UNESCO-UNICEF Joint Regional Training Workshop on Early Childhood Policy Review

(Bangkok, Thailand, 6-8 February 2007)

- Introduction, Objectives, expected outcome, process and modalities, and the programme -
The regional Workshop
Workshop Objectives

• To provide the participating countries with a detailed orientation on the conceptual framework and the draft regional guidelines for engaging in an early childhood policy review

• To strengthen the understanding of key issues in early childhood policy at the regional and international levels

• To train the national researchers on the review/research methodologies for analyzing and assessing policy;

• To review the draft national guidelines and refine and finalize the draft country work plan for the policy review
EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOME

• Enhanced knowledge on regional and global issues in early childhood policy
• Gained a clear understanding of the conceptual background and technical skills and knowledge required for conducting a policy review.
• Refined and agreed on the regional guidelines and overall work plan
• Determined appropriate methodologies to be used in assessing policy

• Elaborated the national guidelines on early childhood policy review, and
• Developed and agreed on a detailed country-level work plan
The Programme: DAY 1

• Opening and introduction
• Introduction to the policy review exercise cooperation project
• Orientation on the Regional Guidelines for the policy review
• Discussion on key policy issues in early childhood:
• Sharing good practice/lessons learned from international experience
DAY 2

- In-depth review of the Guidelines for the policy review
- Approaches and methodology of the review
- Refinement and finalization of the country guidelines and work plan
- Discussion on the expected final report
  - Agreement on the format and key components of the final report
  - Validation issues of the final report
DAY 3

• Discussion on overall regional work plan and follow-up to the workshop
• Closing

• GOOD LUCK!!
Workshop modality

• Three days (6-8 February 2007)
• Practical training with focus on "how's" and the "what" to review
• Mainly consist of plenary training sessions and group/team work by countries, to discuss:
  - Research methodology and some prototype tools and instruments
  - Key issues in early childhood in the region and in the country context
  - Review report structure and format.
Introduction to the UNESCO-UNICEF Cooperation Project on Early Childhood Policy Review
Main objective of the regional policy review

To support and assist the countries in meeting the first goal of Education for All, “Expanding and improving early childhood care and education” by identifying, documenting and sharing good practices as well as constraints and challenges in early childhood policy development and implementation in the selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
Guiding principles in the review

General

• Promote impartiality and objectivity of the review process as much as possible

• Ensure a right-based perspective and mainstream gender and inclusion as crosscutting principles
Guiding principles in the review

Particularly within early childhood

- Acknowledge and reinforce the concept that the ultimate purpose of early childhood services/provisions is the holistic development of the child
- Acknowledge the importance of the role of primary caregivers and of the prenatal period to the child’s development
- Ensure equitable access of girls and boys to services, with special measures to ensure the access of vulnerable children
- Ensure the smooth transition from home to center to school
Review process: The steps

• Pre-assessment of country commitment and focus of review
• Establishing the Task Force (as necessary and appropriate)
• Compiling of background information
• Conducting an initial workshop (as necessary and feasible)
• Data collection and analysis
• Analysis of data and formulation of policy options
• Review and finalization of recommendations
• Moving from recommendations to policy and action
Regional Timeframe

- September 2006: Project launched
- September 2006 - January 2007: In-country preparations
- 6–8 February 2007: Regional training workshop for national researchers for the policy review studies
- February - June/July 2007: Country policy review studies to be carried
- End July 2007: Submission of the country studies
  - National level workshops/meetings for country report launching and dissemination as appropriate
- August 2007: Regional seminar to share the country policy reviews
- August/September 2007: Regional compilation
  - The regional compilation will incorporate the seminar outcomes.