



Published in 2014 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

and

UNESCO Bangkok Office

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Project co-ordinator: Akané Nozaki Design/layout: Sirisak Chaiyasook Printed by: Themma Group

Printed in Thailand THA/DOC/IKM/14/012-1000

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UNESCO

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.

The Organization focuses, in particular, on two global priorities:

- Africa
- Gender equality

And on two overarching objectives:

- Peace
- Sustainable Development

UNESCO IN A NUTSHELL (AS OF MAY 2014)

Established: 16 November 1945

Headquarters: Paris, France

11 in Latin America and the Caribbean)

Member States: 195 Member States and 9 Associate Member

Director-General: Ms Irina Bokova (2009–)

Staff: About 2,000 from some 170 countries

Website: http://en.unesco.org

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed

Preamble of UNESCO's Constitution



UNESCO BANGKOK OFFICE

The Asia-Pacific region is home to almost two thirds of the world's population and comprises countries of great economic, religious, political and cultural diversity. UNESCO has 46 Member States and two Associated Members in the Asia-Pacific and is present in those countries with a network of 14 field offices.

Established in 1961, UNESCO Bangkok has a dual role as both the Regional Bureau for Education and as a Cluster Office. As the **Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education**, UNESCO Bangkok provides policy advice, technical assistance and capacity development support, to Member States and other UNESCO field offices in the region and facilitates knowledge partnership and networking in the area of education. As a **Cluster Office**, UNESCO Bangkok is responsible for the implementation of all UNESCO programmes in the "Mekong" countries – in Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, and Singapore, and in collaboration with UNESCO Country Offices in Hanoi (Viet Nam) and Phnom Penh (Cambodia).

UNESCO ASIA AND PACIFIC MEMBER STATES







A child without education, is like a bird without wings

Tibetan Proverb







EDUCATION

As the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education, UNESCO's work encompasses educational development from pre-school through to higher education, including technical and vocational education and training, non-formal education and literacy.



During the period 2014–2017, UNESCO's actions in the field of education will be strengthened along the following three main lines:

1. Developing education systems to foster quality lifelong learning opportunities for all

To provide **Quality Lifelong Learning** opportunities for all learners, at all levels and in all education settings, the UNESCO Bangkok Office conducts a wide range of activities, such as **policy analysis and research**, **knowledge sharing**, **as well as providing technical assistance and capacity development support to Asia-Pacific Member States**, in several areas:

- Working with Member States to develop coherent, efficient and effective **Education Sector Policies and Strategies**.
- Supporting Member States to provide Quality Education for children and youth, the programme focus of the Bangkok Office. In line with this, we
 - Work towards scaling up Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), which
 provides the foundation for lifelong learning. UNESCO promotes holistic ECCE
 from birth to eight years of age.
 - Support universal access to **Primary Education** with special attention to marginalized populations. **Secondary Education** is also increasingly considered part of basic education in the region. UNESCO Bangkok is studying different countries' approaches to improving quality of learning, teacher education, and financial sustainability, while addressing the issues of persisting disparities in access and learning.

- Promoting Youth and Adult Literacy to address the needs of the many who are still battling illiteracy, such as through Community Learning Centres (CLC).
- Encouraging the improvement of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems, policies

Out of 775 million illiterate adults (average illiterate adults for the 2005–2010 period), 506 million reside in Asia and the Pacific.

2012 Global Education Digest (UIS 2012)

- and practices in Member States, and supporting skills development for the world of work.
- Supporting strong governance of **Higher Education** systems and institutions, internationalization of higher education with particular reference to the Asia and Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications and leveraging the potential of open and distance learning (ODL) and open education resources (OER).
- Helping Member States design effective policies and programmes to strengthen **Teacher Policies** in both formal and non-formal settings, with a focus on enhancing the professional development of teachers.
- Promoting integration of **Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)** into education to expand learning opportunities and enhance teaching and learning processes. Emphasis is put on preparing the next generation of teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom and on fostering the safe and responsible use of technology.

