

World Teachers' Day 2020 Asia-Pacific Regional Virtual Meeting

“Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future”

Wednesday, 7 October 2:00-4:15 pm (Bangkok time)

Concept Note

Background

The international community celebrates World Teachers' Day (WTD) every year on 5 October since 1994 to commemorate the signing of the [1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers](#). The WTD also commemorates the adoption in 1997 of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel which complements the ILO-UNESCO Recommendation. The WTD provides an annual occasion to take stock of the key issues concerning teachers, share good practices in achieving Target 4.c. of the Sustainable Development Goals which is focused on ensuring supply of qualified teachers, identify challenges teachers face and support their needs.

This year, in the context of unprecedented disruption of education by the COVID-19 pandemic, the WTD will be celebrated under the theme ***“Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future”***.

Choice of the Theme: Teacher Leadership

The COVID-19 outbreak created a challenging yet unique situation for teachers to demonstrate leadership, creativity and innovation. Around the world, teachers have been working individually and collectively to ensure the continuity and quality of education for students, despite unprecedented difficulties. The crisis also highlighted the importance that Ministries, educational authorities and schools develop strategies and policies to reinforce teachers' leadership capacity across various education systems.

Teacher leadership can exist in various formats and at different levels (classroom, school and community). There are leaders in classrooms who are pedagogical or curricular experts, leaders with school management and administration duties, leaders of professional learning among peer educators, and leaders in partnering with students' caregivers and families as well as communities. Regardless of the types and levels, teacher leadership is crucial to mitigating the negative effects of COVID-19 on education.

Objectives

To commemorate this year's WTD and to facilitate regional dialogue and experience sharing on teacher leadership, the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 (TTF), UNESCO Headquarters and UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education will co-organize a regional meeting to explore different types of teacher leadership in diverse national contexts and their roles in achieving quality education and tackling challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the regional meeting will provide a forum to:

- Showcase **good practices** and examples of teacher leadership that emerged, have been implemented or are planned during different phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, including pedagogical and curricular leadership, school leadership, and leadership in engagement with communities;
- Identify national-, local- and school-level **enabling factors** that are conducive to foster effective leadership amongst school leaders and teachers at the classroom, school and community levels;
- Identify **barriers and challenges** that need to be addressed to ensure that teachers can take the lead on different dimensions of teaching and learning;
- Make **recommendations** on support needed from governments, schools, communities and international organizations to foster teacher leadership, especially in response to COVID-19 and other potential crises.

In addition, the regional meeting will present the new TTF Toolkit for Reopening Schools and the TTF Knowledge Platform, which may serve as useful references for teacher leaders.

The presentations to be delivered by teachers, school leaders, policy-makers and representatives of international organisations (IOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will address the following questions:

- What interventions at the classroom-, school-, and community-levels were implemented or are planned to strengthen leadership capacity of school leaders and teachers to ensure the continuity and quality of learning in the use of distance education and the return to school (if applicable)?
- Given the lack of time to prepare for school closures in most countries, what examples of leadership decisions and actions emerged at the classroom, school and community levels to ensure the continuity and quality of learning?
- What forms of social dialogue were conducted or are planned with a strong teacher leadership orientation to ensure the voices of teachers are included in planning?
- What enabling factors and challenges currently exist to foster a teacher leadership mindset?

Participation

The WTD 2020 Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting will be open to the public who are interested in teacher development, particularly the topic of teacher leadership. Speakers include representatives of TTF Members and Partners, teacher policy makers, and teacher leaders from the region, as well as IO and NGO representatives.

Date & Venue

The regional meeting will be held virtually via **ZOOM** on **Wednesday, 7 October 2020** between **2:00-4:15 pm Bangkok time** (9:00-11:15 am, Paris time).

Tentative Programme

Bangkok Time	Sessions
2:00-2:30 pm	<p>Opening Ceremony (Plenary)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by Mr Shigeru AOYAGI, Director of UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education • Remarks by Mr Oliver LIANG, Head of Unit, Private and Public Services Sectors Unit, International Labour Organisation (ILO) • Remarks by Dr Borhene CHAKROUN, Head a.i., Teacher Task Force Secretariat, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO • Keynote Address by Dr Venus M. ALBORUTO, Surigao City National High School, Philippines, Finalist of Global Teacher Prize 2019
2:30–3:30 pm	<p>Breakout Sessions: <i>Exploring teacher leadership at different levels and in different contexts</i></p> <p>A. Classroom Leadership</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Ushio MIURA, Head of Unit for Futures of Learning, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Anam PALLA, Teach for Pakistan, Head of Programmes and Strategy, Zindagi Trust, Pakistan • Ms Tashi LHAMO, Chief Programme Officer, Teacher Professional Support Division, Department of Education, Ministry of Education, Bhutan • Dr Iwan SYAHRIL, Director General for Teachers and Education Personnel, Ministry of Education and Culture, Indonesia • Mr Francisco BENAVIDES, Regional Advisor for Education, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office <p>B. School Leadership</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Nyi Nyi THAUNG, Acting Chief, Section for Inclusive Quality Education, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr LU Yongli, Principal of Beijing No.2 Experimental Primary School, China • Dr Seu'ula JOHANSSON-FUA, Director, Institute of Education, the University of the South Pacific, Tonga Campus • Dr Boorapatis PLOYSUWAN, Deputy Secretary-General, Teachers' Council of Thailand • Mr Aniket THUKRAL, Director of Programs, Global School Leaders <p>C. Community Leadership</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Mame Omar DIOP, Chief of Education, UNESCO New Delhi Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ashok PANDEY, Director, Ahlcon Group of Schools, India • Ms Daw Chaw Chaw MU, Headmistress and Facilitator of Non-Formal Education, Thu

	<p>Kha Han Tar Migrant Learning Centre, Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Erum MARIAM, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Educational Development, Bangladesh
3:30 – 4:10 pm	<p>Panel Discussion (Plenary): <i>Ways forward to strengthen teacher leadership in and beyond the COVID-19 crisis</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr Ethel Agnes PASCUA-VALENZUELA, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom leadership: Ms Anam PALLA, Teach for Pakistan, Head of Programmes and Strategy, Zindagi Trust, Pakistan • School leadership: Dr Seu'ula JOHANSSON-FUA, Director, Institute of Education, the University of the South Pacific, Tonga Campus • Community leadership: Mr Ashok PANDEY, Director, Ahlcon Group of Schools, India • Teacher leadership in general: Mr Anand SINGH, Chief Regional Coordinator, Education International
4:10-4.15 pm	<p>Closing Remarks by Dr WANG Libing, Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education</p>

Contacts

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