



UNESCO  
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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# Thailand

UNESCO Country Programming Document  
2013-2015



***Living Document: UNESCO Country Programming Document for  
Thailand 2013-2016***

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APEID	Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ARNEC	Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood
ASPBAE	Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education
BSP	Bureau for Strategic Planning
CapEFA	Capacity Development for Education for All
CCDKM	Research Centre of Communication and Development Knowledge Management
CE	Creative Economy
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CLC	Community Learning Centre
CMDN	Civil Media Development Network
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DMCR	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
EFA	Education for All
EiE/DRR	Education in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction
EP	Equivalency Programme
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESWG	Education Sector Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEAP	UNESCO Gender Action Plan 2008-2013
GER	Gross Enrolment Rates
GMS	Greater Mekong Sub-region
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
ICG/PTWS	Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System
ICG/IOTWS	Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS)
ICOMOS-ICUCH	International Council of Monuments and Statues' International Committee for Underwater Cultural Heritage
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IIEP	International Institute for Education Planning
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IOS	Internal Oversight Service
IPDC	International Programme for Development of Communication
IPST	Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology
ITST	Institute of Teaching Science and Technology
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KAP	Key HIV Affected Population

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDG+	MDG Plus
MIC	Middle Income Country
MIL	Media and Information Literacy
MIS	Monitoring Information System
MLAs	UNESCO Major Lines of Action
MLE	Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education
MLE WG	Multilingual Education Working Group
MoW	Memory of the World
MOWCAP	Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific
MOE	Ministry of Education
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NDWC	National Disaster Warning Center
NESDB	National Economic and Social Development Board
NESDP	11th National Economic and Social Development Plan
NEQMAP	Network for Education Quality Monitoring in Asia and the Pacific
NFE	Non-Formal Education
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NIE	Non-formal and Informal Education
NZAID	New Zealand Aid Programme
OBEC	Office of the Basic Education Commission
OEC	Office of the Education Council
ONIE	Office of Non-formal and Informal Education
OPSP	Office of Princess Sirindhorn's Projects
OVEC	Office of the Vocational Education Commission
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
RBM	Results-Based Management
RUSHSAP	Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific
SEAMEO	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization
SEAMEO SPAFA	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts
SEAPA	Southeast Asian Press Alliance
SHS	Social and Human Sciences
SISTER	System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TJA	Thai Journalists Association
TPBS	Thai Public Broadcasting Service
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UCPD	UNESCO Country Programming Document
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESS	UNESCO National Education Support Strategy
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGEI	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEF EAPRO	UNICEF Regional Office for East Asia and the Pacific

UNPAF	United Nations Partnership Framework
USD	United States Dollar
WESTPAC	UNESCO/IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific
WHO	World Health Organisation
Y-PEER	Youth Peer

## Foreword

I am very pleased to present the UNESCO Country Programming Document (UCPD) for the Kingdom of Thailand.

This document draws on lessons from past UNESCO actions in Thailand and presents the organization's future commitments in supporting national development efforts. It is the result of a long-established dialogue and fruitful collaboration with national authorities, in particular the National Commission for UNESCO. It also takes into account the comparative advantages of UNESCO as an important partner to the Royal Thai Government and an active member of the United Nations Country Team in Thailand.

Our commitment in Thailand remains steadfast. However, UNESCO is conscious of Thailand's continued development and status as a middle income country. As such, in the four years covered by the UCPD, UNESCO will continue to expand to cover a variety of sectors within its fields of competence, while also shifting towards a more "upstream" approach, offering strategic and expert advice to national authorities rather than being highly involved in programmatic work.

I sincerely hope that this document will be useful for our national counterparts, our partners in development in Thailand and for donors interested in working with us for the benefit of the people of Thailand.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Thai national authorities for their continuous support and trust. I would especially like to thank the senior staff at UNESCO Bangkok and UNESCO Jakarta, as well as Christopher Foulkes and Maria Araceli Sobenes Obregon who, under the direction of Etienne Clément, have contributed to the preparation and drafting of this strategic document.



Gwang-Jo Kim

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## Introduction

The UNESCO Country Programming Document for Thailand, hereafter referred to as UCPD-Thailand, sets out the framework for the Organization's multi-sector cooperation strategy with the Kingdom. It is in line with the country's national priorities as expressed in the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) and takes into account progress towards the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The UCPD-Thailand covers the period 2013-2016, which overlaps with UNESCO's Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 and the draft Programme and Budget for the next quadrennium, 2014-2017. It is fully consistent with the United Nations Partnership Framework Thailand 2012-2016 (UNPAF), signed in 2012, and UNESCO's National Education Support Strategy 2010-2015 for Thailand (UNESS).

As is made clear in the Situational Analysis chapter, Thailand offers a unique context for UNESCO's initiatives. The country has developed rapidly in recent years, comfortably reaching upper middle-income status. This rapid transformation has seen all United Nations agencies reappraise their role in the country and move their work further "upstream". This is reflected in the UNPAF.

This UCPD is based extensively on the text of the current UNPAF. Having these documents closely aligned not only avoids unnecessary duplication of work in planning but also serves to ensure that UNESCO's activities in Thailand are aligned with national priorities and with the UN's "Delivering as One" initiative. This initiative ensures that the UN system in Thailand speaks with one voice.

This document provides an overview of UNESCO's past, present and future actions in Thailand, comprising:

- A situational analysis of Thailand, setting out the country's rapid development, sector challenges and the changing relationships between the Royal Thai Government and UNESCO.
- UNESCO's past and present cooperation with the Royal Thai Government is described and lessons learnt as well as key achievements are identified.
- A proposed cooperation framework is outlined, giving an indication of the future of UNESCO's activities in Thailand.
- Finally, details of UNESCO's collaborative efforts already established in Thailand are described along with a call for further partnerships.

## Part 1: Situational Analysis

### 1.1 Thailand Country Profile

Thailand is located in the centre of South-East Asia with a total area of 513,115 sq. km. The country is divided into four geographic regions: North, North East, Central, and South. It shares borders with Myanmar to the west, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR) to the north and northeast, Cambodia to the east, and Malaysia to the south. Thailand has a coastline of 2,614 km, including the

coastline along the Gulf of Thailand (1660 km) and along the Andaman Sea (954 km).

