Background

Advocacy is a crucial component of all multilingual education (MLE) programs that takes place on multiple levels (local, national, regional, international) among diverse stakeholders (e.g., youth, parents, community leaders, local officials, national politicians) throughout the life of implementing an MLE project. Members of the Asia-Pacific MLE Working Group network have discovered how specific days and events, ranging from cultural festivals to International Days, such as International Mother Language Day, can provide space to talk about MLE issues and exchange experiences in addressing these challenges.

The goal of this webinar is to suggest opportunities for MLE practitioners to include upcoming internationally significant events in their advocacy strategies with policymakers. These include:

- **Days** such as International Mother Language Day (21 February), International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (9 August), International Literacy Day (8 September), International Human Rights Day (10 December)
- **Events** such as the 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Education Minister’s Conference (5-7 June 2022)
- **Reports** such as the voluntary SDG Midterm Reviews (2022-23) that will be submitted by some countries to mark the halfway point of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) era
- The United Nations International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-32)
This webinar will begin with an overview of successful approaches to MLE advocacy, featuring lessons learned. Against this background, panel speakers will discuss two high-level opportunities for MLE advocacy at the regional and international levels. While this webinar will feature a panel of prominent speakers, time will be allotted for participants to share their thoughts and experiences in a moderated discussion.

Participants will receive a free pre-publication copy of:

Objectives

- To raise awareness of internationally significant events which can serve as platforms for MLE advocacy
- To highlight approaches to MLE advocacy at the local, national, and regional levels
- To catalyse multilateral engagement, understanding and cooperation in approaching MLE advocacy in the Asia-Pacific region

Target Audience

The target audience for the webinar consists of regional, national and international level MLE stakeholders (including both policymakers and practitioners) to enhance their awareness of upcoming internationally significant events in planning their advocacy strategies.

Working Language

English; no additional language accommodations provided.

Date, Time and Format

Wed, 23 March 2022
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Bangkok time; GMT+7)
Zoom Conferencing

Registration

Registration is free but required in advance; upon registering, you will receive a unique join URL via email: https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IdK2hXn2RXid5Iu9JRq9sA
For more information

Asia-Pacific Multilingual Education Working Group Secretariat
E-mail: mlewg@unesco.org

Agenda

Wednesday, 23 March 2022

Moderators:
- Kyungah Kristy Bang, Programme Officer, UNESCO Bangkok
- Kirk Person, Senior Literacy and Education Consultant, SIL International

11:00 – 11:05 a.m. Welcome and Introduction from the Asia-Pacific Multilingual Education Working Group
- Erin Tanner, Education Specialist, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO)

11:05 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Panel Speakers:
- “What is APREMC-II and How can MLE Practitioners Help National Delegations Prepare?” – Margarete Sachs-Israël, Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education, UNESCO Bangkok (20 mins)
- Bringing Non-dominant Languages into Education Systems: Change from Above, from Below, from the Side—or a Combination?” – Kimmo Kosonen, Payap University and SIL International (10 mins)
- ‘The International Decade of Indigenous Languages’ – Linh Anh Moreau, UNESCO Bangkok (15 mins)
- ‘Indigenous People’s Organizations and the MLE Movement: Partnering for IDIL’ – Surapol Suriyamongton, Country Representative, Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation, Thailand (20 mins)

12:10 – 12:25 p.m. Discussion and Q&A
- Discussant: Joseph Lo Bianco, Professor Emeritus of Language and Literacy Education, University of Melbourne

12:25 – 12:30 p.m. Wrap Up
- Manoch Chummuangpak, Dhurakij Pundit University, Member State Representative of the IDIL Global Task Force, Thailand