

4th Meeting of Equitable Education Alliance

Economic, Livelihood, and Social Impacts of Equitable Education

27 July 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

Equity in education is the core concept and principle directed to the goal of all individuals achieving their educational potential. It also means that aspects of individual identity, such as gender, ethnic origin, economic standing, or family background, should never be obstacles to acquiring at least a basic level of education and skills. Understanding the importance of promoting and translating equity in all forms and levels of education, the global community reaffirmed its support for equity at the 2015 World Education Forum by adopting the Incheon Declaration, which provides guidance for implementing the SDG4: Education 2030 Agenda.

Although the adoption of SDG4 demonstrates a global commitment to equity and inclusion in education, current data shows that more needs to be done, especially at the country level. Efforts at [reducing the number of out-of-school children around the world has slowed over the past decade](#). A massive number of children and youth – about 258 million – were reportedly out of school for the school year ending in 2018, according to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). This number represents 59 million children of primary school age, 62 million of lower secondary school age, and 138 million of upper secondary age. Thus, to tackle such an ongoing challenge, SDG17 was implemented to strengthen the alliance of partnerships for equitable education goals.

Since the beginning of 2020, the Equitable Education Fund (EEF) of Thailand, with the technical support provided by the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok), has been exploring the possibility of establishing the Equitable Education Alliance (EEA) as an international network to effectively promote equitable education and form a community of practitioners. Three meetings were held in February, June, and November 2020 to explore this concept. The goal was to network with countries and international organizations that are strong advocates for equity in their education systems, learn about their work, and assess the possibility of forming the desired Alliance. A total of 11 countries ¹ and six international organizations ² participated in these meetings and shared how they promote and foster equity in their education systems through: 1) legal frameworks and policy development; 2) budgeting and financing mechanisms; 3) service delivery; and 4) monitoring and evaluation.

As the innovations project Regional Promotion of Equitable Education is transitioning into phase II, EEF and UNESCO Bangkok are holding the 4th Equitable Education Alliance meeting on *Economic, Livelihood and Social Impacts of Equitable Education* to restart the alliance development and further grow the network.

¹ Australia, Canada, China, Finland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Thailand, The United Kingdom, and The United States.

² Educate A Child, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNESCO Bangkok, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, and UNICEF Thailand

Objectives

The objectives of the 4th meeting are to:

- 1) Showcase the economic, livelihood and social benefits of equitable education for society overall.
- 2) Bring together organizations working towards equity in education and to explore collaboration opportunities to be used as a basis for further development of EEA.
- 3) Present recent major developments in the EEF's work, including the Regional Conference on Teachers and Equitable Education: All for Education in Southeast Asia of October 2021.

Expected Participants

- Participants who have attended previous meetings.
- Potential members, including government agencies, policymakers, NGOs, academics and 20 like-minded organizations and countries that have not participated in previous meetings.
- EEA members, including practitioners, technical experts, and organizations which work in practice for equitable education.

Venue

Zoom Conferencing

Online Registration for open part:

https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HCXq30i-TUaxoVMTlwZVKg

Provisional Agenda

Facilitator: Dr Tinsiri Siribodhi, Early Childhood Development Officer, UNICEF Thailand		
Time	Agenda Item	Content
5 mins	<i>Welcoming Remarks</i>	Opening Note by Dr Kraiyos Patrawart, Managing Director, EEF
30 mins	<i>Open Knowledge-Sharing Session</i>	<p>Impact of Equitable Choices in Education</p> <p>Economic Impact by Dr Milan Thomas, Young Professional (Economist), Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Why Language Matters for Equitable Quality Education by Dr Kirk Person, Senior Education Consultant, SIL International</p> <p>Well-being and Livelihood of Vulnerable Young People During COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights from India by Dr Sreehari Ravindranath, Associate Director of Research and Impact, Dream a Dream</p>
15 mins	<i>Q & A</i>	Discussion and Q & A
10 mins	<i>EEA Information Session</i>	<p>What is Equitable Education Alliance (EEA)?</p> <p>EEA Goals, Purposes, and Activities by Ms. Thantida Wongprasong, Director of Innovation for Learning Opportunity, EEF</p>
5 mins	<i>Closing Remarks</i>	Closing Note by Dr Kraiyos Patrawart, Managing Director, EEF
Break – 5 mins		
Facilitator: Ichiro Miyazawa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Bangkok		
10 mins	<i>Opening and Introduction</i>	Opening the Meeting and Brief Introductions of Attendees & Sharing Recent Updates
20 mins	<i>Alliance Information</i>	<p>a. Overview of EEA meetings 2020–2022</p> <p>b. Updated Terms of Reference (TOR) & Membership of the Alliance</p> <p>c. Activities of EEA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Website & other channels, including EducationImpactHub and upcoming conference ii. Network of collaboration and communication for equitable education <p>d. Current Members & Identifying Potential Members</p>
10 mins	<i>Update for All for Education (AFE) Conference</i>	AFE Conference plan and schedule on Equitable Education
5 mins	<i>Practicalities for Next EEA Meeting</i>	<p>Next EEA Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 2022
5 mins	<i>Closing Remarks</i>	Closing Note by Ichiro Miyazawa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Bangkok