Thailand: Facts at a glance	
<b>Population:</b>	63.87 million (31 December 2010)
<b>Capital:</b>	Bangkok
<b>Area:</b>	513,115 sq km (198,115 sq miles)
<b>Major language:</b>	Thai
<b>Major religion:</b>	Buddhism
<b>Life expectancy:</b>	72.94 years (men) 77.21 years (women) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Monetary unit:</b>	1 Baht = 0.02USD. 1 USD = 31.10 Baht. (rates as of 15 August 2013)
<b>Main exports:</b>	Food, agricultural commodities, live animals, office equipment, textiles, rubber
<b>GNI per capita:</b>	US \$3,400 (World Bank, 2007)
<b>GDP per capita (PPP US\$ 2002):</b>	\$8,135 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Poverty rate:</b>	7.75% <sup>1</sup>
<b>Human development index:</b>	0.682 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Adult literacy:</b>	94.1 % <sup>1</sup>
<b>Population living in urban areas (%)</b>	34 <sup>3</sup>
<i>1 UNDP Human Development Report 2011</i>	
<i>2 CIA The World Fact Book, 2010</i>	
<i>3 Global Health Observatory Data Repository 2011</i>	

With its geographical advantage of being located at the centre of mainland ASEAN, Thailand has been preparing to become a logistics hub for the regional grouping when the ASEAN Economic Community comes into being in 2015. Logistics-related policies and legislation have been reviewed by the public sector. Among other challenges, Thailand has to be prepared to compete with other countries, such as Singapore and Malaysia, which could also serve as a regional logistics hub.

Thailand’s administrative system is a parliamentary, democratic form of government with the King as Head of

State under the Constitution, exercising the sovereign power which comprises three branches:

1. Legislative power via the House of Representatives and Senate;
2. Judicial power via the courts: the Constitutional Court, Administrative Courts, and Courts of Justice;
3. Administrative power via the government led by the Prime Minister.

The current government is led by Thailand’s first female prime minister, Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra. Local administration in Thailand is divided into 77 provinces. Bangkok, as the capital city, has a special self-governing administrative system.

As of 2013, Thailand has an estimated population of 64.6 million (31.4 million of whom are male and 33.2 million female). Of this, 18.75 per cent are between 0-14 years of age, 66.5 per cent are of the

working age population (15-59 years), and 8.75 per cent are elderly (60 and older)<sup>1</sup>. Thailand's population growth has slowed remarkably and has been projected to decline further by 2030<sup>2</sup>.

The country has considerable cultural and linguistic diversity: 75 per cent of the population are ethnic Thai, 14 per cent are Chinese, while 11 per cent come from other ethnic groups. The national and official language is Thai, with approximately 75 distinct dialects spoken in various parts of Thailand, including four major regional ones: central Thai, northern Thai, southern Thai, and north-eastern Thai (Isan). Thailand has absolute religious freedom, with the King acting as patron of all religions under the constitution and in practice. Of the total population, 95 per cent are Buddhist, 3.8 per cent Muslim and 0.5 per cent Christian, 0.1 per cent Hindu, while 0.6 per cent do not identify themselves with any of these faiths<sup>3</sup>.

Despite political woes the country was experiencing at the time, the World Bank categorized Thailand as an upper-middle-income country in July 2011, recognizing the Kingdom's progress in social and economic development. Over the past decade, Thailand has experienced generally strong economic growth and a substantial reduction in poverty (the incidence of poverty has declined from 42.6 per cent in 2000 to 13.2 per cent in 2011<sup>4</sup>).

However, since 2009, political disturbances have undermined growth. Another major challenge came in 2011 when the worst flooding in more than half a century hit 65 Thai provinces, affecting some 1.2 million people. The floods destroyed and damaged public and private property, hitting the business and agricultural sectors hard and slowing the country's growth as a result.

To ensure a quick and systematic recovery, the Thai government launched short and long-term measures to help flood victims through disaster mitigation and rehabilitation efforts. The five measures covered: immediate assistance; rehabilitation to help affected farmers and the general public after flood waters recede; finance and fiscal measures; the reconstruction of infrastructure; and long-term flood prevention and mitigation measures. For the long term, the government has accelerated the installation of integrated disaster warning, flood prevention, and water management systems and prepared disaster prevention and mitigation plans with clear guidelines for operations and mechanisms to deal effectively with natural disaster risks.<sup>5</sup>

In 2012, Thailand's GDP growth rebounded after the floods to 6.4 per cent; the GNI per capita was USD5,210 and GDP was USD365.6 billion. In mid-2013, it was estimated that Thailand's GDP would decline from 5.1 per cent to 4.2 per cent due to a regional economic and export slowdown. However, the government's investment in mega infrastructure projects will bolster the country's economic outlook in the long run and GDP growth may increase to 5 per cent next year.<sup>6</sup>

Thailand has positioned itself as a valuable partner in the global partnership for development to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015<sup>7</sup>. In 2004, the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) was established as a focal agency under the Ministry of

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1 Population Projections for Thailand (2010-2040), NESDB (February 2013)

2 Mahidol Population Gazette, Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University (July 2013).

3 Board of Investment

4 NIC <http://www.nic.go.th/search1/showDetail.asp?url1=http://ws.opm.go.th/wservice/public/55200&tGraph=1>

5 PRD News, [http://thailand.prd.go.th/view\\_news.php?id=5329&a=2](http://thailand.prd.go.th/view_news.php?id=5329&a=2)

6 MCOT <http://www.mcot.net/site/content?id=51ee54da150ba0a70b0000d4>

7 Thailand MDG goal 8 <http://www.un.or.th/pdf/MDG8.pdf> (UNCT, Thailand)

Foreign Affairs in administrating international development cooperation. Different activities have been undertaken under bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation frameworks, such as the dispatch of Thai experts, the provision of fellowships for academic study/training/study visits in Thailand, the allocation of technical equipment, and the implementation of development projects or tailor-made programmes in potential areas such as agriculture, health, and education. At present, cooperation frameworks include the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand – Growth Triangle (IMT-GT), BIMSTEC and the ASEAN-Initiative for ASEAN Integration (ASEAN-IAI)<sup>8</sup>.

