

Literacy and Lifelong Learning

Activity Summary 2010-2011

Regional Activities

Regional workshops and conferences

A Regional Workshop on Equivalency Programme was held with 30 participants from 10 countries in Asia and Pacific in September 2010. Successful cases of equivalency programmes in Thailand and Indonesia were mainly presented and the quality assurances of the programme and delivery mechanism were discussed.

A LIFE midterm evaluation meeting was held in December 2010 in Bangkok. LIFE stands for Literacy Initiative for Empowerment, and there are 9 LIFE countries in Asia and Pacific. Those countries include People's Republic of China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Afghanistan, and Iran. The meeting was set to monitor, evaluate, and make recommendations on the process to accelerate to achieve EFA Goal 4 on literacy. **LIFE Mid Term Evaluation Report** was finalized from the meeting and can be downloaded at

108 government officials and NGO staffs from 25 countries in Asia and Pacific participated in the **Community Learning Centres (CLC) regional conference** in September 2011 in Bangkok. The objectives of the conference are to exchange ideas and experiences and to discuss the quality assurance of literacy and NFE programme delivery, the decentralization mechanism, the literacy assessment and the coordination among stakeholders. The conference summary report is being prepared and will be e-published in early 2012.

In order to enhance the capacity of designing a national strategic plan for NFE promotion in the Asia-Pacific Region, The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Hiroshima University, UNESCO Bangkok, and ONIE of Ministry of Education of Thailand initiated the **Regional Training Course on Promotion of Non-formal Education** in Chiang Rai, Thailand and Tokyo, Japan from 21 February to 5 March 2011.

Research and Publication

An expert meeting on Literate Environment was organized in collaboration with SEAMEO INNOTECH in Manila in December, 2010. As many as 20 experts on literacy and literate environments discussed and developed a **technical guideline on Creating and Sustaining Literate Environments**. The guideline is targeted for policy makers and people at the grass root level.

Achieving Education For All (EFA) Through Equivalency Programmes(EP) in Asia-Pacific is a regional overview with highlights of successful EP in 4 countries: India, Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia. This report reviews the system, contents, delivery mechanisms, results, and lessons learnt from the equivalency programmes in all 4 countries. It was published in November 2011 and can be downloaded at

The report on **Sustainability of Community Learning Centres: Community Ownership and Support** was e-published. This report is a compilation of action research studies in 7 countries in Asia. It addresses challenges and solutions to ensure sustainability of CLC with community involvement and external supports from the government, donors and NGOs. The report can be downloaded at

An expert meeting on **lifelong learning and continuous employability** was held with 10 experts from 6 countries and regions: Republic of Korea, Japan, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Australia. The objective of the meeting was to design a research on lifelong learning and continuous employability. The research is to address how an individual could continuously improve professional skills and values linked to employability, and how the state and private sectors can plan their roles as a provider. The research design was completed but the research was not started due to the budget cut of the education programme of UNESCO.

Networks

Literacy portals of 9 LIFE countries were developed with more than 600 documents; technical documents, materials, text books, and statistics on literacy and NFE are available at the portal sites. The sites are to be sustained by local partners and UNESCO field offices.

APPEAL Resource and Training Consortium (ARTC) is a regional network of 14 member institutions which promote literacy, NFE and lifelong learning. ARTC was established in 1993; however, it has been less active for the last 7 years. The ARTC meeting was held in September 2011 in Bangkok to develop an action plan of ARTC from 2012 for the revitalization of the network. In order to recreate ARTC web site, the latest information about institutions and activities were collected through questionnaires. A new ARTC site will be launched in early 2012.

In addition, APPEAL facilitated **study visits** to Thailand on NFE and Literacy for Republic of Korea, Yemen, Pakistan, Kenya and Japan in 2010-2011.

Country Activities

Equivalency Programme

APPEAL has been supporting the Department of Non-Formal Education (DNFE) under the Ministry of Education and Sports of **Lao People's Democratic Republic** in developing a **primary EP through mobile teachers** since May 2010. The project is directed at providing educational services for the unreached in Lao PDR, the 6% of children who are estimated never to attend school. Along with UNESCO, DNFE has developed a primary EP curriculum and teaching/learning materials, and trained 16 master trainers at the central, provincial and district level, 58 mobile teachers and 102 village teaching assistants. Classroom teaching started in 40 villages of Savannakhet province in December 2011. By the end of 2012, the programme will be expanded to 282 villages in three provinces, and additional 24 master trainers, 90 mobile teachers and 180 teaching assistants will be trained.

