



2015 ERI-Net Expert Meeting for School Education Group

(Phase III Study on Integrating Transversal Skills in Policies and Practice: How Teachers Could Better Respond to and Prepare for the Globalization of Education)

Concept Note

Background

Since its establishment in 2009, ERI-NET has expanded its research focus from TVET and higher education to cover the entire education system in the Asia-Pacific Region. Composed of sixty-three (63) members from thirty-eight (38) institutions and organizations and fourteen (14) participating countries, the network has facilitated knowledge generation and dissemination through conduct of different research studies. Past research topics include impact of economic crisis on higher education, international student mobility, public-private partnership in higher education and TVET, question of youth employment and use of ICT in universities.

Since 2013, one of the main areas of focus of ERI-NET research studies is on transversal competencies. Though various terminologies are currently used within the international research communities, the term refers to the category of “non-academic” knowledge skills, values and attitudes deemed necessary and integral to life in the 21st century.¹ To date, two (2) research studies on this topic have been conducted. Results of **Phase I study (2013)** which examined education policies in the Asia Pacific region revealed that the region places an increasing emphasis on promoting transversal competencies in order to equip learners to meet the new needs of society including technological advances and intercultural communication in the era of globalization. However, **Phase II study**, which looked more closely at how these competencies are integrated in the classroom practice, showed that education policies are not always easy for schools to implement due to many challenges, such as ambiguity of skills to teach, lack of instructional guides to teach transversal competencies in lesson and lack of teacher training. Further, the role of teachers has been altered because teaching transversal competencies inevitably requires more interactive and student-centered approach. These challenges emphasize the significant role of teachers as facilitators and the necessity to provide them with more support to allow them to prepare our today’s learners to have the necessary skills and competencies to live a responsible and meaningful lives in this rapidly changing world.

Hence, **Phase III study** on transversal competencies will focus on investigating the roles of teaching and teachers in preparing learners for increasingly globalized world. The study is under the over-all ERI-NET Research Theme “Education Strategies and Responses to Globalization and Regionalization” agreed upon during the ERI-NET Meeting in Hangzhou, China in November 2014. As a preparatory activity, this 2015 ERI-NET Expert Meeting for School Education Group is being organized to discuss and finalize this year’s research framework and instruments and eventually agree on feasible research

¹ 2015, UNESCO: 2013 ERI-NET Regional Study on Transversal Competencies in Education Policy and Practice.

schedule for all the participants. It is also expected that the experts will discuss potential research topics in 2016 and beyond. The meeting will be funded by the Malaysian Fund-in-Trust (MFIT).

Expected outcomes

At the end of the meeting, it is expected that:

- The 2015 research framework and instruments are discussed, finalized and agreed
- The 2015 ERI-Net research study schedules are discussed, finalized and agreed
- Potential topics for ERI-Net research for 2016 and beyond discussed

Participants

Representatives of the following 11 institutions from School Education Research Group are invited to attend the meeting:

1. Hong Kong Institute of Education (Hong Kong, SAR, China)
2. University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, SAR, China)
3. Learning Links Foundation (India)
4. Global Scientific Information and Computing Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Japan)
5. Institute of Finance and Economics (Mongolia)
6. Foundations for Upgrading the Standard of Education (FUSE, Philippines)
7. Korean Education Development Institute (KEDI, RoK)
8. Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE, RoK)
9. Shanghai Normal University (Shanghai, China)
10. Dhurakij Pundit University (Thailand)
11. Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences, Ministry of Education and Training (Vietnam)
12. Education Planning and Research Division, Ministry of Education, Malaysia

Date and Venue

The ERI-NET Expert meeting will be held on 20-21 April 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand

Contact Information

For questions regarding this meeting, please contact:

About programme and general organization of the meeting

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About technical and logistical arrangement (e.g., travel, accommodation, and visa)

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