The main sources of Thailand's income are its export and tourism sectors. Following the recent global economic crisis, which affected major markets within the Thai export sector including the US, Europe and Japan, Thailand has been seeking new markets, including by expanding exports to ASEAN (especially Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam), India and the Middle East.

However, Thailand's economic success has been uneven across the country. Some regions, particularly the North and Northeast, have lagged behind in poverty reduction. Inequality pertaining to income and opportunities has been persistent. The GINI coefficient, a measurement of income inequality in Thailand, has remained at around 0.45 over the last two decades. Much of this inequality is inter-regional with the North and the Northeast lagging behind other sub-regions. Poverty in Thailand is primarily a rural phenomenon, with 88 per cent of the country's 5.4 million poor living in rural areas.<sup>9</sup> Recently, there has also been a dramatic influx of migrant workers from neighbouring countries such as Myanmar, Cambodia, and Lao PDR.

Thailand is one of the first countries to have demonstrated success in controlling the spread of the HIV epidemic. The country has had one of the most effective national responses to the epidemic in the world, particularly in terms of its scope and widespread impact. It is one of only a small number of countries to report achieving Millennium Development Goal 6, which is to have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV, malaria and other diseases (see table below), and has also made significant progress toward several other MDGs.

Status of Millennium Development Goals in Thailand	2009 Assessment
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate Poverty and Hunger</b>	Achieved
<b>MDG + Reduce poverty to less than 4% by 2009.</b>	Not achieved
<b>Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education</b>	Achieved
<b>MDG+ Universal lower secondary education by 2006</b>	Not achieved
<b>MDG+ Universal upper secondary education by 2015</b>	Unlikely
<b>Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</b>	Achieved
<b>MDG+ Double the proportion of women in the national parliament, Sub district Administrative Organizations and executive positions in the civil service by during 2002-2006.</b>	Not achieved
<b>Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality</b>	Not applicable
<b>MDG+ Reduce infant mortality rate to 15 per 1,000 live births by 2006</b>	Cannot assess due to change of data
<b>MDG+ Reduce by half, between 2005 and 2015, the U5MR in highland areas, selected northern provinces and three southernmost provinces.</b>	Unlikely
<b>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</b>	Potentially
<b>MDG+ Reduce maternal mortality ratio to 18 per 100,000 live births by 2006</b>	Cannot assess due to change of data
<b>MDG+ Reduce by half between 2005 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio in highland areas, selected northern provinces and the three southernmost provinces.</b>	Potentially

<sup>8</sup> TICA <http://www.tica.thaigov.net/main/en/organize>

<sup>9</sup> World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/thailand/overview>

<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases</b>	Achieved
<b>MDG+ Reduce malaria incidence in 30 border provinces to less than 1.4 per 1,000 by 2006.</b>	Achieved
<b>Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b>	Potentially
<b>MDG+ Increase the share of renewable energy to 8% of the commercial final energy by 2011</b>	Likely
<b>MDG+ Increase the share of municipal waste recycled to 30% by 2006</b>	Not achieved
<b>Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development</b>	Achieved

### 1.1.1 Provinces of special concern:

Mae Hong Son is a border province in northern Thailand where 90% of the population comprises hill tribes and other ethnic minority groups. This province has the highest poverty incidence in the country and was ranked at the bottom of the Human Achievement Index (HAI) in 2007 and 2009<sup>10</sup>. Mae Hong Son also hosts many registered and unregistered migrants from Myanmar<sup>11</sup>. The Thai government has recognized the situation and has set localized targets tied to the MDGs specifically for Mae Hong Son.

In Thailand's so-called "deep South", which includes the three provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, violent unrest stems primarily from long-running tensions between the nation state and a minority population of Malay-Muslims. According to the Security Council's 67<sup>th</sup> report on Children in Armed Conflict, attacks by armed groups have damaged schools and put children and teachers at risk. The report welcomes the fact that the government and the United Nations Country Team are engaging in dialogue on access to the southern border provinces.

### 1.1.2 Government Development Priorities

Over the past decade, Thailand has faced several challenges, including natural disasters, political crises as well as fast-changing domestic and global economic and social conditions. To cope with these challenges, the Thai government has made efforts to review and formulate national development policies and plans. At present, the Eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan, (NESDP) 2012 – 2016, which came into effect on 1 October 2011, is the key reference for the country's development strategies and guidelines for formulating economic and social policies at national and other levels. The plan emphasizes building resilience at the family, community, society, and national levels following the sustainable development concept of the King's sufficiency economy philosophy, with the aim of promoting a just and happy society.

The six development strategies are as follows:

- Promoting a just society;
- Developing human resources to promote a lifelong learning society;
- Balancing food and energy security;
- Creating a knowledge-based economy and an enabling economic environment;
- Strengthening economic and security cooperation in the region; and
- Managing natural resources and environment towards sustainability.

<sup>10</sup> UNDP Thailand developed Human Achievement Index-HAI, based on the Human Development Index HDI, is a composite index to assess human development

<sup>11</sup> According to UNHCR 2013 Thailand Country Profile, the Royal Thai Government is hosting refugees and asylum-seekers has spanned several decades. The country currently hosts some 84,900 registered refugees and an estimated 62,000 unregistered asylum-seekers from Myanmar in nine camps along the Thai-Myanmar border.

Since January 2013, the Thai government’s aim has been to boost per capita income from 155,926 Baht in 2011 to 544,213 Baht by 2027.<sup>12</sup> Four national strategies were also designed to prepare Thailand for the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015:

- Boosting competitiveness to uplift Thailand from its status as a middle-income country;
- Bridging gaps to promote equality in society, including accelerating education reform and improving the social welfare system;
- Economic growth promotion driven by the need for a better quality of life while incorporating environmental concerns including natural resource and water resource management;
- Balanced development of the bureaucratic system, integrating the prior three strategies while emphasising self-efficiency.

