Pacific region, 17 countries (March 2006, Fiji).
» East and South Asia region, 13 countries (date and venue to be determined).
» South Asia, Central and South West Asian region, 14 countries (date and venue to be determined).

➤ Facilitating of networking through the Toolkit forum – so as to share knowledge about issues relating to integrating ICT in education in the Asia-Pacific region.

➤ Ongoing improvement and updating of the Toolkit.
8. Training of Teachers

Building the ICT-Capacity of Those at the Heart of Education

The future initiatives in the area of “Training of Teachers” include the following:

Launch of new project: **Next Generation of Teachers (NET) project**

Recognizing that teachers are central to successful learning, UNESCO has supported the professional development of teachers for nearly 60 years. UNESCO’s most recent initiative is the Next Generation of Teachers (NET) Project which is designed to assist Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) in the Asia-Pacific region to prepare the next generation of teachers to judiciously use technologies for teaching and learning. The NET project has been guided by the vision of the Director of the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, Mr Sheldon Shaeffer, who expressed the goal as follows:

“By 2008, all regional Member States will be in a position to offer teachers an education on how and when to best use technologies for teaching and learning, through training which is integrated in all national pre-service teacher training institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. Learners will directly benefit from this new generation of well educated teachers, who will be empowered to use technologies and to facilitate the learners’ active participation in learning, and in the knowledge societies and economies.”

Key players in the Asia-Pacific ICT in Education field, including CISCO, Fujitsu (FSBM), Intel, Internexia, Nanyang Technological University, National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (NECTEC) and Microsoft Asia-Pacific (Public Sector team), have applauded this initiative, and have participated in workshops to further develop the concept and to discuss means of supporting this endeavour. Microsoft was the first key player and partner to pledge a support going beyond the sharing of materials and know-how: Microsoft Asia-Pacific has made a key financial contribution in support of this initiative.

Where useful, NET will link to and build on the achievements made and networks created in the situational and needs-analysis phase and in other ongoing projects. The intention is to make this a “growing partnership” which includes all key organizations that are active in the field of professional development of teachers and that are concerned with ICT integration in teacher training.

Preparations for this project are currently underway. For further information about this new initiative please refer to the website, which will be updated as the project gets underway: www.unescobkk.org/education/ict/teachertraining/net.

» As part of the “NET” project, undertake an assessment of how and where ICT is used in pre-service teacher training in the Asia-Pacific region. The survey will answer questions such as: what are the ICT constraints, opportunities and needs of teachers in specific countries; how is ICT currently being used at the pre-service level (if at all) to train teachers; what ICT skills are trainees being given; and what can we learn from such use. Results of the assessment will guide the implementation of the NET project.

» As part of the “NET” project facilitate computer literacy training for teachers going through national pre-service teacher training institutions.

» Continue to implement ongoing Teacher Training projects and share lessons-learned.

» Develop guidelines on competency-based standards for training teachers in integration in pedagogy.

» As part of the “Training and Professional Development of Teachers and Other Facilitators for Effective Use of ICT in Improving Teaching and Learning” project, conduct national-level training courses in pedagogy-technology integration for teacher-educators.

» Play a facilitating role in matching the needs of teacher training institutions in the Asia-Pacific region with groups and organizations that have developed ICT training materials and courses for teachers and educators. These groups and organizations could include ministries of education, teacher-training institutes, schools and private providers.
9. Teaching and Learning
Developing and Delivering Content using ICT

The initiatives and activities related to “Teaching and Learning” that are to be implemented in the future include:

- Continue implementation of ongoing projects and share lessons-learned.
  - As part of the “Strengthening ICT in Schools and SchoolNet Project in ASEAN Setting” project, compile and develop ICT-based teaching-learning materials for various subjects (based on the lessons-learned while creating materials for the subjects of languages, mathematics and science).

- Expand the “Strengthening ICT in Schools and SchoolNet Project in ASEAN Setting” project beyond the 24 pilot schools by replicating the project and implementing ASEAN SchoolNet telecollaboration activities in other schools in the eight countries.

