2005 KEDI/UNESCO Bangkok Joint Seminar on Secondary School Teacher Development and management: Challenges and Opportunities

Final Report

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Implemented in cooperation with

Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI)

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I. Executive summary of the report and its main findings

- 1. Since 1997 the Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI) and UNESCO Bangkok have organized annual seminars focusing on education planning and management issues that are high on the policy agenda in Asian-Pacific countries. Particularly, since 2002, the seminar has been devoted to themes related to the six Education for All (EFA) goals agreed upon by the international community at the World Education Forum.
- 2. The seminar focused on secondary education. While it is true that the general EFA proceedings tend to give priority to primary education, in many countries in Asia, especially for those that have successfully expanded universal primary education (UPE), development of good-quality secondary education accessible to all is high on policy agenda. In this context, in this context, it was decided that the 2005 topic concerns secondary education with focus on teacher policies.
- 3. The seminar brought together fourteen participants from six low- and middle-income countries in the region (Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam), for an exchange of information, knowledge regarding secondary teacher development and management. Participants were represented by senior technical MoE officials working on secondary education and/or on teacher training and management, and experts from national research institutions and/or teacher training institutions.
- 4. The seminar reviewed and discussed trends and issues under each of the following sub-topics: (1) Teacher recruitment, posting, transfer; (2) Teacher development; (3) Status of secondary school teachers and working conditions; and (4) Teacher salaries and incentives. Four country expert papers (Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines, and Republic of Korea), prepared prior to the Seminar to have insights on specific country experiences, were presented and discussed, each focusing on different aspects of secondary teacher policies. In addition, Country Fact Sheets on Secondary Education were prepared and distributed by UNESCO Bangkok to provide overview of secondary education system in each participating country, based on quantitative data available from existing sources.
- 5. Overall, the seminar took place in an amiable ambiance and discussions in general proved to be very rich and useful. Each session, composed of one country case study and discussions, enriched the knowledge of both participants and the organizers, KEDI and UNESCO Bangkok, and the country representatives participated actively in the discussions in every session. Information on the recent national initiatives were shared and provoked active discussion from other countries faced with similar problems. Since most of these initiatives are quite recent, it was pointed out that assessment of their impact in longer term would offer interesting insights.

II. Background

- 6. Education for All is not only about achieving primary education, although the international community tends to give priority to this sub-sector in the EFA framework. In many countries in Asia, especially for those that have successfully expanded UPE, development of good-quality secondary education accessible to all is high on policy agendas. Even in low income countries, where achieving UPE still remains a challenge, the importance of secondary education is increasingly well recognized; in these countries, especially in East and Southeast Asia, secondary education, at least at the lower secondary level, is often part of basic compulsory education and expanding and improving secondary education is one of the major targets in EFA National Action Plans.
- 7. It should also be noted that the expansion and improvement of secondary education serves to motivate students to pursue their primary studies to a successful conclusion by opening up opportunities for further study and better employment. Increasingly, the non-monetary returns to secondary education are valued by parents and governments and are given attention.
- 8. Since 2002, the theme of the annual joint KEDI UNESCO Bangkok seminar has been focusing on EFA. It was proposed that the theme of this year's seminar should be secondary education with a focus on teacher policies.
- 9. Teacher related issues lay at heart of education reforms in many countries. If countries are to strengthen secondary education school systems, both in terms of quantity and quality, teacher development and management no doubt play a key role. While teachers are also crucial in primary education, policies related to secondary school teachers deserve special consideration as secondary education is more complex involving multiple functions, structures, programmes, and institutions. Yet teacher related issues in developing countries in Asia have not always been covered extensively and in depth in the available literature and there is a need to fill in the information gap for countries willing to learn from other countries' experiences and various policy options.

III. Objectives

- 10. The main objective of this years' KEDI UNESCO Bangkok were set as follows:
 - 1. Disseminate the research findings on teacher policies in the OECD countries, with a focus on the Korean experience.
 - 2. Examine how such findings and conclusions apply to non-OECD countries.
 - 3. Share reform experiences concerning development and management of teachers in selected non-OECD countries in the Region.
 - 4. Identify and discuss the challenges countries face in managing teacher issues.
 - 5. Clarify how issues and responses are different according to different levels of the education system structure (primary, lower secondary, upper secondary).
 - 6. Contribute to defining future research priorities in this area.

IV. Participants

11. Fourteen participants from six low- and middle-income countries in the region (Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam) attended the seminar, represented by senior technical MoE officials working on secondary education and/or on teacher training and management, and experts from national research institutions and/or teacher training institutions. The participants were identified by UNESCO Bangkok with support from UNESCO Hanoi, Jakarta, Katmandu and Beijing, and in some cases active involvement of the Nat Coms. Please see Annex I for the list of participants.

