

***Proposed Framework for a Future Strategy and Action Plan of ARTC
(2011-2016)***

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE

FOR RURAL EDUCATION (INRULED China)

Part I: ARTC

1. Establishment of ARTC

UNESCO Asia and the Pacific Programmes of Education for All (APPEAL)'s programmes are implemented through a network of selected governmental, non-governmental, and private institutions and agencies involved in the promotion of basic education and lifelong learning. Among these, a consortium of lead institutions across the countries of the region has been constituted to serve as APPEAL Resource and Training Consortium (ARTC).

APPEAL Resource and Training Consortium (ARTC) was initiated in May 1997 at the Technical Working Group Meeting organized by APPEAL at International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED), Baoding, China in cooperation with the Indian Institute of Education (IIE) to provide technical support and assistance to the work of APPEAL among the Member States

2. ARTC Meetings for Technical Contribution

Establishment: September 1997 (INRULED: Baoding, China);

Inter-Country Resource and Training Consortium Meeting. January 2003 (INRULED: Baoding, China);

Review Meeting on ARTC February 2010 (ACCU: Tokyo, Japan).

PART II: INRULED

1. Mission statement

International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED) was established jointly by China and UNESCO in 1994. It became an affiliated institution with UNESCO in accordance to the decision of at 27th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in 1993.

The Centre was established on the campus of Hebei Agricultural University, Baoding, China in 1994, and relocated into the campus of Beijing Normal University in 2008. Meanwhile, Nanjing Normal University and other institutions in China are partners of the Centre and will carry out some of its functions.

INRULED is an international centre for providing innovative and cutting-edge training and research in the field of education for rural development.

The Centre will carry out its mission in cooperation with UNESCO member states, international, regional and national partners.

INRULED is committed to sharing the results of its research and training experiences for the benefit of relevant communities worldwide.

2. Justification

In view of the increasing demand for human resources development in all developing countries particularly in the rural areas, as an important measure for achieving sustainable development, there is a need for INRULED to develop a more effective strategy for supporting the efforts of the Member States of UNESCO for rural development through education.

3. Objectives of the strategy

3.1. General objectives

Provide technical and support in the field of training and research to member states for strengthening their national capacity of quality education for inclusive rural development.

3.2. Specific objectives

- ✚ Organize training seminars and workshops for senior and middle level personnel working in different aspects of education for rural development;
- ✚ Carry out and/or support pilot projects in action research in particular topics in education related to agriculture, labour, health, employment and other topics of relevance to rural areas;
- ✚ Organize fellowships and study tours for senior and middle level personnel engaged in different aspects of education for rural development from different countries;
- ✚ Ensure a systematic follow-up and feed back to all activities;
- ✚ Develop a data base for training and research in rural education and ensure the wide dissemination of such data;
- ✚ Build partnerships with similar institutions, universities, NGOs, and IGOs, UN Agencies, other institutions and organizations whose objectives are consistent with those of the Centre;
- ✚ Reinforce cooperation with UNESCO HQs, field offices and UNESCO specialized institutes and pursue a policy of cooperation and coordination of activities related to the fields of competence of the Centre.

4. Modalities of operation

To realize above-mentioned objectives, the strategy will adopt the following modalities:

- ✚ Training courses, workshops, and seminars and fellowships;
- ✚ Action and participatory research;
- ✚ Distance learning;
- ✚ Data collection, data analysis and dissemination;
- ✚ Development of teaching and learning materials (print, audio-visual and others);
- ✚ Publications on rural education theory and practice to serve rural development;
- ✚ Technical support to the countries upon request;
- ✚ Support to innovative practice related to education for rural development making use of appropriate technology;
- ✚ Networking and linkages with universities and other institutions engaged in

education for rural development.

5. Target groups for training

The target group for training will be key personnel working in different aspects of education for rural development who will have multiplier effects upon return to their countries.

6. Programme focus

The focus of all activities will be: Promotion of rural education for equitable, participatory, people-centered sustainable socio-economic development in rural areas and strengthening of national capacity.

7. Research

7.1 Research topics have to be closely related to priority areas of training of the Centre. However, research topics should be based on the needs of participating countries and resources available.

7.2 Research should be action oriented and participatory in approach involving the target groups in different stage of planning and execution of the research, being sensitive to the culture and value systems of the people. Whenever possible, research should be comparative, cross-cultural and interdisciplinary.

7.3 The following areas provide an example of the kind of research that may readily respond to the need of the rural populations. However, considering the fact that different countries (even different parts of the same country) have different needs, the researches should carry out a needs' assessment, exercise should be carried out before a particular topic is approved for research. Some examples of the areas are:

- ✚ Review of literature in the domain of research and training for rural development;
- ✚ Clarification of the changing concepts of rural and urban areas and implications for development actions;
- ✚ Availability, reliability and accessibility of data on research and training for rural development;
- ✚ Changing patterns of employment in rural areas;
- ✚ Educational needs and the provision of education in rural area for all categories of population in particular out of school children, basic and functional illiterate adults and minority groups etc;
- ✚ Role of women in developing rural areas;
- ✚ Role of university extension services in meeting needs of the rural development;
- ✚ Socio-economic structure in rural areas and its implications for sustainable development.

8. Human and Financial Resources

In order to be able to implement the strategy, INRULED requires the service of highly qualified professionals in various domains of its competence. While it may not be possible for the centre to have at its disposal all the professional staff it requires on a full-time base, the centre should adopt a policy of hiring part-time lecturers and consultants. The centre should also seek technical backstopping from its partners be they universities, UNESCO field offices, NGOs or IGOs. It should also explore the

possibility of recruiting UN volunteers, associate experts and interns.

As far as the financial resources are concerned, the Centre is supported by the Chinese government and Beijing Normal University. It is hoped that both parties will increase the level of their support to the centre in future. At same time, to be able fully and effectively to execute its mission and objectives, the Centre will need additional funding. It should therefore actively seek additional funding from extra-budgetary sources. UNESCO should assist the Centre in identifying such sources and in supporting the Centre proposals.

9. Advocacy

The Centre should design a well-conceived, focussed and well-structured advocacy and public affairs programme to ensure positive visibility, to enhance impact and to gain support, with maximum outreach to:

- Policy and decision makers, potential partners and donors
- Practitioners and beneficiaries
- Media and the public at large