



In Pursuit of Quality Education: The Past, Present, and Future

Providing access to education for all (EFA) had been a global agenda for the past 15 years. Most countries in the Asia and Pacific region made remarkable gains in expanding access to education at all levels. However, progress on improving the quality of the education, particularly in terms of student learning and related teaching and learning conditions, was less impressive, resulting in this recommendation in the Report Card 2000-2015 for EFA Goal #6 on the quality of education: "Must try harder". The Sustainable Development Goal 4-Education 2030 agenda – *ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all* – reinforces the growing consensus about quality being at the heart of education.

The interpretation of quality in education is dependent on many factors, including expectations grounded in different values, cultures and traditions. All considerations about the quality of learning will have to be viewed through the lens of the entire education system, including the curriculum, teaching and learning materials; teachers and their teaching practices; school environment and infrastructure; allocation and use of resources; school leadership and management; students, their families and communities; and the diverse socio-cultural contexts and conditions.

The UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, Thailand, is organizing the 18th UNESCO-APEID International Conference, *In Pursuit of Quality Education: The Past, Present and Future*, to facilitate leading-edge discussions about the quality of education, and to identify gaps where more research and efforts are needed to achieve inclusive and quality education by 2030. The specific objectives of the Conference are to:

- Increase knowledge on how quality is understood in education;
- Showcase innovative approaches and practices that improve the quality of education;
- Enhance understanding of the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of the quality of education;
- Facilitate collaboration and networking to improve the quality of education.

Eminent speakers and paper presenters will share their rich experiences in linking theory and practice. Policy makers, academicians, researchers, school leaders and administrators, educators, parents, students and representatives from international organizations, local communities and the private sector attending the Conference will be able to interact and engage in stimulating discussions about policies, strategies, approaches, tools and resources for quality education. Participants are encouraged to discover how they can optimize their knowledge and contribute to efforts towards SDG 4-Education 2030.

"The right to a quality education is, I believe, the perfect path to bridge the gap between different cultures and to reconcile various civilizations. Without such a right, the values of liberty, justice and equality will have no meaning."

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned

Conference Sub-themes

I. Getting the Big Picture: Concepts and Frameworks of Quality Education

- Defining the quality of education in the past, present and future
- Investigating factors and inputs that lead to quality education
- Reviewing the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders to ensure the quality of education
- Examining platforms and channels for effective dialogues about quality education

II. Putting into Practice: Innovations for Increasing the Quality of Education

- Promoting good practices that impact stakeholders of quality education (learners, teachers, school leaders, policy makers, families, communities, private sector, development agencies)
- Developing effective and appropriate curricula, contents, and teaching and learning materials
- Enhancing innovative learning processes, pedagogies, technologies and tools for quality education
- Optimizing supportive environment, infrastructures, facilities and resources for quality education

III. Keeping Track: Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation of Quality Education

- Establishing standards and competencies frameworks for quality education
- Identifying indicators, approaches and tools to measure and monitor the quality of education
- Exploring alternative models for the assessment and evaluation of quality education
- Building the capacity to assess, monitor and evaluate the quality of education

IV. Sustaining the Commitments: Effective Policies and Strategies for Quality Education

- Formulating evidence-based policies and strategies for the effective governance and management of quality education
- Empowering leadership to foster and improve the quality of education
- Determining gaps and weaknesses in the provision of quality education for further research
- Strengthening partnerships, collaboration and networks to enhance the quality of education

