

## **NEQMAP 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**

31 March – 1 April 2014

Bangkok, Thailand

Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Sukhumvit Soi 22

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

#### **1. Background and Rationale**

The countries of the Asia-Pacific region are highly concerned with the monitoring of educational quality. With most countries in this region having made great strides in extending access to education to all, the crucial issue is that of quality, as increase in enrolment does not necessarily equate to improved learning. Furthermore, the measurement of learning outcomes is important for accountability and for governments to justify investments in education. This concern is motivating countries to re-conceptualize national educational assessments as well as to sign up for participation in large-scale, international assessments such as the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and the IEA's Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), in order to monitor how their students and schools compare with their counterparts in the region (particularly important in the context of increasing regional integration) and worldwide.

In recognition of growing interest in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond in sharing experience and best practices around the theme of monitoring of educational quality, UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok) established the Network on Education Quality Monitoring in the Asia-Pacific (NEQMAP) in March 2013. NEQMAP aims to improve the quality of learning in the Asia-Pacific by enhancing the use of student learning assessment to strengthen education policy and practice.<sup>1</sup> In order to do so, the network promotes knowledge sharing, research and capacity building on assessment and other enablers of learning in the classroom including curriculum and pedagogy.

At present, NEQMAP has 17 institutional and 1 individual members including Ministries of Education, national assessment bodies, research institutes, universities, NGOs and the private sector from a range of countries in the region. The 1<sup>st</sup> NEQMAP Steering Group Meeting was organized in September 2013 and resulted in decisions about the priority activities of the network to be implemented during the 2014-2015 period. Among these are research on student learning assessment and its impact on policy and practice and on the assessment of transversal or "21<sup>st</sup> century" skills, the establishment of a knowledge portal on assessment issues and the organization of capacity building workshops for Ministries of Education and other bodies focused on assessment literacy.

At this juncture, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual NEQMAP meeting will be organized. This annual network meeting presents the first opportunity for all current NEQMAP members (plus potential new members) to come together since the network's launch. The meeting will focus on further discussion and exchange of ideas on the implementation of the network activities foreseen for the immediate future and beyond. In addition, it will aim to expand collaboration between

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, please consult the NEQMAP website: <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/neqmap>

existing NEQMAP members and explore expansion of membership as well as synergies with other initiatives and platforms.

## 2. Objectives of the meeting

- To take stock of the current status and accomplishments of NEQMAP since its launch
- To generate support for upcoming NEQMAP activities and exchange ideas on the implementation of these activities
- To expand collaboration among NEQMAP members and explore expansion of membership

## 3. Participants

The following NEQMAP individual and institutional members will be invited for the meeting:

- Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), Australia
- Hong Kong Center for International Student Assessment (HKPISA Center), Faculty of Education, Hong Kong SAR
- Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA), Fiji
- Assessment Survey Evaluation Research Centre (ASER), India
- Education Quality Foundation of India (EQFI), India
- Indian Institute of Education (IIE), India
- CCLP Worldwide, India
- Graduate School of Education, University of Tokyo, Japan
- Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE), Republic of Korea
- Mongolian Academy of Educational Sciences (MAES), Mongolia
- Educational Evaluation Center (MoES), Mongolia
- Educational and Developmental Service Center (EDSC), Nepal
- Idara e Taleem o Agahi (ITA)/Centre for Education and Consciousness, Pakistan
- Eurasian Association for Educational Assessment (EAOKO), Russian Federation
- Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Academic Group, NIE, NTY, Singapore
- National Institute of Education, Singapore
- National Institute of Educational Testing Service (NIETS), Thailand
- GL Education Group, United Kingdom

In addition, NEQMAP observers and potential NEQMAP members from other countries in the Asia-Pacific region will also be invited to attend the meeting, with priority given to those from fragile or conflict-affected countries.

## 4. Dates and Venue

Dates: 31 March (Monday) – 1 April (Tuesday) 2014

Venue: The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel

199 Sukhumvit Soi 22,

Bangkok 10110, Thailand

For a map of the hotel, please visit <http://www.imperialhotels.com/imperialqueenspark/location-en.html>



**Bangkok Office**  
Asia and Pacific  
Regional Bureau  
for Education



## **5. Funding and Organizational Arrangements**

Participants should seek funding from their own or other sources. A logistical note will be circulated nearer the date of the meeting with more information. Participants with special requests or requiring further clarification should contact the organizers directly.

## **6. Contact Persons**

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