V. Proceedings from the seminar

- 12. As part of the seminar preparation, three country case studies (Nepal, Thailand, and the Philippines), each focusing on different aspects of secondary teachers, were commissioned by UNESCO Bangkok to national experts, based on which each of them made a presentation during the seminar. Additionally, UNESCO created Country Fact Sheets and collected country-specific information on secondary teachers, using a Questionnaire, to prepare for and facilitate discussions at the seminar. The Fact Sheets contained basic country information such as the organization of the educational system and selected basic statistical data related to secondary education and teachers from UIS and other international sources. The Questionnaire, designed to fill in the information gaps related to recent secondary education policy reforms as well as teacher development and management issues (e.g. training system, status of teachers), was sent to the participants and collected prior to the seminar.
- 13. Following the opening session, a keynote presentation was made by M. Nozawa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Bangkok. The presentation provided a contextual overview of Asian experiences in secondary education and teachers management, and set common ground for the discussions to follow.
- 14. The first main part of the seminar identified major policy trends and issues. Findings from the recent OECD study on teacher development and management, *Teachers Matter: Attracting, developing and retaining effective teachers*, were presented by Dr. Ee-gyeong Kim, Director of the Teacher Policy Research Office, KEDI. The presentation aroused lively discussion from the participating countries. Although the context of the study was set in industrialized countries, participants found many of the issues applicable to their own country situation and expressed interest in learning from the study findings. Then each country team made a very brief presentation on the current status of secondary education and secondary teacher management. Finally, in concluding the first session, a methodology to identify and analyze teacher management policy issues was presented by D. Altner, Chief, EPR, UNESCO Bangkok. The methodology takes a close look at the operational procedures involved in teachers management, and can be used for the assessment of important aspects of secondary teacher policy. Participants were invited to participate in an application exercise, using teacher posting and transfer mechanism as an example, and exchanged experiences and ideas.
- 15. The second part of the seminar focused on a review and discussion of specific issues under each of the following sub-topics: (1) Teacher recruitment, posting, transfer; (2) Teacher development; (3) Status of secondary school teachers and working conditions; and (4) Teacher salaries and incentives. Each session opened with a brief presentation by the organizers to introduce the session topic, followed by a country case presentation. The country

presentations were based on the findings from case studies commissioned to country experts prior to the seminar. A considerable amount of time was allocated after each presentation to allow participants share their country experiences and strategies. See the programme agenda in Annex II for details of each session.

VI. Achievement and difficulties encountered

- 16. The seminar took place in an amiable ambiance and discussions in general proved to be very rich and useful. Each session, composed of one country case study and discussions, enriched the knowledge of both participants and UNESCO Bangkok, and the country representatives participated actively in the discussions in every session. Topics that solicited the participants' particular interest include issues such as out-of-field teaching, teacher licensing system, imbalances between teacher supply and demand related to some specific subjects, teacher transfer, duration and content of teacher training, correlations between the quality of teachers and the student performance, unattractiveness of the teaching profession. Information on the recent national initiatives were shared (e.g. introduction of a new salary scale and decentralization in Thailand, teacher transfer and efforts to upgrade teacher qualifications in Nepal, teacher supply and recruitment in the Philippines) and provoked active discussion from other countries faced with similar problems. Since most of these initiatives are quite recent, it was pointed out that assessment of their impact in longer term would offer interesting insights.
- 17. One factor contributing to the success was the composition of the country team (one personnel from the Ministry of Education and another from a national Teacher Training Institution). Soliciting opinions and experiences from two different perspectives of those producing teachers and those utilizing them added to the richness and complementarities of each discussion.
- 18. At the end of the seminar, opportunity was afforded to collect ideas from participants for future follow-up activities including research projects that they want to see UNESCO Bangkok and KEDI to engage in, in the future. The role UNESCO can play to coordinate a joint policy research project at the regional level was underlined by a number of participants, some suggested topics were discussed, and several participants expressed interest in contributing to the regional research in appropriate ways to be defined. In addition, suggestions were made regarding other possible research partners for the regional project.
- 19. Teacher training is visibly a domain in which big donors have been investing, but other important challenges related to teacher management and specifically secondary teachers have been given much less attention in spite of their importance in realizing quality secondary education. Secondary teacher management issues related to recruitment, assignment, compensation, promotion and career development have often been overlooked, and these are obviously areas where UNESCO can play a key role. Both DANIDA and ADB are promising potential partners to support UNESCO Bangkok's follow-up activities. The Seminar aroused interest of some donor agencies, notably DANIDA in Nepal and ADB in Vietnam. DANIDA Nepal funded one additional participant from Nepal, while ADB initially proposed to participate in the seminar and in addition fund a third participant from Vietnam, although this proposal was not concretized due to the Bank's other commitments to be fulfilled before the end of the year. The Japanese Government through JFIT support is already a partner in this endeavor.

