



Bangkok Office



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Regional Consultation Workshop on Innovative Financing Mechanisms and Partnerships for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

24-25 September 2018, Bali, Indonesia

Co-organized by

Ministry of Education and Culture, Indonesia

SEAMEO Regional Centre for Early Childhood Care Education and Parenting

Concept Note

Background

Abundance of evidence highlights that Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) lays the foundation for life-long learning: children's early experiences and environments have lasting influences on their future success in education and life. Investing in ECCE programmes is one of the smartest investments a country can make to address inequality, break the cycle of poverty, and improve outcomes later in life. Despite the established benefits and advantages of investing in ECCE and the global commitment to expand quality ECCE, it is still a sector that is seriously underfunded in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Public spending is often not sufficient and external funding is at times not large enough and no sustainable. With the current situation, Member States face major challenges in achieving Target 4.2, especially in view of its indicator to provide 'free' pre-primary education.

With the project *Exploring innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships for ensuring free inclusive and equitable quality pre-primary education for all in Asia-Pacific*, UNESCO Bangkok aims to enhance a regional knowledgebase on innovative financing policies and mechanisms to achieve free, inclusive and equitable quality pre-primary education for all by 2030. Through the documentation and dissemination of innovative financing practices for pre-primary education, the project expects to equip education policy-makers and planners from selected countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and emerging Middle-Income Countries (MICs) in the Asia-Pacific region with the needed knowledge on innovative financing mechanisms to support their policy decision making on financing pre-primary education.

UNESCO Bangkok and SEAMEO CECCEP have been documenting existing and emerging innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships for ECCE, especially in pre-primary education in the region. This workshop is part of the process of developing regional guidelines and catalogue on innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships for ECCE in Asia and the Pacific, which will assist Member States in making evidence-based policy decisions around financing ECCE.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop aims to:

1. To present the findings from the regional documentation on innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships for ECCE
2. To review and revise the zero-draft regional guidelines of innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships for ECCE
3. To share countries' policies and practices, challenges, opportunities and needs related to ECCE financing systems.
4. To identify additional case studies on innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships.
5. To discuss the next phase of the project

Expected Outputs

1. Noteworthy practices, lessons learnt and remaining challenges identified and discussed among participants
2. Revised version of the regional guidelines and catalogue based on inputs gathered at the workshop.

Participants

1. Two representatives of the 16 Countries (Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Tuvalu, Viet Nam) from the following entities:
 - a. the focal ministry or coordination body for ECCE or early childhood development (ECD), and
 - b. the ministry responsible for finance or economic planning.
2. Regional and global development partners, such as ARNEC, UNICEF, the Kobe University, KICCE, the Brookings Institution, UNESCO Jakarta and the World Bank will be invited as resource persons, in addition to the two co-organizers, UNESCO Bangkok and the SEAMEO CECCEP.

Working Language

English will be the working language of the workshop.

Dates and Venue

Dates: 24-25 September 2018

Venue: Prime Plaza Hotel, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

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