



## Concept Note

### Background

Funded by the Shanghai Municipal Government of the People’s Republic of China, the UNESCO project “Promoting the Professionalisation of Teaching in the Asia-Pacific and Africa through the Development and Operationalisation of National Teacher Competences and Standards Frameworks” directly contributes to Target c of Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers by 2030, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing States. Specifically, the project seeks to 1) build up the capacity of the participating countries for developing and operationalising national teacher competences and standards frameworks; 2) improve the competences and skills of teachers in the participating countries in line with the national frameworks; and 3) promote South-South dialogue and cooperation on teacher professionalisation.

This bi-regional project directly benefits **six countries**, four in Asia and two in Africa, namely: Mongolia (East Asia), Sri Lanka (South Asia), Timor-Leste (Southeast Asia) and Uzbekistan (Central Asia); Sierra Leone and The Gambia (both in West Africa). Many other countries in and beyond both regions may become indirect beneficiaries, as the project will involve experts from different parts of the world, and its key deliverables will be widely disseminated to all UNESCO Member States for reference.

The Asian part of the project is managed by the **UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Bangkok** (hereafter **UNESCO Bangkok**), who conceptualised and designed the project, while the African part is handled by the International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA). Both teams adopt the same implementation strategy with region-specific adaptation where necessary.

The project plans to create two **Regional Guidelines for the Formulation and Implementation of National Frameworks on Teacher Competences and Standards**, which may be further developed into a **global guideline**. The development of the Asia-Pacific Guidelines will be based on extensive research at global and regional levels, national situation analyses on the direct beneficiary countries, case studies on countries with existing experience, as well as expert and stakeholder consultations.

**Trainings on the Asia-Pacific Guidelines** will be provided for teacher policy makers, teacher educators, experts on teacher development, teachers of different subjects at basic education level, and school leaders from all the direct beneficiary countries in the region. Technical advice may be offered to the countries in their

process of developing the **national teacher competences and standards frameworks**. Once the national frameworks have been formulated, the project may also organise specific **competence trainings for teachers** in these countries based on their actual needs and within the scope and capacity of the project.

An international expert team is being established to jointly develop the Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines, under the guidance and coordination of the Teacher Programme in UNESCO Bangkok. Experts from across the Asia-Pacific region, as well as Europe and the United States are being engaged to conduct national studies based on detailed outlines prepared by the Teacher Programme. These studies, together with the global and regional mappings conducted by the Teacher Programme, will serve as extensive and insightful references for the Regional Guidelines.

In addition to a solid research-based and multi-stakeholder approach to the Guidelines development, to ensure effective and inclusive implementation of the project at the national level, a national technical working group has been set up in each direct beneficiary country, consisting of teacher policy makers, teacher educators, teachers of different subjects, and school leaders.

## Objectives

Organised by the Teacher Programme of UNESCO Bangkok, the first plenary meeting of the Asia-Pacific part of this project is intended to pave the way for well-informed, efficient and effective multi-stakeholder collaboration on this project by

- giving a comprehensive and updated overview of the project to the direct beneficiary countries and other countries involved;
- introducing the national technical working groups, the international expert team, and the contributors of the national studies to each other, and to the key partners and the UNESCO teams;
- sharing the main findings of the initial research and global and regional mappings on teacher competences and standards frameworks conducted by the Teacher Programme of UNESCO Bangkok;
- clarifying about the development process of the Regional Guidelines and the related studies, as well as the immediate next steps after the meeting.

## Participants

Invitation to the meeting is extended to the following groups of participants:

- the donor and key partners of the project;
- the national technical working groups in the four Asian direct beneficiary countries;
- the international expert team contributing to the Regional Guidelines;
- the institutions and experts conducting the national studies;
- UNESCO staff in the Headquarters, Bangkok Office, IICBA and other field offices involved in this project.

## Time, Venue and Logistics

The meeting will be held virtually on **ZOOM** on **Thursday, 18 May 2023** between **2:00-4:30pm Bangkok time (UTC+7hrs)**; all participants are kindly requested to log in 20-30 minutes before the meeting starts.

Meeting link: <https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/85334517983>

Meeting ID: 853 3451 7983                      Passcode: unes18

Logistic notes:

- The meeting will be conducted in English only, without interpretation;
- A technical rehearsal will be held via the same ZOOM link with the same passcode on Tuesday, 16 May between 1:30-3:30pm Bangkok time (UCT+7); all participants are strongly advised to join during this time for 2-5 min only;
- For the rehearsal and the meeting, all participants are advised to indicate their real name and country when logging in, preferably in the following format for easy identification: First Name SURNAME\_Country.

## Agenda and Programme

Time (UTC+7)	Session
2:00-2:30pm	<b>Opening</b>
	<p><b>Introduction of the Agenda</b> by Ms Natalie HONG, Senior Project Officer, Teacher Programme, Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD), UNESCO Bangkok</p> <p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr CHEN Hao, Deputy Director for the International Cooperation and Exchange Division, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission</li> <li>• Dr Carlos VARGAS-TAMEZ, Chief of Section for Teacher Development, UNESCO Headquarters</li> <li>• Dr WANG Libing, Chief of EISD Section, Director, a.i. UNESCO Bangkok</li> <li>• Prof. ZHANG Minxuan, Director of UNESCO Teacher Education Centre in Shanghai</li> </ul>
2:30-2:45pm	<b>Overview of the Project</b>
	<p><b>Presentation</b> by Ms Natalie Hong, Teacher Programme, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>
2:45-3:10pm	<b>Introduction of the National Technical Working Groups</b>
	<p><b>Presentation</b> by Ms Natalie Hong, Teacher Programme, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <p><b>Introduction of the National Technical Working Groups</b> (Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, 2-3 minutes each group)</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>
	<b>Summary of the Initial Research Findings by UNESCO Bangkok Teacher Programme</b>
3:10-3:35pm	<p><b>Presentation</b> by Ms Natalie Hong, Teacher Programme, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>
	<b>Briefing on the Guidelines Development and Related Studies</b>
3:35-4:20pm	<p><b>Presentation</b> by Ms Natalie Hong, Teacher Programme, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <p><b>Introduction of the International Expert Team for the Guidelines Development</b></p> <p><b>Introduction of the Experts for the Country Case Studies</b> (Australia, China, India, Kazakhstan, the Philippines; France, UK, US, 1 minute each)</p> <p><b>Questions &amp; Answers</b></p>
	<b>Closing</b>
	<p><b>Summary of the Next Steps</b> by Ms Natalie Hong, Teacher Programme, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b> by Dr Wang Libing, Chief of EISD Section, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <p><b>Group Photo</b></p>
	4:20-4:30pm