

## Summary of the 16th UNESCO-APEID Conference 21-23 November 2012, Bangkok, Thailand

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Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

After nearly three days of presentations and interventions, the conference is coming to an end. As newly appointed APEID coordinator, it's a great honor and privilege for me to wrap up the conference on behalf of the conference organizer.

First of all, I have learned a lot from your valuable insights into the issue of education for learning to live together (LTLT), a topic that has inspired so many education innovations in the past decades.

LTLT, the theme for this year's UNESCO-APEID conference, is one of the four pillars of education proposed by the **Delors Commission** in 1996. Sixteen years have passed since its publication, the arguments and wisdom of the report still remain to be the important reference and guiding principles for educational reforms and innovations around the world.

We are especially grateful to **Khunying Kasama**, former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Thailand, for her thoughtful and stimulating presentation in the Rajah Roy Singh Lecture, which reiterated the importance of LTLT and examined various ways of its implementation in schools.

**LTLT means** developing an understanding of other people and an appreciation of interdependence, carrying out joint projects and learning to manage conflicts, respecting the values of pluralism, mutual understanding and peace, which are highly related to the mission and mandate of UNESCO, which is to construct the defense of peace in the minds of men and women.

**LTLT is actually a very broad and dynamic concept** that could be related to many issues at individual, institutional, national, and international levels, like learning to live with oneself, with others and with the nature, education for youth empowerment, value education, education for international understanding, peace education, education for social cohesion, conflict prevention and resolution, post-disaster education, inter-culture education, inclusive education, education for global citizenship, etc., as shown in many presentations of this conference.

It is obvious that there should be **fundamental reflection** on the **aims and roles** of the education and **reviews** of policies in light of the goal of LTLT. Education should not only be regarded as a tool for promoting national strengths, competitiveness, and economic growth, etc., but should also serve as a facilitator for the construction of a culture of peace, international understanding and global moral and intellectual solidarity.

**Curriculum integration** would be very important if we want to put LTLT into practice. When we argue for education for specific purposes, the best way to achieve this is to **integrate** what we argue into the curriculum systems. This should also be the case with education for LTLT and this conference is pleased to have recorded many good ideas and innovative practices in the delivery of LTLT programmes from different countries and institutions. Changing curriculum to integrate LTLT into all school subjects and

developing separate learning material on LTLT are considered to be the two major ways of curriculum integration.

Another important area that should draw our attention is the **empowerment of teachers**. Proper measures should be taken to make sure that teachers have the necessary visions, motivation, knowledge and pedagogical skills to integrate the element of LTLT into their daily classroom teaching practices.

It is also worth mentioning from the inputs of this conference that the **use of ICT in the teaching and learning process for LTLT** should be promoted to enrich students' learning experience. At the same time, efforts should be made to establish a **sustainable cyber culture** so that our children could LTLT in the cyber world and not be affected by the so-called infollution.

Schools should also establish **extensive alliances** with parents, communities, NGOs, universities, and other stakeholders to provide concerted support to the promotion of education for LTLT. This conference is very much pleased to have the participation of several private sector organizations. There was a very good discussion with regard to the tripartite partnership among the public, private and international organizations in the promotion of LTLT. We hope to come up with some joint programmes in the future.

Finally, I would like to conclude my summary remark by wishing you all a nice journey back home. Let's meet again in next year's UNESCO-APEID conference.

Thank you very much for your attention!