Introduction
Happy new year from the new Gender team in the Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All (APPEAL)! We'd like to get a head start on our New Year's resolutions and reconnect with our network of Gender Focal Points in Asia & Pacific and education personnel. We'd like to introduce ourselves (learn more about us in the “Who’s out there?” section), and offer this new monthly Gender Wire which we hope will help keep us up to date on what's going on in the region and beyond.

We'll also share new publications and research that you might find helpful and highlight one good practice a month to inspire us all. We hope this newsletter will be participatory and we ask you to share with us your gender-related activities, local good practices, interesting information and links you have stumbled upon so that together we can make this a useful and effective tool that will serve us well in 2011.

Best Wishes,
Ichiro, Idit, Adrien & Tomohiro

In The UN

UN Women official launch, 1st Jan’ 2011
In July 2010 the General Assembly voted unanimously to create a new body called UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). It brings together four UN offices focusing on gender equality: UNIFEM, DAW, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues, and UN-INSTRAW. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, was chosen as Under-Secretary-General for UN Women.

» Read the full story
» Take a look at the Asia & Pacific countries represented in the Executive Board

UNiTE to End Violence against Women, 25 Nov’ 2010
The campaign was launched in the region with a high-profile event held at the UNCC attended by HRH Princess
10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, 6 Oct’ 2010
The event was regionally marked in a launch of a Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security in Asia-Pacific
» Read the full story

International Women’s Day, 8 March 2011
The chosen theme for 2011 is: Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women.

News and Highlights

- Female Imams Blaze Trail Amid China’s Muslims (podcast)
- Phones: a ‘feminist issue’ in Bangladesh
- When girls fear school
- Nepal ranks 5th in gender equality in education
- Tackling gender inequality in Vietnam
- Shining a spotlight on gender bias in movies
- Despite laws, ASEAN women still suffer
- Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan strengthen conservative tendency
- UNAMA: Harmful traditional practices that violate the human rights of women and girls are pervasive in Afghanistan

What’s Up in the Asia & Pacific Region?

- Launching of Pakistan girls’ education initiative
  - Check out the summary of the Gender and Language track
- 11th Regional Meeting of National EFA Coordinators 18-20 Nov 2010, Bangkok
  - Take a special look at the group presentation on Goal 5: Gender Equality (day 2)

Studies undertaken with EAP UNGEI

Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand
Why are boys doing poorly? This study follows-up on data revealed in the EFA-MDA Gender Equality in Education Progress Note (2008) that boys’ performance and enrolment rates were significantly lower than those of girls in Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines and Thailand. This study aims to: [1] Understand why boys are doing worse in school performance than girls over the past few years; [2] What are the factors (including economic, societal, economic and cultural factors) that are causing this trend of poor performance and low
survival rates; and [3] What are the current policies and interventions in place to address the issue. The scope of the project consists of a desk review to collect quantitative and qualitative data, interviews with key informants such as civil society, teachers associations, children/parents and surveys/focus groups. Each country will then submit a country situational analysis which will then be synthesized at the regional level.

Indonesia, Viet Nam, China, PNG
School-to-work Transition – This study is a follow-up to the desk study on the same topic carried out by EAP UNGEI in 2008. The follow-up study is expected to be carried out in Indonesia, Viet Nam, China & PNG. The core partners/agencies at the EAP UNGEI level are: ILO, UNESCO, Plan and UNICEF. The EAP UNGEI has engaged two consultants to help develop the regional research framework and survey tools for the study.

News on the Shelf

The World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2010
The Global Gender Gap Report's index assesses 134 countries on how well they divide resources and opportunities amongst male and female populations, regardless of the overall levels of these resources. The report measures the size of the gender inequality gap in four areas including Educational attainment – outcomes on access to basic and higher level education.
» Read the report

The UNESCO UIS Global Education Digest 2010
The 2010 edition focuses on gender and education and presents the latest available data to analyze national progress and pitfalls in offering every child and young person equal access to education regardless of their sex.
» Read the report

The World’s Women 2010: Trends and Statistics
The 5th edition highlights the differences in the status of women and men in eight areas – population and families, health, education, work, power and decision-making, violence against women, environment and poverty.
» Read the report

One Good Practice a Month

Mumbai Municipal Teacher’s Association
Health and hygiene education in India that combats girls absenteeism from school due to lack of information about their menstruation. This Good Practice undertook to target 200,000 girls, aged 8 – 14 years and educated them about physiological and psychological changes during the menarche and in so doing reduced the high levels of absenteeism among adolescent girls in more than 1,100 schools.
» Watch the video on YouTube
Contribute
Please share with us good practices from your country that make a difference by creating a positive and tangible impact on girls and boys education, have the potential for replication and can serve as an inspiration to generate policies and initiatives elsewhere.
» Share your stories with us via email

New Tube

Women are Heroes
Winner of the 2011 TED prize this piece was created by JR, a moving and innovative artist who exhibits freely in the world’s streets. “JR’s mind-blowing creations have inspired people to see art where they wouldn’t expect it and create it when they didn’t know they could,” said TED Prize Director Amy Novogratz.
» Watch the video

- UNIFEM Releases Video Series on Gender and the MDGs
- YouTube » Teachers are more likely to...
- YouTube » The Girl Effect: The Clock Is Ticking
- YouTube » Effect of education on men and women (for laughs)

Who is out there?

This month meet the Bangkok APPEAL gender team:

- **Ichiro Miyazawa** is a Programme Specialist, working on issues related to literacy and continuing education. He is specialized in emancipatory literacy of class, race and gender. He has been engaged in education development in Asia and Africa for 15 years.
- **Idit Shamir** is a Programme Specialist, working on issues related to gender and basic education. Before joining UNESCO Bangkok, she served as the resident Technical Assistance Coordinator for the MASHAV Centre for International Cooperation in Thailand and Cambodia. Prior, she acted as a lawyer focusing on Gender Justice.
- **Adrien Boucher** is a Programme Assistant at the APPEAL unit, and is involved in activities related to gender in education and basic and inclusive education. He has previous working experience with UNESCO International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP), the OECD and ILO-Bangkok.
- **Tomohiro Hosono** is an intern at the APPEAL unit, formerly studying in the graduate programme on international/educational development at Nagoya University in Japan. His main research interest is gender issues and women's empowerment.

Just a Quick Question

In your country’s language, is there a word for gender? Is it the same word used for “sex”? What is it? Please email your answers to us, we’ll share the results with you in our next edition.
» Click here to email your comments

Country Focus
### Pakistan
(Source: WEF Global Gender Gap Report 2010)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender Gap Index 2010</td>
<td>132 out of 134 countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>166.11 (millions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP (PPP) per capita</td>
<td>991 US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy rate</td>
<td>F/40% M/67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolment in primary education</td>
<td>F/60% M/72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolment in secondary education</td>
<td>F/28% M/37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolment in tertiary education</td>
<td>F/5% M/6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female teachers, primary education</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female teachers, secondary education</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female teachers, tertiary education</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability of women to rise to positions of enterprise leadership</td>
<td>3.88 = worst score, 7 = best score</td>
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For enquiries or to unsubscribe from this newsletter, email: gender.bgk@unesco.org
Visit the Gender Equality website: http://www.unescobkk.org/education/gender

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