2. Empowering learners to be creative and responsible global citizens

To encourage Member States to promote values, attitudes and behaviours that support responsible local and global citizenship, UNESCO Bangkok Office implements the following programmes:

Teachers' professional knowledge and skills are the most important factor for quality education

Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General

- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is a comprehensive concept to build a world where everyone has the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values required for a sustainable future. The ESD programme focuses particularly on tackling critical areas, such as climate change, disaster risk reduction and the preservation of threatened indigenous cultures.
- Global Citizenship Education (GCE) aims to empower learners to engage and assume active roles both locally and globally to face and resolve global challenges and ultimately to become proactive contributors to a more just, peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, secure and sustainable world. One key programme is "Learning to Live Together" (LTLT), a concept that UNESCO Bangkok promotes through the

integration of LTLT into Member States' education policies, curricula, pedagogies and assessments.

- UNESCO Bangkok's **HIV Prevention and Health Promotion** initiatives aim to empower young people with the knowledge, skills and values they need to maintain good health throughout their lives. These include:
 - Supporting Member States to scale up comprehensive sexuality education;
 - Expanding programmes for young people from key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure;
 - Preventing and responding to school-based stigma, discrimination and gender-based violence; and
 - Establishing and enforcing policies and laws that enable young people's access to sexual and reproductive health related information and services.
- In a region rich in ethnic and linguistic diversity, UNESCO Bangkok promotes
 Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education to greatly enhance the quality
 of education, providing minority speakers with an effective bridge to equal
 participation in society.

3. Shaping the future education agenda

UNESCO takes lead for the **Education for All (EFA)** programme through to 2015 and facilitates the debate on education for the future, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda setting. As such, the Bangkok Office will continue to play an instrumental role in the following areas:

- To mobilize larger political support for accelerating EFA progress, UNESCO Bangkok leads the Asia-Pacific regional coordination of Education for All in collaboration with UN agencies, development partners, civil society organizations as well as Member States. UNESCO promotes the right to education of all children, youth and adults and supports Member States to review their progress towards meeting EFA commitments.
- UNESCO's programme on Education Research and Foresight facilitates the reflection on a new vision of education in the future, including in the context of

Educate a girl and you're educating a whole village

African Proverb

the post-2015 development agenda. It supports Member States in organizing policy dialogues and drawing education policies and strategies that can cope with future opportunities and challenges for education reform and development.



SCIENCES

ONE PLANET, ONE OCEAN

The ocean and coasts in the Asia-Pacific region are of vast social and economic importance, with over 70% of the population living in and relying economically on coastal areas. The ocean in the region is among the richest and most productive in the world and is universally recognized as a major influence on the global climate system.

Even if you never have the chance to see or touch the ocean, the ocean touches you with every breath you take, every drop of water you drink, every bite you consume

Sylvia Earle, Oceanographei

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC) is committed to fostering cooperation among scientists, institutes and countries in the region in monitoring and studying the ocean as well as the impact of human activity on it. The body aims to generate a base of scientific knowledge for the sustainable management of the ocean and coastal biodiversity and resources, as well as to promote the protection of coastal populations from marine hazards and ensure ecosystems are maintained.

 WESTPAC's two regional ocean observation systems in Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia provide a coordinated approach to the deployment of observation technologies, rapid and universal dissemination of data flows and the delivery of



marine forecasting to aid decision-makers. They also seek to educate the public about the changeable nature of the ocean.

WESTPAC also safeguards the health of ocean ecosystems via marine science
with a focus on harmful algal bloom, marine alien species, marine toxic organisms
and coral reef conservation and restoration in order to understand their causes,
predict their occurrences, mitigate their effects and enhance public awareness.

