



2nd Asia Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference (APREMC II) Side Event

Sharing best practices and way forward to achieve the overall 2030 target with an inclusive approach to education

Date & time 3 JUN 2022 | 13.00 – 14.30 hrs, Bangkok time (GMT +7)

Speakers' Biographies

Webinar Moderator:

Ms. Catherine Wilczek

UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education



Catherine is currently responsible for supporting the regional programme on inclusive education at the UNESCO Bangkok office, primarily working on education for children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, as well as early childhood care and education. She also facilitates the work of the Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group. Previously she has worked at the ASEAN Secretariat supporting the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area activities, and was the UN Coordination Analyst at the Office of the Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme. She holds a Master of International Business Degree from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australia.

Opening remarks (Welcome and Introduction):

Ms. Erin Tanner

Education Specialist, UNICEF



Erin Tanner is an Education Specialist currently working with the UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and Pacific. Her work focuses on issues of education quality and equity in primary school, including issues of learning assessment and curriculum. She also works on issues of inclusive education for children with disabilities, multi-lingual education and digital learning platforms and oversees coordination of the South East Asia Primary Learning Metrics, which is the first regional comparative assessment in Asia. Prior to joining the East Asia and Pacific region, Ms. Tanner worked for UNICEF in Rwanda and the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. She has two master's degrees in Education.

Panel Moderator:

Mr. Praveen Kumar Gurunath

Lead Advisor, Social Inclusion, VSO



Praveen Kumar Gurunath is a development practitioner and has worked extensively on social inclusion over the past 2 decades. He has designed and developed approaches and tools to promote inclusive education. He has promoted the application of universal design principles working with a range of stakeholders including government, private sector, UN agencies, civil society and OPDs. He currently leads the VSO's global portfolio on Social Inclusion and disability across countries in Africa and Asia and supports programmes on inclusive education. Mr. Praveen is a member at the Disability-Inclusive Education in Asia-Pacific Working Group of UNESCO, he also represents VSO at the BOND – disability and development working group and IDDC.

Panel Discussants:

Ms. Chan Samnang

Deputy Chief Office, Special Education Department, Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Cambodia



Ms. CHAN Samnang is a Speech Pathologist and Deputy Chief Office in the Special Education Department, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Cambodia. She recently graduated with a Master of Speech Pathology from Flinders University, Australia. She has been involved in special education, both inclusive and multilingual education, for more than a decade. She is also a lecturer, a special education teacher trainer, a translator, and a novelist in the last 20 years.

Mr. Akihiro Fushimi

Regional Education Specialist, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office



Mr. Fushimi leads technical areas such as Education Sector Analysis and Planning, Educational Monitoring and Evaluation (including SDG4 Monitoring), Out-of-School Children Initiative, among others, while strengthening partnerships with stakeholders in the region and beyond. Over the past 20 years, he has contributed to educational development in Asia, Africa and Europe. He holds a doctoral degree in education, specializing in school self-evaluation and decentralization of education.

Dr. Mark Carew

Principal Researcher, Leonard Cheshire



A chartered social psychologist by background, Dr Mark T. Carew has over ten years of experience in progressively senior research positions across both academic and NGO-based posts. To date, Mark has authored several peer-reviewed journal research articles, covering a range of disability issues, and spanning quantitative, qualitative and participatory research methods. He has been named on the Disability Power 100 list of the UK's most influential disabled people for his work in disability inclusive development. Mark is a disabled person and speaks regularly at national and international events on disability inclusion.

Dr. Hyeseung Maria Chang

Korean Education Development Institute (KEDI), South Korea



Dr Hyeseung Maria Chang is director of Office of Public Relations and Information at KEDI (Korea Educational Research Institute), one of leading national think tanks in Korea established in 1972. Before working at the Office, Dr Chang also worked as director of Center for Digital Education Research and worked as research fellow at International Cooperation Division at KEDI. Dr Chang graduated with a Ph.D. in Education from University of Texas at Austin. Her main research interests include learning analytics, remote leaning, and educational technology. Dr Chang's publications can be found in international academic journals such as "Computers and Education".

Closing remarks:

Ms. Barkha Henry

Regional Manager, Programme Development & Resourcing, Leonard Cheshire



Ms. Barkha Henry is based at Leonard Cheshire East Asia & Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand, and responsible for raising Leonard Cheshire's profile, engagement, influencing and income in the region. She has worked in the development and disability sector for more than 17 years in Asia and the Pacific region. Prior to Leonard Cheshire, she has worked extensively with various national, international organisations and the corporate sector on a diverse set of development issues. With a background in international relations and humanitarian law, her work brings strong expertise in programme management in inclusive education, economic inclusion of persons with disabilities, youth empowerment, advocacy and strategic partnership development. She has been a strong advocate for disability rights, children, youth and women empowerment.