### 1.1.3 Education:

The education system in Thailand is managed by the Ministry of Education (MoE), which includes five umbrella bodies: (1) the Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC) (covering pre primary, primary and secondary education); (2) the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), (3) the Office of the Vocational Education Commission (OVEC), (4) the Office of the Permanent Secretary (OPS), and (5) the Office of the Education Council (OEC). In addition to the MoE, institutions such as the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), the National Institute of Educational Testing Services (NIETS), and the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST), are also key players in education matters in Thailand.

ONESQA is responsible for assessing all Thai educational institutions, both public and private, and all levels of education from pre-school to graduate, with the aim of assisting educational institutions in improving their performance and standards. NIETS is responsible for developing testing systems, organizing national educational testing, and conducting research on educational measurement and evaluation. IPST is an agency under the Ministry of Education that is mainly responsible for developing curriculum, materials and assessment instruments on science, mathematics and technology, as well as training science teachers.

There have been achievements in the quantitative expansion of all levels of education and the attainment of an overall high literacy rate in Thailand. Universal primary education has nearly been achieved and access to lower and upper secondary education has improved over time. Thailand has also made progressive gains in improving the quality of education, especially in large schools and urban areas.

Education System Overview																	
Age	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Grade						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

<sup>12</sup>Thainews [http://thainews.prd.go.th/centerweb/newsen/NewsDetail?NT01\\_NewsID=WNECO5601250010001](http://thainews.prd.go.th/centerweb/newsen/NewsDetail?NT01_NewsID=WNECO5601250010001)



Level	Pre-school	Primary	Lower Secondary	Upper Secondary
Access	Voluntary	Compulsory		Voluntary
Cost	Free			

In 2009, Thailand launched a 15-year free education initiative. This policy not only covers formal schooling, but also non-formal and vocational education.<sup>13</sup> This policy has helped increase access to education, including among marginalized groups such as migrants, displaced people, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Under this policy, the development of early childhood development centres (nurseries/day-care centres) in communities has also been expanded.

Despite such achievements, Thai education continues to face several key challenges, many of which are detailed in the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS) for the Kingdom of Thailand 2010-2015. Among the key issues are equity and quality of education in primary and secondary schools in rural areas as well as the quality of education in tertiary institutions. Although gross enrolment ratios indicate that education for all has been achieved, the reality is that there is still a sizeable number of out-of-school children. These are primarily the children of migrant workers or those living in slums or remote areas.<sup>14</sup>

Moreover, at both the primary and secondary levels, the quality of education is a key problem despite the successful increase in participation. National tests in primary schools and the results from international studies show unsatisfactory performance. In the primary education sub-sector, major contemporary issues include the shortage of qualified and trained teachers as well as a lack of appropriate incentives to encourage qualified and trained teachers to work in remote areas, especially in teaching mathematics, science and English language skills. Large numbers of small-size schools due to low birth rates and students moving to better-funded schools in urban areas have also affected the quality of education. Teacher shortages, inadequate per-student funding and a lack of learning materials, especially in subjects that require the use of information and communication technologies, are major factors undermining the equitable provision of quality education. The major equity issue is that the quality of primary education received varies significantly and relates to socio-economic status and where one resides (PIU-OEC, 2006). At the greatest disadvantage are those who go to schools in remote parts of the Northeast, North, and the deep South. Those attending small schools throughout the country also tend to be at a disadvantage.

Education indicators	
Public Spending on Education as % of GDP	3.8*
Primary Gross Enrolment (%)	91
Out of school Children (%)	10**
Net enrolment rate. Primary education/ Female	89.37032 (2009)
Net enrolment rate. Primary education/ Male	89.97432 (2009)
Net enrolment rate. Pre-primary. Female	93.21811 (2011)
Net enrolment rate. Pre-primary. Male	92.41457 (2011)
Net enrolment rate. Pre-primary. Total	92.80531 (2011)
Proportion of girls in upper secondary level (%)	58.8 (2011)
Proportion of boys in upper secondary level (%)	41.2 (2011)
Proportion of girls in higher education (%)	55 (2011)
Proportion of boys in higher education (%)	45 (2011)
<i>Data refer to the most recent year available since 2006</i>	
<i>Source: UIS(Glossary) *GMR ** UNDP</i>	

<sup>13</sup> Thailand 15 years free education policy [http://thailand.prd.go.th/view\\_news.php?id=4128&a=2](http://thailand.prd.go.th/view_news.php?id=4128&a=2)

<sup>14</sup> UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS) for the Kingdom of Thailand 2010-2015, p 25.

It should also be acknowledged that Thailand's considerable cultural and linguistic diversity, the country's educational system has emphasized an assimilation model with been limited bilingual or multilingual education. Although the Royal Institute of Thailand's National Language Policy maintains the right of ethnic children to have their mother tongue included in school curricula, mother-tongue based multilingual education is offered to a relatively small group of ethno-linguistic minorities in some border provinces in the North, West and South. This also creates barriers for the fulfilment of the right to education among minority and ethnic groups. Moreover, Thailand is not party to UNESCO's Convention against Discrimination in Education, even though, as a member state of UNESCO, it has a duty to report on the implementation of Recommendations, as stipulated in Article IV(6) of the UNESCO Constitution.

Higher education in Thailand has undergone dramatic changes in the past four decades, reflecting three major global trends: massification, privatization, and internationalization. The higher education sub-sector has to respond to the needs for increasing economic productivity of the working population and emphasize continuing education to respond to changes and the creation of new professions. A key challenge for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Thailand is the ability to provide a sufficient number of highly qualified and well-trained technicians to respond to the needs of the rapidly changing economy. The MoE has engaged in serious strategic scoping about future plans for higher education and TVET sub-sectors, so that it can produce the workforce required in the creation of a knowledge-based economy as well as to cope with Thailand's expansion in investment.

