

PRESS ADVISORY: Digital Kids Asia-Pacific research helps countries to understand the experiences of children online



Technology has become wired into every aspect of our lives, changing the old and creating new ways of interaction. E-sports, social media, digital entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence, virtual reality – the new digital vocabulary has become practically endless. These changes signal emerging opportunities and new risks for children. Yet, if we do not know what they are actually doing, thinking, and feeling with regards to technology, how can we help them to succeed in the digital world?

Every government recognizes the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as one of the key enablers to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on Quality Education. However, there has been limited research in the Asia-Pacific region to guide governments and education systems on which digital citizenship competencies to foster for children to develop holistically, be empowered, and take agency in the fulfilment of their rights.

UNESCO's Digital Kids Asia-Pacific (DKAP) project has developed research tools for education stakeholders in the region, enabling them to learn critical information directly from children about their digital lives. It covers fundamental questions about how they access digital devices and the Internet; how often and how long they are going online; and their attitudes, behaviours and knowledge regarding topics on digital literacy, safety and resilience, civic participation, emotional intelligence, and creativity and innovation.

Significant findings from the pioneering research conducted in Bangladesh, Fiji, South Korea and Viet Nam into children's digital citizenship competencies will be released at the Digital Kids Asia-Pacific Regional Report Launch on 10 May 2019 at UNESCO Bangkok, Thailand. A diverse group of UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, government officials and the private sector are invited to discuss and unpack the research findings and implications on policies as well as interventions.

The media is welcome to attend.

Where?

UNESCO Bangkok, Mom Luang Pin Malakul Centenary Building
920 Sukhumvit Road, Phrakanong, Khlong Toei

When?

10 May 2019, 2.00pm – 4.30pm

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