IOC Regional Network of Training and Research Centres on Marine Science aims to enhance developing countries' capacity in a sustainable and systematic manner. This is done through the establishment of regional training and research centres within national marine scientific institutes and/or universities in the region, as well as making training opportunities available to young scientists.

SCIENCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

UNESCO's **International Hydrological Programme (IHP)** works on a variety of themes in freshwater science. UNESCO Bangkok is building partnerships with other sister agencies to launch integrated water resources management, as well as an assessment of groundwater resources in the Mekong River Basin and its transboundary condition.

Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Since 1972, the MAB Programme has been concerned with the relationship between human activity and nature. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR), for example, highlights and promotes

the 610 biosphere reserves designated by national authorities in 117 countries (as of 2013) as site-specific examples of how humans live with nature in a sustainable way.

Biosphere reserves are increasingly used as pilot sites for the testing of methods to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other innovative global environmental initiatives. Within the Mekong Cluster, 13 Biosphere Reserves (Cambodia-1, Thailand-4, Viet Nam-8) have been nominated under the WNBR. Myanmar's nomination is currently underway.

The geological record offers insights into both current climate change as well as a deeper understanding of natural hazards such as volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes. Geoparks recognized by the **Global Network of Geoparks (GGN)** are areas of outstanding international geological significance which can be used to promote awareness around and address important environmental and societal challenges.

Investment in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is an important driver of economic growth and social development. UNESCO works with Member States to invest in STI, develop national science policies, reform their science systems and build capacity to monitor and evaluate performance through STI indicators.

The International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP), an international multidisciplinary programme, was established to strengthen UNESCO Member States' capacities in the basic sciences and science education. IBSP supports projects in mathematics, physics, chemistry and the life sciences and their interdisciplinary areas.

Reaching gender equality in science remains a challenge. Although the number of female scientists today has increased, women are still underrepresented due to complex factors. **The UNESCO-L'OREAL Partnership for "Women in Science"** places special emphasis on supporting women scientists, in particular young ones.

The **Climate Change Initiative** combines UNESCO's work with that of other UN bodies. It aims to help Member States:

- mitigate and adapt to climate change;
- educate for sustainable development in the context of climate change;
- assess the risks of natural disasters due to climate change; and
- monitor the effects of climate change on World Heritage sites and biosphere reserves.

REGIONAL UNIT FOR SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (RUSHSAP)

In response to the complex ethical and moral issues brought about by scientific progress, UNESCO supports the development of **bioethics** to meet the needs of Member States in the Asia-Pacific region. The **Social and Human Sciences (SHS)** Programme provides an intellectual forum for a broad and diverse reflection on bioethics that aims to define and promote a common ethical standard-setting framework that Member States can use to formulate and implement their own policies in this field.

UNESCO Bangkok also supports Member States that wish to promote reflection and debate on bioethics through these initiatives:

- Setting up national ethics committees and defining national standards and/or legislation in the field;
- Raising awareness of bioethics among specialists (researchers, jurists, journalists, etc.), decision-makers, the general public and specific target groups through public education; and
- Facilitating regional cooperation between universities and UNESCO through the UNESCO Chairs in Bioethics, in the areas of bioethics education and implementing the UNESCO bioethics core curriculum.

In line with the Operational Strategy on Youth (2014–2021), UNESCO's approach to **Youth Development** is to invest in young people to develop their own ideas and take responsibility for being agents of sustainable development and drive change in their communities and nations.

Three key areas of work have been identified:

- Policy formulation and review, including the use of youth policies as vehicles for youth development;
- Building capacity of young people as agents of change for sustainable development through initiatives such as "Looking Beyond Disaster"; and
- Strengthening avenues for young people across Asia to collaborate, network, exchange ideas and foster peace and sustainable development, as well as to develop innovative tools that improve the transition from policy to implementation.

The SHS Programme also supports a range of other activities including promotion of the International Convention Against Doping in Sports, exchange of ideas and debate between philosophers across the world, the "Coalition of Cities Against Racism" and the development of policies and activities that promote peace, security and social inclusion for excluded and disadvantaged groups across the region.