Annex I List of Participants

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Annex II Agenda

Tuesday, December 13

TIME	ACTVITIES	
09.00-09.30	Registration	
09.30-10.10	Opening Chairperson: Dr. Jai Seok Kwak, KEDI	
	Welcome Remarks Dr. Hyung Yeel Koh, President, KEDI	
	Dr. Kye Young Lee,Korean Ministry of Education & Human Resources Development Ms. Dominique Altner, UNESCO Bangkok	
	Dr.Utak Chung, Korean National Commission for UNESCO	
	Remarks on behalf of Participants *Representative of Participants*	
	Introduction of Participants Participants	
	Introduction to the Seminar: Objectives and Programme Dr. Ee-gyeong Kim, KEDI	
10.10-10.40	Keynote Presentation Challenges in Secondary Education and Teacher Management: An Overview of Asian Experiences (1) Miki Nozawa, UNESCO Bangkok	
10.40-11.00	Break	
11.00-12.00	Invited Speech Korean Experiences in Reforming Secondary Education and Teachers Dr. Jae-Woong Kim, Professor Sogang University, ROK Q&A	
12.00-13.30	Lunch	
Session I Identifying Major Policy Trends and Issues Chairperson: TBA		
13.30-14.40	Findings from the OECD Study "Teachers Matter" Dr. Ee-gyeong Kim, KEDI Q&A	
14.40-15.40	Sharing of Experiences by Participating Countries Participants	
15.40-16.00	Break	

TIME	ACTVITIES	
16.00-16:30	Sharing of Experiences (cont.)	
16.30-17.30	Identifying and Analyzing Teacher Management Policy Issues in Developing Countries: Presentation of a Methodology	
	Ms. Dominique Altner, UNSECO Bangkok Q&A	
18.00-20.00	Welcoming Reception Hosted by the President of KEDI	

Wednesday, December 14

TIME	ACTVITIES	
Session II		
Discussion on	Issues and Policy Options (1): Teacher Recruitment, Posting, Transfer Facilitator: Ms.Dominique Altner, UNESCO Bangkok	
09.00-09.20	Introduction of the Session Topic	
	Ms.Dominique Altner, UNESCO Bangkok	
09.20-09.50	Country Case Study: Thailand Dr. Siribanpitak Pruet, Dean of Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand	
09.50-10.40	Discussion	
10.40-11.00	Break	
11.00-12.30	Discussion (cont.)	
12.30-14.00	Lunch	
Session III Discussion on	Issues and Policy Options (2): Teacher Development Facilitator: Ms. Miki Nozawa, UNESCO Bangkok	
14.00-14.20	Introduction of the Session Topic Ms. Miki Nozawa, UNESCO Bangkok	
14.20-14.50	Country Case Study: Philippines Dr. Nilo L. Rosas, President, Philippines Normal University, Philippines	
14.50-16.00	Discussion	
16.00-16.20	Break	
16.20-17.20	Discussion (cont.)	
17.20-17.30	Introduction to the Following Day's Study Tour	

TIME	ACTVITIES	
18.00-	Dinner and City Tour (Lotte World Folklore Center)	

Thursday, December 15

TIME	ACTVITIES	
09.30-11.30	Study Tour to Public Secondary School in Seoul	
	(Hansan Middle School)	
11.30-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-16.00	Study Tour to Teacher Training Institution	
	(Korea University College of Education)	
16.00-17.30	City Tour (Insa-dong Cultural Street)	
17.30-20.00	Dinner and City Tour (Dongdaemun Market)	

Friday, December 16

TIME	ACTVITIES	
Session IV Discussion on Conditions	Issues and Policy Options (3): Status of Secondary School Teachers and Working Facilitator: Mr. John Ryan, UNESCO Bangkok	
09.00-09.20	Introduction of the Session Topic Mr. John Ryan, UNESCO Bangkok	
09.20-09.50	Country Case Study: Nepal Dr. Kedar Nath Shrestha, Nepal	
09.50-10.20	Discussion	
10.20-10.40	Break	
10.40-12.00	Discussion (cont.)	
12.00-13.30	Lunch	
Session V Discussion on Issues and Policy Options (4): Teacher Salaries and Incentives Facilitator: Dr. Ee-gyeong Kim, KEDI		
13.50-14.20	Country Case Study: Republic of Korea	
	Dr. Ee-gyeong Kim, KEDI	

TIME	ACTVITIES	
14.20-15.40	Discussion	
15.40-16.00	Break	
16.00-17.30	Wrap-up & Closing	Chairperson: Dr. Jai Seok Kwak, KEDI
	Overall Conclusions	KEDI & UNESCO Bangkok
	Final Remarks by Participants	Participants
	Closing	KEDI & UNESCO Bangkok
18.00-	Farewell Dinner	