In addition, non-formal and informal education in Thailand is considered a critical sub-sector for ensuring opportunities for lifelong learning for all. Community Learning Centers (CLC) are playing a vital role in this regard and the Thai government strongly supports the expansion of CLCs' activities within and beyond the Kingdom's borders. The main challenges and issues facing this sub-sector are, again, reaching those in the most remote areas and those from minority backgrounds who lack access to formal education and schooling. One major area of focus has been to translate the concept of lifelong learning into practice. This requires effective communication and extensive participation to ensure that all segments of society become crucial players in lifelong learning. Similarly, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become a driving factor for lifelong learning, as it has tremendously broadened the opportunities for people to acquire information, network with others, address issues of common concern, generate income and participate in society. However, inadequate preparation, and a lack of useful content for the general public has also led to the wasteful and harmful use of ICT. Furthermore, the new technology has not been fully harnessed to address educational deficiencies.

## EFA GOALS

<p>Goal 1: Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.</p>	<p>Goal 2: Ensuring that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances, and those belonging to ethnic minorities have access to complete, free and compulsory primary education of good quality.</p>	<p>Goal 3: Ensuring the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes</p>	<p>Goal 4: Achieving a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially among women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults.</p>	<p>Goal 5: Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full potential and equal access to an achievement in basic education of good quality.</p>	<p>Goal 6: Improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence of all so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy, and essential life skills.</p>
<p>on track</p>	<p>on track (may not be achieved among vulnerable groups)</p>	<p>on track</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>on track</p>	<p>on track</p>

### 1.1.4 Gender equality challenges:

In recent years, Thailand has worked significantly towards the advancement of women and the National Plan for the Advancement of Women (2012-2016) is underway. There are currently Gender Focal Points (GFPs) assigned in 131 government departments and agencies<sup>15</sup>, who serve as key gender mainstreaming mechanisms. However, gender gaps still persist. Women's representation is still low, and so is participation at a higher level of public administration and in the judiciary. In 2011, women made up 15 per cent of MPs, 16 per cent of senators, and 17 per cent of senior civil service positions despite outnumbering men as civil servants. Thailand also shows high rates of violence against women; 44% of women in Thailand in 2005 reported having experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner, and more than 7 in 10 women in rural Thailand agreed that there are reasons that justify a man beating his wife.<sup>16</sup>

In terms of education, Thailand has recorded notable progress in addressing gender parity gaps. Statistics show that participation rates in pre-primary and primary education are equally high for girls and boys<sup>17</sup>, which means that Thailand has achieved gender parity in primary education. However, "hidden" gender disparities remain prevalent. For instance, boys are disadvantaged in secondary enrolment. According to data from the *Asia-Pacific End of Decade Notes on Education for All: Gender Equality 2012*, the enrolment ratios for boys were low in upper secondary education, with fewer boys than girls transitioning to secondary education. There are also disparities to the disadvantage of girls. Girls' enrolment in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) is lower than that of boys. Furthermore, although female teachers are predominant in pre-primary and primary education, they are still underrepresented in decision-making positions. As for out-of-school children, girls made up 63 per cent<sup>18</sup> of this figure, indicating that fewer girls were enrolled in primary education. Not enough research has been carried out to reflect why more girls were out of the school system.

Gross enrolment ratio in primary education for boys	91%*
Gross enrolment ratio in primary education for girls	90%*
Girls enrolment TVET	43%**
Female teachers in pre-primary education	78%
Female teachers in primary education	60%
<i>Source: *EFA GMR 2012 **Asia-Pacific End of Decade Notes on Education for All: Gender Equality. 2012.</i>	

Overall, gender disparities are not to the disadvantage of girls or boys in all cases, and parity does not necessarily mean equality. Thus, apart from quantitative data, insight into what social, cultural, economic and institutional barriers and circumstances

are keeping both girls and boys from being empowered equally through quality education is also required to foster true gender equality in education in Thailand. In a similar vein, UNESCO has been working closely with the Ministry of Education on promoting gender sensitivity in education.

### 1.1.5 Culture:

A crossroads of peoples since prehistoric times, Thailand's cultural diversity is reflected in the Kingdom's 45 officially recognized ethnic groups and the 67 languages in use in the country and embodied in a wide range of cultural and artistic expressions. In recent years, contemporary arts

15 UN Women Thailand Factsheet <http://www.unwomen-eseasia.org/docs/factsheets/06%20THAILAND%20factsheet.pdf>

16 Ibid.

17 Data from UIS: [http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=121&IF\\_Language=eng&BR\\_Country=7640&BR\\_Region=40515](http://stats.uis.unesco.org/unesco/TableViewer/document.aspx?ReportId=121&IF_Language=eng&BR_Country=7640&BR_Region=40515)

18 EFA Global Monitoring Report 2008

have flourished alongside traditional and folk arts. Likewise, Thai cultural industries, such as handicrafts and films, have benefited from supportive government policies as well as private sector investors and producers catering to domestic, regional and international markets.

As the country shifts away from its low-end value-added agricultural and manufacturing base, and seeks to move from middle to upper income status, Thailand is looking to the creative economy as a driver for its future knowledge-based growth.<sup>19</sup> For this reason, culture is playing an increasingly prominent role in national development plans and policies. Notwithstanding this aspiration, the country's cultural infrastructure still needs strengthening in both quantitative and qualitative terms, through institutions such as libraries, museums, and galleries; skilled workers in the creative and cultural fields; as well as an enabling environment concerning legislation and financing. Moreover, the lack of reliable data and statistics on culture also makes it difficult to implement the kind of evidence-based policy making that the Royal Thai Government needs in order to achieve its goals in the area of culture and, more generally speaking, for national development that strategically harnesses cultural resources and is sensitive to cultural diversity.

Established in 2002, the Ministry of Culture is mandated to safeguard cultural heritage in the form of monuments, sites, as well as intangible, underwater, cultural and documentary heritage. It also promotes arts and culture in the form of literature, music, the performing arts and crafts. The ministry sees itself as the keeper of Thai cultural mores and moral codes. In terms of its institutional structure, various departments and offices within the ministry are entrusted with dealing with these different issues, which at times makes cross-cutting cooperation challenging. Furthermore, issues such as copyright protection, the creative economy or World Heritage are outside the remit and technical capacity of the ministry, requiring inter-ministerial coordination with the Ministry of Commerce, the newly-established Thailand Creative Economy Promotion Agency and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, respectively.