- Establish sustainable mechanisms to develop a SchoolNet regional hub that will support SchoolNet activities in-country.

- Update and revise the SchoolNet Toolkit based on the knowledge gained during project implementation and feedback from users.
  - Organize a regional ICT materials-development competition and conference.
  - Assess the impact of pedagogy-technology integration on teaching and learning.
10. Non-Formal Education
Using ICT to Bring Education to Out-of-School Youth and Adults

The future initiatives in the area of “Non-Formal Education” include the following:

» Continue implementation and expansion of existing projects:

- Prepare a non-formal education resource pack for CLCs (and other NFE providers), including training materials and research findings, for practitioners of non-formal literacy training and continuing education. The resource pack will be made available in print and CD-ROM, and will also be accessible via the UNESCO Bangkok website.

- The resource pack will include information about how ICT can be used in non-formal education in several areas, including:
  - Literacy and Continuing Education: policy, planning and management, curriculum and materials development, training, monitoring and evaluation, and research and documentation.
  - Specific Content Areas: gender, HIV/AIDS, environment and culture.

» Conduct an Asia-Pacific regional workshop to enable project participants (including representatives from CLCs) to share and document their experiences and success stories.

» Replicate success stories in CLCs in other countries, where applicable.

» Establish networks and build upon the experiences of Community Multimedia Centres (CMCs) coordinated by UNESCO’s Communication and Information sector.

» Participate in policy dialogues and advocacy for the use of ICT in NFE, particularly in existing CLCs.

» Update the Asia-Pacific Literacy Database in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU). ACCU is conducting a regional survey, the results of which will contribute to the revised database.

11. Monitoring and Measuring Change
Monitoring and Measuring the Impact of ICT in Education using Performance Indicators

The future initiatives and activities related to “Monitoring and Measuring Change” that will be implemented by the ICT in Education programme include:

» Continue implementation of ongoing projects and build on initiatives:

- Review and refine performance indicators through a combination of workshops and online discussions.

- Strengthen national capacity in the development of performance indicators, data collection and analysis, presentation and dissemination of results.

- Develop a regional mechanism and database for data collection, storage and analysis in collaboration with national and sub-regional focal centres.

- Advocate for and produce guidelines and templates on developing monitoring and evaluation action plans that assess the impact of ICT in education.

- Initiate a project of comparative evaluations using the guidelines and templates developed to assess the impact of ICT in education in the Asia-Pacific region.
12. Research and Knowledge-Sharing
Collecting, Creating and Disseminating Information and Knowledge about ICT in Education

The initiatives and activities related to “Research and Knowledge-Sharing” that are to be implemented in the future include:

- Conduct research and develop new resources on:
  - Using ICT to meet Education for All goals in the Asia-Pacific region. This is in line with the programme’s goal of harnessing technologies to achieve quality education for all, and is in response to requests by Member States for such information.
  - Using ICT to develop literacy in the Asia-Pacific region, in accordance with the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) objectives.
  - Low-cost, high-impact ICT solutions for disadvantaged groups, including the following initiatives:
    - Providing low-cost and used computers to schools and training institutions in the Asia-Pacific region.
    - Free and open source software (FOSS) for education.
    - A digital library (set of DVDs/ CD-ROMs) for distribution to schools lacking access to print publications and the internet.

- Electronic-learning and Mobile-learning, for example:
  - Assisted e-learning for trainee teachers using high-quality online courses or CD-courses.
  - Use of new wireless and low-cost handheld solutions (Simputers) for teaching and learning.

- Build on existing initiatives:
  - Update the Meta-Survey on the use of technologies in education in the Asia-Pacific region for 2005-2006. The first Meta-Survey report will serve as a benchmark that can be used to evaluate the progress made of the entire region and learn about the changing needs of Member States.
  - Continue the annual bulletin – Infoshare – which provides information about the latest trends and developments in the use of ICT in education within the Asia-Pacific region.
  - Update and expand mailing lists so as to improve distribution networks and ensure that upcoming publications and materials are reaching target groups.
  - Maintain and update website and services, including fortnightly newsletters, databases, portal and e-forum.