

## ICT to Facilitate SDG4 in South Asia Final Project Meeting

Concept Note

14 October 2021, 11:00 – 14:10 (Bangkok time)

Zoom

### Background

UNESCO Bangkok provides technical assistance to Member States in effectively positioning ICT to facilitate the achievement of SDG4 (or Education 2030 Agenda). SDG4 and its Framework for action recognize the immense and growing potential of ICT in ensuring quality lifelong learning for all. It highlights the need for ICTs to “be harnessed to strengthen education systems, knowledge dissemination, information access, quality and effective learning, and more effective service provision”.

As a regional follow up, Asia-Pacific Member States officially endorsed the *Regional Strategy for Using ICT to Facilitate the Achievement of Education 2030*<sup>1</sup> at the Asia Pacific Ministerial Forum on ICT in Education in May 2017 (AMFIE 2017). It identified six priority action areas over the next five years (2017-2022) to harness the full potential of ICT in achieving Education 2030, in consideration of regional and sub-regional educational priorities and targets. The South Asian representatives recognized and agreed that the two immediate actions to improve quality of education through ICT were (1) improving teacher capacity and training and (2) developing quality standardized digital content to share among different countries’ national repositories. At the sub-regional level itself, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Framework for Action for Education 2030 sets out enhancing the use of ICT in education as a priority area towards improving access to and quality of education.

In view of these developments, UNESCO Bangkok has implemented the “*ICT to Facilitate SDG4 in South Asia*” Project with the support of Japan Funds-in-Trust (JFIT) (November 2017-November 2021). The Project aims to guide and capacitate four South Asian Member States to build national capacity to strategically develop and systematically implement relevant policies to integrate ICT in education to complement their efforts to achieve the SDG4 targets.

The purpose of this Meeting is for UNESCO Bangkok and the four beneficiary governments’ representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal to share the progress made throughout the duration of the Project, share and learn from each other’s achievements and challenges, reflect on the future needs of each country and next steps to sustain country implementation after this project.

### Objectives

The Meeting will provide the participating governments’ representatives with an opportunity to:

- Share each beneficiary countries’ experiences and achievements on developing and implementing their ICT in Education Master Plans;
- Understand Bhutan and Maldives’ experiences and achievements in developing and implementing the national ICT Competency Standards for Teachers (ICT-CST);
- Identify countries’ and sub-regional needs and challenges for the future;

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<sup>1</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Strategy on Using ICT to Facilitate the Achievement of Education 2030:  
<http://bangkok.unesco.org/sites/default/files/assets/article/ICT%20in%20Education/files/amfie-2017asia-pacific-regional-strategy.pdf>

- Provide input to the project evaluator on the project achievements and follow-up actions.

### **Expected Outputs**

By the end of the Meeting, the participants will have the following outputs:

- Lessons learnt from the various country implementation presentations;
- List of accomplishments, challenges and needs for beneficiary countries.

### **Participants**

The main participants will include the senior officials overseeing the relevant project activities for ICT in Education Master Plan and ICT-CST development in the beneficiary countries, and representatives from UNESCO.

### **Registration**

To register for the meeting, please sign up at the following link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).

### **Contact Information**

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**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**  
**ICT to Facilitate SDG4 in South Asia**  
**Final Project Meeting**

**Date:** 14 October 2021, 11:00-14:10 (Bangkok time)

**Venue:** Online (Zoom)

<b>14 October 2021, Thursday</b>	
11:00 - 11:15 (15 mins)	<p><b><i>Welcoming Remarks</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Margarete Sachs-Israel, Chief of Section, Inclusive Quality Education, UNESCO Bangkok</li> <li>• Introduction to the webinar</li> <li>• Introduction of participants</li> </ul>
11:15 - 11:30 (15 mins)	<p><b><i>Session 1: Overall Progress of the “ICT to Facilitate SDG4 in South Asia” Project</i></b></p> <p><i>Toan Dang, UNESCO Bangkok</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress overview of “ICT to Facilitate SDG4 in South Asia” Project</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
11:30 - 12:30 (60 mins)	<p><b><i>Session 2: Sharing and Learning - ICT in Education Master Plans</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Component overview, <i>Toan Dang, Programme Officer, UNESCO Bangkok</i></li> <li>• Presentation of country experiences in developing and launching ICT in Education Master Plans:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bangladesh</li> <li>○ Bhutan</li> <li>○ Maldives</li> <li>○ Nepal</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lessons learnt</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>
12:30 - 12:40 (10 mins)	<p><b><i>Break</i></b></p>
12:40 - 13:15 (35 mins)	<p><b><i>Session 3: Sharing and Learning - Development of ICT Competency Standards for Teachers</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Component overview, <i>Jiajing Gao, Associate Project Officer, UNESCO Bangkok</i></li> <li>• Presentation of country experiences on ICT-CST development and implementation:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bhutan</li> <li>○ Maldives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lessons learnt</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul>

<p>13:15-13:45 (30 mins)</p>	<p><b><i>Session 4: Future ICT needs identification</i></b></p> <p><i>Breakout session and plenary sharing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection on regional and national needs for support</li> <li>• Future areas of support to ensure sustainability and impact</li> </ul>
<p>13:45-14:00 (15 mins)</p>	<p><b><i>Session 5: Project Evaluation</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean O'Siochru, Project Evaluator, NEXUS Europe</li> </ul>
<p>14:05-14:10 (5 mins)</p>	<p><b><i>Closing &amp; Acknowledgements</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Margarete Sachs-Israel, Chief of Section, IQE, UNESCO Bangkok</li> </ul>