Thailand has a strong civil society, with active engagement in culture by professional associations, citizens' groups, national and local NGOs as well as scholarly bodies alongside traditional practitioners and custodians, such as artisan guilds and religious institutions. Since the advent of the 1997 Constitution, which called for a greater decentralization of authority, local authorities have also been increasingly entrusted with the management of cultural heritage. In addition, while somewhat disrupted due to various development factors including rapid urbanization and mass migration to cities, the transmission of local and indigenous knowledge also continues to undergird cultural continuity in a variety of ways.

In terms of conformity to international normative instruments related to culture, Thailand has already ratified the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention and its First Protocol and the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. National and provincial consultations are underway for the other conventions, notably the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

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<sup>19</sup> The creative economy is defined as including 14 sub-sectors ranging from design to cultural tourism. Source: Eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan.

Within Thailand, World Heritage is the most prominent culture convention under implementation, with widespread recognition at the national, provincial and local levels. The country currently has three cultural World Heritage properties and two natural properties: the Historic City of Ayutthaya (1991), the Historic Town of Sukhothai and Associated Historic Towns (1991), the Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries (1991), the Ban Chiang Archaeological Site (1992) and the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (2005). There are three cultural sites and one natural site on the Tentative List, which is expected to be updated in the near future. An emerging trend is local and provincial efforts in mobilizing for World Heritage inscription, which reflects a growing level of awareness and interest at all levels.

Ratification processes for the more recent UNESCO conventions (2001, 2003 and 2005) have been complicated by the intense internal political issues surrounding the nomination of the Preah Vihear Temple to the World Heritage List in 2008. Nevertheless Thailand has for the most part demonstrated its commitment to proceed with the implementation of principles embodied in the conventions, and has invested substantially in building up administrative and regulatory frameworks, institutional and technical capacity accordingly. In particular, the Kingdom has initiated national inventories, committees and legislation for intangible cultural heritage, while its national underwater cultural heritage programmes can be considered to be substantially in line with the practical rules set out in the annex to the 2001 Convention.

The national legislative framework relevant to culture includes *inter alia* the National Culture Act (2010), the Act on Ancient Monuments, Antiques, Objects of Art and National Museums (1961), the Motion Pictures and Video Act (2008) and the Contemporary Art Promotion Act (2008). New legislation is being drafted to safeguard intangible heritage in anticipation of the ratification of the 2001 Convention. Moreover, there are attempts to advance professional practices in the country through the drafting of professional charters, notably the Thailand Charter, which is being prepared by the Thailand ICOMOS chapter and is meant to provide updated and holistic guidelines for the conservation and management of cultural heritage within the country.

Within the Southeast Asian context, Thailand is relatively well-placed in terms of technical capacity, with specialists in a range of fields pertinent to culture and cultural heritage. That said, it should be noted that capacity within the government sector falls behind that of academia, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, and still lags behind current professional developments at the regional and international levels. While this is mitigated to some extent by cooperation with universities and international institutions being invited to participate in selected programmes, capacity still needs to be broadened, deepened and updated, especially within agencies mandated to operationalize Thailand's international normative commitments in this field. Additionally, in the context of administration decentralization, the capacity and resources of local authorities for devolved culture and heritage responsibilities are often limited, resulting in interventions which are sometimes ill-informed from a technical standpoint or that undermine existing local processes and practices. Efforts to raise capacity for local authorities are underway and need to be further reinforced.

Thailand is increasingly positioning itself as a hub for such bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the culture sphere, which is expected to be reinforced with the start of the ASEAN Socio-Economic



Community in 2015. With its variety of culture resources at hand, Thailand regularly hosts sub-regional and regional activities for cultural exchange and capacity building, for instance, through the auspices of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information. Such initiatives allow Thailand to showcase some of its advanced practices in the area of culture and heritage, for instance, in protecting underwater cultural heritage, as well as to benefit from the experiences of other countries.

#### 1.1.6 Communication and Information:

The constitutional history of Thailand is most distinctive, as not only has it provided freedom of expression, it has also assigned part of the broadcast spectrum to public and community broadcasting. While the current 2007 Constitution lacks that provision, there are explicit protections for the media. The Thai Constitution stands out in this regard compared to other Constitutions in the Mekong region. Section 36 of the 2007 Constitution prescribes that a person shall enjoy the liberty of communication by lawful means, while part 7 addresses freedom of expression of the individual and the press. Section 45, for instance, provides that a person shall enjoy the liberty to express opinions, make speeches, write, print, publicise and express himself or herself by other means. Section 46 of the Constitution also protects the right of private media operators to express opinions and for government officials and employees to express their opinions in the media. Thailand's Constitution also, remarkably, outlines the role of the media regulator.

In practice, however, freedom of expression is still restricted through laws including the Internal Security Act B.E. 2550 (2007), the Emergency Decree B.E. 2548 (2005), defamation laws (Section 112, 326 and 328 in the Criminal Code), B.E. 2499 (1956), the revised version B.E. 2535 (1992), the Official Information Act B.E. 2540 (1997), and Section 14 of the Computer Crime Act, B.E. 2550 (2007). The Computer Crime Act was the first to be passed during the interim legislature appointed by the military government. It carries broad-based provisions on content regulation and allows competent officials (who are appointed by the Minister of ICT) to apply for court orders to seize computer equipment and to block web sites. In 2002, the Ministry of Information Communication Technology (MICT) established a filtering unit within the MICT called the Cyber Inspector to monitor issues pertaining to pornography, the monarchy, religion, gambling, terrorism and politics. In addition, lèse-majesté laws are enforced in Thailand, whereby negative public acts targeted at the monarchy may lead to punishment.

