“Learning to live together’

Sub-Regional Workshop Teachers and teacher educators from four countries are attending a regional workshop in Paro. To see formal education in the Asia-Pacific integrate elements of peaceful coexistence and sustainable development, a sub-regional workshop was held in Paro.

“To expose and give an overview of issues related to education for international understanding, so peace education, inclusive education, and education for sustainable development,” said Katie Vanhala of UNESCO Bangkok, on the objectives of the workshop. She added that Bhutanese teachers also shared information on the concept of ‘educating for GNH’.

UNESCO Bangkok, along with the Asia-Pacific centre of education for international understanding (APCEIU) organised the workshop. It is a continuation of the two organisation’s efforts to get UNESCO member states in Asia-Pacific to promote and incorporate education of sustainable development (ESD) and education for international understanding (EIU) in teacher education.

The objective of the workshop was also to identify potential strategies in teacher training and curriculum development that promote school-based initiatives in line with UNESCO supported educational framework called ‘Learning to live together’ (LTLT).

LTLT advocates pedagogical practices and learning materials fostering tolerance, cohesion, intercultural understanding, sustainable development, facilitating peace, nondiscrimination, and dialogue among people. LTLT is seen as a most essential pillar of education in an increasingly globalised and interdependent 21st century.

Katie Vanhala said that, having a particular class devoted to the issue, would be something to work towards. She said, for now, the focus is on how to integrate such themes to existing subjects or classes, which is already taking place in Bhutanese formal education. “Raising awareness and being conscious about the behaviours that currently exist, and questioning your own thinking and understanding on the topics,” she said.

The workshop also aims to facilitate collaborative efforts among teachers and teacher educators of this sub-region in capacity-building and innovation of their teacher education, to promote LTLT at school-level, by sharing good practices, lessons-learned, and useful educational material and resources, and by encouraging feasible action plans and sustainable networks for collaboration.

The workshop is being hosted by the National Commission for UNESCO.

By Gyalsten K Dorji, Paro
Tashi Air’s first aircraft arrives

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