CULTURE

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

NESCO's **World Heritage Programme** identifies and preserves heritage sites of outstanding universal value to humanity. The Organization manages the World Heritage List, as established in the framework of the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Natural and Cultural Heritage* (1972). The Bangkok office provides technical assistance and mobilizes international expertise to protect sites in Asia and the Pacific, in particular those under threat.

To date, 232 out of 1,007 World Heritage sites have been inscribed in the Asia Pacific region. The sites inscribed in 2014 include Great Himalayan National Park in India, Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary in the Philippines, Silk Roads, the Routes Network of Chang'an-Tian-shan Corridor co-nominated by China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, Namhansanseong in Republic of Korea, Shahr-I Sokhta in Islamic Republic of Iran, Pyu Ancient Cities in Myanmar and Trang An Landscape Complex in Viet Nam.

Cultural heritage also encompasses living expressions and traditions that communities have inherited and passed on for generations, as recognized in the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003). Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) includes oral traditions, performing arts, rituals and festivals, craftsmanship and local knowledge about nature and the universe. The 2003 Convention puts communities and practitioners at the centre of safeguarding activities, recognizing their role as key players in ensuring the sustainable transmission of ICH.

UNESCO Bangkok is working to strengthen national capacities to implement the 2003 Convention. The 14 Asia-Pacific beneficiary countries include Bhutan, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Sri Lanka. Trainings are organized through ongoing engagement with a network of accredited UNESCO trainers.

As of 2013, 30 out of 155 States
Parties to the 2003 Convention for the
Safeguarding of ICH are Asia-Pacific
countries. 128 elements in Asia and
the Pacific have been listed among 298
elements across the world.

Through the *Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage* (2001), UNESCO seeks to protect historically precious **Underwater Cultural Heritage** (**UCH**), which has been submerged for more than 100 years in international waters.

The annual UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation recognizes outstanding achievements in conserving or restoring heritage buildings



and properties in the region through private or public-private initiatives. To be considered for the awards, the conserved or restored heritage structure, place or property, as well as the historic elements in settlements and landscape, must be over 50 years old. From 2000 to 2013, a total of 556 projects have been submitted from 24 Asia-Pacific countries.

PROMOTING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Culture, in its broad sense, underpins all aspects of sustainable development, be it cross-cutting issues such as gender, youth or climate change, or sectoral specific areas such as education, health or agriculture. In leading up to the post-2015 Global Development Goals agenda, UNESCO seeks to achieve greater recognition of its central role in sustainable development policies.

Cultural Diversity is therefore a driving force for long-term development and an asset in poverty reduction. UNESCO promotes respect for cultural diversity in development interventions and policy-making, as recognized in the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* (2005). This Convention encourages creativity and cultural expressions, which play a vital role in the transition towards knowledge societies.

Our future is dependent on our ability to build relationships and communities that bind us to common aspiration. Our world is a human garden, beautiful because many different flowers grow in it

The 14th Dalai Lama

UNESCO Bangkok encourages **inter-sectoral approaches to sustainable development**. A regional project to promote ICH in schools to reinforce Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is being implemented by the Bangkok office.

FOSTERING CREATIVITY

In line with the 2005 Convention, UNESCO advocates for effective policies to sustain and promote the **Cultural and Creative Industries**. In the Asia-Pacific region, these industries have the potential to contribute to social and economic progress as well as to communities' sense of identity. UNESCO Bangkok works with governments and relevant institutions to increase understanding on the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics and to promote its application.

By encouraging diversity and creativity, UNESCO promotes research in the field of **Arts Education** and the exchange of information and good practices among teachers, artists and experts in the region. The Bangkok office has been encouraging academic institutions to join the Asia-Pacific Arts Education Observatories Network, and to systematically compile and disseminate information on arts education in the region.



COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

Promoting freedom of expression, media development and access to information and knowledge

PROMOTING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR PRESS FREEDOM AND JOURNALISTIC SAFETY, FACILITATING PLURALISM AND PARTICIPATION IN MEDIA, AND SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AND INDEPENDENT MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

- The potential of the media in supporting democracy and development is continuously highlighted by UNESCO. The Organization promotes high standards in journalism education and training, and supports the creation and growth of independent media institutions, particularly community media.
- Media pluralism is supported through the promotion of gender equality in media operations and content, and so is the empowerment of citizens through Media and Information Literacy (MIL).
- A diverse portfolio of **media development** projects is annually implemented in the Mekong countries, thanks to the support provided by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). Assistance is also provided to Member States in drafting media laws that protect **freedom of expression**, encourage media diversity and meet international standards.

• To sensitize decision-makers as well as the general public about communication related issues, UNESCO observes every year World Radio Day (13 February), World Press Freedom Day (3 May) and World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (27 October).

ENABLING UNIVERSAL ACCESS AND PRESERVATION OF INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE

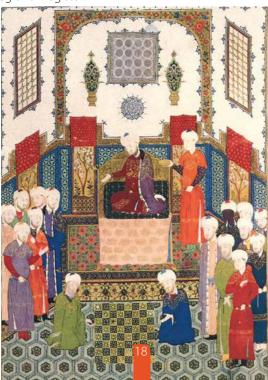
 UNESCO supports Member States in their efforts to build inclusive knowledge societies, as defined in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), through universal access to information, knowledge and the preservation of information. Barriers of access to

The fight for freedom begins with freedom of speech. Free expression is a basic human right that must be exercised in the face of oppression

Aung San Suu Ky

information and knowledge are key causes of ignorance, conflict, deprivation and poverty.

• The protection of the world's documentary heritage is pursued through the **Memory of the World Programme**, while promoting awareness, preservation and safeguarding of original material through the Memory of the World Register. The Memory of the World Committee for Asia-Pacific (MOWCAP) maintains the Asia-Pacific Regional Register.





MONITORING AND STATISTICS

RELYING ON HIGH QUALITY STATISTICS

NESCO's programmes are based on research and analysis, which rely on high quality data and statistics. UIS-AIMS (UNESCO Institute for Statistics-Assessment, Information Systems, Monitoring and Statistics) unit is the Office of the UIS Regional Advisor for Asia-Pacific. It assists Member States in strengthening their monitoring and evaluation capacity to attain national and

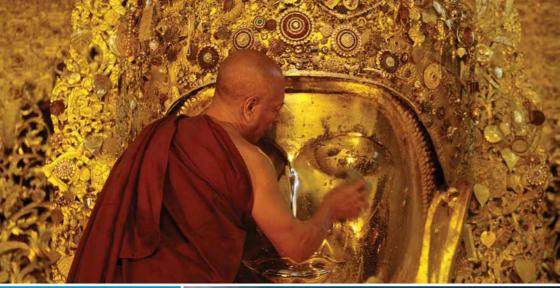
High quality, timely and relevant data have the power to tell a clear and compelling story and can facilitate solutions to questions of policy

Denise Lievesley, Former Director, UIS

global development goals. As a regional hub, UIS-AIMS offers a wide range of technical and statistical expertise as well as advisory support services to countries through its network of UNESCO offices and other development agencies.

As a primary source of statistics on education, science and technology, culture, and communication from more than 200 countries and territories, UIS-AIMS helps government counterparts, institutes and individuals make sense of numbers and data. The unit also develops teaching, learning tools and training programmes as part of national capacity development.

Quality data from the UIS can be found in flagship publications such as the Global Education Digest (GED), the Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR) and the 2010 UNESCO Science Report. The aim is to disseminate timely and internationally comparable data relevant to evidence-based policy-making at the national, regional and international levels. UIS data is also used in publications produced by other UN organizations. All UIS data can be found online at the www.uis.unesco.org.



Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.

Malala Yousafzai, school pupil and education activist





HOW WE WORK

UNESCO BANGKOK UNITS AND PROGRAMMES

- Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All (APPEAL) promotes literacy, early childhood care and education, primary and inclusive education and lifelong learning.
- Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID)
 works on educational innovations for sustainable and human development with a
 focus on higher education, teacher education and ICT in Education.
- Education Policy and Reform (EPR) supports national education policies, financial planning, sector management and reforms of education and technical and vocational education and training.
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) supports education stakeholders to face the issues of climate change and post-conflict and post-disaster situations.
- HIV Prevention and Health Promotion (HP2) priorities its focus on technical support, capacity-building, policy advocacy and programme development targeting young people, with a particular focus on those from key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure.
- Assessment, Information Systems, Monitoring and Statistics (AIMS) is the Asia-Pacific Regional Office of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS).
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (IOC/WESTPAC) implements marine scientific research programmes for the protection of oceans and coasts.
- Natural Sciences (SC/IGCP/GGN) has a regional advisor role for the International Geosciences programme and Geopark.
- Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHSAP) promotes ethics in science and dialogue among countries.
- Culture (CLT) supports the safeguarding of heritage in diverse forms, and promotes creativity and cultural diversity for sustainable development.
- Communication and Information (CI) promotes communication development, knowledge societies and freedom of expression.
- Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) shapes UNESCO's public image and raises the organization's visibility in Asia and the Pacific through media and communications activities, publications, the Bangkok office website and social media. It also provides Knowledge Management and IT solutions to improve working procedures and overall efficiency.

UNESCO BANGKOK COUNTRY LEVEL ACTIVITIES

UNESCO Bangkok is committed to work in coordination with its sister UN agencies while designing and implementing activities at the country level. UNESCO, therefore, actively participates in the UN country teams of each of the cluster countries under its mandate. In these countries, UNESCO operates within the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), which are strategic programme frameworks that describe the collective responses of the UN system to national priorities. In Thailand, this is called the UN Partnership Agreement Framework (UNPAF). In order to enhance its country-level support to Myanmar, UNESCO Bangkok has established a Project Antenna in Yangon. In Myanmar, UNESCO Bangkok is part of various common UN initiatives, particularly as co-chair of the Education Section. UNESCO's country-level programmatic priorities and actions for Myanmar and Thailand are systematically described in the UNESCO Country Programming Documents (UCPDs). In Singapore, UNESCO Bangkok is collaborating actively with line ministries and other stakeholders.

UNESCO BANGKOK PUBLICATIONS

UNESCO Bangkok produces many publications each year, covering all areas of UNESCO's mandate. The publications provide regional, sub-regional and country level analysis and case studies, policy and knowledge briefs, training manuals and management handbooks, e-learning and multimedia resources, strategy, innovation and forecast papers.

Open Access Policy: In 2013, UNESCO became the first member of the United Nations to adopt an Open Access policy for its publications. By adopting this new publishing policy, UNESCO strengthens its commitment to the universal access to information and knowledge. This means that anyone will be able to download, translate, adapt, distribute and re-share UNESCO publications and data under Creative Commons licenses. UNESCO's Open Access repository (http://en.unesco.org/open-access) contains hundreds of digital UNESCO publications freely available to the public.

The bi-yearly **UNESCO Publications Catalogue for Asia-Pacific**, gathering all publications from the 14 Field Offices in the Region, can be downloaded at: www.unescobkk.org/resources/online-materials/e-library

The monthly e-newsletter **VOICES: UNESCO in Asia and the Pacific** provides news and features on UNESCO projects and events in the Asia-Pacific region, draws on important issues and challenges, and highlights results, achievements for the general public. To subscribe, please send an e-mail to ikm.bgk@unesco.org

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