The provisions for public service broadcasting services in Thailand have been considerably strengthened by the Thai Public Broadcasting Service Act 2008 (B.E. 2551) and an independent converged regulator has been established (The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission [NBTC]). The development of Thai PBS, independent of government and commercial interests and working in the public interest, is an example of how public service broadcasting can be developed in an Asian context and in a well-resourced and constitutionally secure way. This development offers a model for similar public service broadcasting initiatives in the region. It is not a matter of attempting to transform state broadcasters into public broadcasters, but rather designing a media structure where they co-exist. There may be something intrinsically appropriate about this in that it reflects the reality that the Asian state may always want some form of media presence.

Nevertheless, the radio and television market in Thailand is complex in terms of who owns the

licences and who operates the services and the large number of radio services that are unlicensed. The state and defence forces own a substantial portion of television and radio licences. The Ministry of Defence owns 45 per cent of radio stations and 33 per cent of television stations, some of which are leased to private commercial operators. Thai TV3 and Channel 9 are operated by the Mass Communications Organisation of Thailand (MCOT), a government department; TV5 and BBT Channel 7 are owned by the Royal Thai Army. In addition to these free to air services, there are some 800 cable channels in Thailand. Radio Thailand is also a national network operated by National Broadcasting Services of Thailand (NBT), which is part of the government Public Relations Department.

Thailand's development in community radio has been interesting. The first community radio station was established in 2001; by August, 2009, some 6,621 small radio stations had registered. However, not all these stations could be described as community in purpose. Community radio stations that are community owned and operated are more modest in number. The Thai National Federation of Community Radio (NFCR) has, for instance, some 127 member stations. The unregulated growth of stations under a community radio umbrella raised questions as to whether many of the more than 6,000 registered small radio stations were actually commercial stations<sup>20</sup>.

On the other hand, Thailand's print media industry faces different challenges, such as media conglomeration, concentrated media ownership, lack of competition among media stakeholders and vertical integration. The media conglomerates own TV stations, radio stations, and book and magazine publishing businesses. The largest Thai daily newspaper is *Thai Rath*<sup>21</sup>, which claims a circulation of more than 1 million and 12 million readers. There are only two nationwide English daily papers: the *Bangkok Post*, published by Post Publishing Company and *The Nation*, by Nation Multimedia Group.

Another challenge facing Thailand is the quality of journalism education. Public and private universities offer over thirty journalism and broadcasting degree programmes but news and media agencies have expressed concerns that students do not meet the professional requirements of the job market<sup>22</sup>.

The ubiquity of the Internet, mobile technology and social media in Thailand provides evidence that the Internet has become a crucial factor for economic development in Thailand. According to the latest NBTC<sup>23</sup> data, the percentage of the population with Internet access increased from 12% in 2005 to 15.5% in 2007. Similar to other free-market countries, Thailand has adopted the Internet as a communication tool. However, the penetration rates in Thailand remain low. According to the Free Space of Expression: New Media and Thailand's Politics 2012 report published by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the root challenges behind low penetration rates in Thailand are:

- Cost: high cost compared with the standard cost of living;
- Coverage: deficiency of coverage as fixed-line telephone penetration rates in Thailand are very low, which limits the opportunity for Internet access at home;

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<sup>20</sup>See PalpolRodloytuk, 'Thailand Real v Commercial Community Radio in Seneviratne, above n X, 254

<sup>21</sup>

<sup>22</sup>Asian Media Barometer.Thailand 2010

<sup>23</sup>NBTC Mobile Market Report (2013) [http://www2.nbtc.go.th/TTID/mobile\\_market/subscribers](http://www2.nbtc.go.th/TTID/mobile_market/subscribers)

- Literacy: Thai people use the Thai language as their native language, and the ability access to online content mainly in foreign languages, especially in English, is limited.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that many new Internet users are starting to use web-based services from their mobile phones and opt out of fixed broadband technology completely.

As of 2013, Thailand has 87,445,730 mobile subscribers, a penetration rate of more than 100 per cent. UNDP data<sup>24</sup> shows that the concentration was highest in Bangkok and Phuket, and lowest in the Northeast and the Deep South.

As of 2013<sup>25</sup>, Thailand is one of the top countries on Facebook with 18.5 million users. Two million Thais use Twitter and the number of YouTube users continues to grow. There are 630,000 YouTube channels within the nation and up to 5.3 million videos have been uploaded by users based in Thailand.

#### 1.1.7 Natural Science:

Sitting in a strategic position connecting the Pacific and Indian oceans, Thailand boasts a coastline of 3,200km bordering the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, and covers a sea area of 350,000 square kilometres. As such, marine resources contribute greatly to the country's economy. It is evident that Thailand's ocean and coasts are being faced with ever-increasing challenges pertaining to climate change, the degradation of marine resources, and natural disasters. Addressing these challenges requires scientific knowledge, routine monitoring and early warning systems to provide data, and international cooperation.

The Thai government has put into effect several policies and strategies with a view to achieving the sustainable development of natural resources and the environment. However, a draft national, integrated and multi-sectoral marine policy has not yet been approved. The knowledge of Thailand on its ocean and coasts, and the impact of climate change still remains rather limited given that the management of marine and coastal resources involves multiple governmental agencies at the national level, which requires a more coordinated and enhanced effort to develop national capacity for, and get engaged in international dialogue in marine scientific research and observations, including a marine hazards early warning and mitigation system.