Technical support is provided to the DNFE, **Lao PDR** in order to strengthen Non-Formal Education(NFE) mechanisms and programmes to provide quality education for all, particularly unreached in order to achieve national Education For All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Under the project, DNFE has received **capacity building for finalizing CLC guidelines and draft NFE policies and strategies**. A literacy programme was piloted in two provinces with 40 village heads and vice-heads. A team of competent trainers and facilitators was trained. Training materials were developed for further expansion. Although 40 people are now literate, the challenge will be to sustain their literacy in the coming years. A curriculum of lower-secondary EP was developed and around 60 NFE teachers are trained on the new curriculum.

Capacity Development on Literacy and NFE Programmes

APPEAL has supported **Timor-Leste (TL) to build the national capacity to develop the country's Equivalency Programmes (EPs), Community Learning Centres (CLCs) and effective monitoring system of literacy programmes** under Cap EFA project in cooperation with UNESCO Jakarta office. *2-day In-country De-briefing on the Study Visits to 5 countries on Equivalency Education and the Role of the Community Learning Centres* was organized in Dili in August 2011 with participants of 95 national and district government officials from National Directorate for Recurrent Education of Ministry of Education. They presented their lessons learnt from the Philippines, Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia, and Bangladesh and discussed to identify the specific aspects that can be applied in TL. The de-briefing workshop was followed by *3-day Capacity Development Workshop on Key Literacy Concepts* for enhancing the knowledge on literacy, and for planning and implementation capacity of NFE programmes.

APPEAL has supported **Papua New Guinea (PNG) to develop capacity to address the country's literacy issues** under Cap EFA project in cooperation with UNESCO Apia office, UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL) and UNESCO HQs. APPEAL organized the **Website Management Training** for PNG literacy and Non Formal Education Website in October 2011 in association with the development of LIFE portal for PNG. Seven officers from National Literacy Awareness Secretariat (NLAS) and ICT division of Department of Education (DOE) learned about necessary web-related skills.

The “**UN Joint Programme on Integrated Highland Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son, Thailand**” aims to improve the quality of life and reduce poverty among the vulnerable groups in underserved areas of Mae Hong Son, Thailand through enhancing both protection and empowerment capacities. It was jointly developed with 8 UN agencies. **APPEAL focuses on improvement of accessibility and quality of formal and non-formal education for disadvantaged populations** with special attention given to lifelong learning and life skills to reach EFA goals. APPEAL supports to establish and strengthen CLCs and Opportunity Service Centres. The centres aim to improve quality of life through literacy and income generating courses offered to the local people.

In May 2011, 150 youths were invited to attend the 2 day **Youth Empowerment Workshop** in Chang Rai, Thailand. They had a chance to meet a professional coach who is an inspirational speaker and an author of the national bestselling books. Her coaching approaches are well adapted for Asian audiences while sharing similar approaches of world famous coaches and mentors such as Anthony Robbins, Brian Tracy, Steven Covey, Dalai Rama, and Dale Carnegie. 2 days were spent for youth to look into their strength and competencies, learn how to keep confidence, and recognize the global and local trends.

Community Learning Centre

APPEAL implemented a project to further strengthen the existing **Community Learning Centres (CLCs)** in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In **Bangladesh and Nepal**, activities are undertaken to develop a national **Equivalency Program (EP)** framework. While Bangladesh finalized a framework, Nepal piloted an EP for minority children. **Nepal and Cambodia** addressed the **Multi-Lingual Education (MLE)** both in piloting and advocating using CLC as a platform of programme delivery. The project brought together key stakeholders and raised awareness on mother tongue education. **Samoa and Vietnam** addressed **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** at CLC level. It contributed to capacity building of CLC facilitators as well as increased communication among key stakeholders.

Flood Responses

Thailand faced serious flooding in both rural and major urban areas since June 2011. As many as 3,000 educational institutions are badly damaged by flood. At about **300 hundreds of community learning centres in Ayutthaya, Bangkok and other provinces**, the learning and teaching materials, furniture, and equipment were soaked for more than one month and became debris. UNESCO Bangkok visited damaged CLCs to clean and facilitated to restore in November and December 2011. APPEAL and ESD designed a project proposal on **Restoring CLC and Capacity Development on Disaster Risk Reduction**. This project is to be funded by the Government of Japan and the project will be implemented from February 2012. UNESCO Bangkok also participates in Power of Thai, which is the initiative of 38 private companies to restore 84 damaged primary schools.