Press Release

Consultative Meeting and Launch of the UNESCO Next Generation of Teachers Project

16–18 May 2006, Imperial Queens Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

BANGKOK May 2006 – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in cooperation with Microsoft and Cisco Systems, will hold the “Consultative Meeting and Launch of the UNESCO Next Generation of Teachers Project” from 16 to 18 May at the Imperial Queens Park Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

The Next Generation of Teachers (Next Gen) project aims to enable the next generation of post-primary teachers in the Asia-Pacific region to harness the benefits of information and communication technologies (ICT) to enhance teaching and learning. Through this project, trainee-teachers in teacher education institutions (TEIs) across the region will learn a variety of instructional approaches utilizing ICT and will gain the flexibility required to bring the benefits of ICT into classrooms and improve the quality and reach of education.

Ten countries from the Asia-Pacific region, namely Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, People’s Republic of China, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, will participate in the Next Gen project. Each country will nominate three teacher education institutions to join the Project, resulting in 30 TEIs and hundreds of trainee-teachers in the Asia-Pacific region benefiting from the Project.

The meeting and launch of the Project, convened by UNESCO in cooperation with its partners, Microsoft (initiating partner) and Cisco Systems, will bring together top experts from across the Asia-Pacific region. Participants will include HE Dr. Kol Pheng, Minister of Education, Cambodia; Dr. Charuayporn Torranin, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education, Thailand; Asst. Prof. Dr. Suapanee Sombuntham, Director of Thailand Cyber University; Dr. Miao Fengchun, Director of the National Research Centre for Computer Education, China; Professor Jonathan Anderson from Flinders University, Australia; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lim Cher Ping from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. The Meeting will introduce the Next Gen project aims and objectives and will draw on the participants’ knowledge and experience to further develop and shape the project and its activities.

The Meeting will also be an opportunity for representatives of Ministries of Education and TEIs to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with UNESCO regarding the implementation of the Next Gen project. The signing ceremony will take place at the press conference at 11.30 am on the opening day of the Meeting.

In this regard, we are pleased to invite you and your colleagues to attend this Meeting and the press conference. For further details about the Meeting and the Agenda, please refer to the Next Gen website: http://www.unescobkk.org/education/ict/teachertraining/next_gen.

For further information, please contact UNESCO Bangkok:

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