Nevertheless, Thailand is one of the most biodiversity-rich countries in Southeast Asia. The country lies within two major biogeographical regions – the Indochinese region in the North and the Sundiac region in the South. These have resulted in six distinct biogeographical regions. The country has undertaken effective activities and projects on biodiversity. These activities were given more emphasis right after the ratification of the Convention on biological diversity and when it entered into force in 2004.<sup>26</sup>

Likewise, Thailand has set a target of designating 25% of its total land as protected areas. Currently, protected areas cover almost 20% of the country's land. In recent years, more mangrove protected areas and national parks for forest management have been established and efforts are being made

<sup>24</sup>Thailand Human Development report 2009 by UNDP <http://www.undp.org/content/dam/thailand/docs/NHDR2010.pdf>

<sup>25</sup>Tech In Asia. <http://www.techinasia.com/thailand-18-million-social-media-users-in-2013>

<sup>26</sup>Thailand: National Report on the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2009, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/th/th-nr-04-en.pdf>

to remove legal and institutional gaps to strengthen the management of protected areas. Four Biosphere Reserve sites nominated under the World Network of Biosphere Reserves have been protected by state laws and regulations such as the National Park Act, the National Forest Reserve Acts and the Forest Act. Moreover, the government has also established regional units to protect and conserve the areas and to promote the implementation of activities in the Biosphere Reserve such as National Parks, Forest Fire Control Stations, Arboretum, Watershed Conservation and Development Units, Plantation Units, Restoration and Silvicultural Units, Forest Protection Units and Forest Research Stations.

Nevertheless, like many countries in Asia, an increasing population, as well as economical, agricultural and industrial expansion in Thailand are major causes of environmental damage. For instance, water quality from various sources, including surface water, groundwater and sea water, is being affected. Generally speaking, the quality of water resources in Thailand is fair, with a significant trend of improvement. However, the surface water quality has deteriorated in major rivers, including the lower Chao Phraya, Tha Chin, Lam Takhong and Songkhla Lake, particularly in areas where pollutants are discharged from industrial, agricultural or populated areas.

In addition, water demand in Thailand also continues to grow due to rapid economic development, causing droughts, for instance, in areas such as the Northeast and the Central Plain. Flooding also occurs more frequently due to deforestation. While groundwater is an important source of water in Thailand, the over extraction of this resource has created a critical problem, especially in Bangkok where ground subsidence in the coastal plain has led to salt water intrusion in the aquifer.

There are two major obstacles to effective water management in Thailand: the lack of clear policies and the lack of coordination among organizations. Water resources are administered and managed by eight ministries with different priorities and programmes that sometimes overlap or conflict. On a positive note, the eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan of Thailand (2012-2016) has clearly spelled out the importance of water management under “Managing natural resources and the environment toward sustainability”. It declares that integrated water resource management should be urgently pursued and efforts should be made to restore and improve water resources in order to increase water supply. Moreover, it highlights the efforts needed to promote more efficient water use.

In terms of Climate Change adaptation, the importance of science and technology has been widely highlighted as tools for mitigation and adaptation for both developed and developing countries. The latter, in particular, has become more pressing to develop and acquire key technologies to cope with climate change, including disaster in various forms and severity. The globalization of environmental protection, in some sense, has increased enormous pressure on developing countries while trying to continue their economic development, making it necessary to identify their own technological priorities. Thailand is no exception, even though there is a certain level of technological research and development, capabilities and achievement. It is thus an opportune time to assess and prioritize technological needs for climate change. The country has already started to put efforts in place in order to analyse and prioritize technologies required for nation-wide mitigation and adaptation regimes. The Ministry of Science and Technology, through the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office, developed the “Technology Needs Assessments and Technology Action Plans Report for Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation in Thailand”, which is the first

comprehensive report providing the technology requirements and their subsequent action plans in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation<sup>27</sup>.

The National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI) will continue to broaden and deepen its involvements in climate change mitigation and adaptation, particularly, in technology development and technology transfer policy. However, any technological change does not occur in isolation. It can have considerable impact on the people, culture, economy, and society in the overall context. Scientists, investors, economists and policy makers should work together towards developing technology with full awareness of the complex interactions and relationships within the system. STI’s aim is, therefore, to bridge the cooperation among government agencies, private sectors, academia and industry in strengthening the policy implementation in a sustainable manner.

## 1.2 Support from the UNESCO and the United Nations

Thailand hosts 28 UN and affiliated agencies with programmes in Thailand or with regional focus only, which gives a great opportunity for joint programming and the strengthening of Thailand’s role as a development partner with the region. In 2008, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Thailand, together with the Royal Thai Government, undertook a study titled “UN Operations in a Middle-Income Country (MIC): Formulation of a Strategy for Enhanced UN Coherence and Effectiveness in Thailand”. The results

of this study underlined the fact that the UN should move further “upstream” and focus more on knowledge sharing and policy advice rather than on specific projects. This shift is reflected in the current United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2012-2016. The strengths of

Joint Partnerships	Thematic Collaboration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change</li> <li>• International Cooperation</li> <li>• Creative Economy</li> <li>• Social Protection</li> <li>• Strategic Information</li> <li>• Human Rights and Access to Justice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Migration</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Gender</li> </ul>

the UN in this context are mainly its global perspective; access to world-class expertise and knowledge; social credit (credibility of the UN brand name); neutrality and impartiality; and convening power. The UNPAF reflects the shift from providing assistance to working in partnership with the Royal Thai Government. This framework sets six Joint Partnerships and four thematic collaboration groups. UNESCO actively participates in five of the Joint Partnerships, specifically on Climate Change, Social Protection, Strategic Information, Human Rights and Access to Justice; and co-chairs the one on Creative Economy.

In the context of the development of these joint partnerships, UNESCO has been reviewing the potential support it can provide to those partnerships as well as their implications for continued agency-specific interventions in those subject areas. UNESCO has already adjusted its activity in the country to reflect the new partnership on Creative Economy and will continue to do this for the other joint partnerships.

<sup>27</sup>[http://unfccc.int/ttclear/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20130327165947778/TechnologyNeedsAssessment-Mitigation\\_Thailand.pdf](http://unfccc.int/ttclear/sunsetcms/storage/contents/stored-file-20130327165947778/TechnologyNeedsAssessment-Mitigation_Thailand.pdf)

## Part 2: Past and Present Cooperation and Lessons Learned

### 2.1 Past and Present Cooperation

The fact that Thailand is a middle income country and that UNESCO's Asia and the Pacific Regional Bureau for Education is based in Bangkok has allowed Thailand to work with the organization as a partner in facilitating regional dialogues in the fields of education and culture. This relationship has allowed UNESCO to use Bangkok as a regional hub for its activities in the Asia-Pacific and has enabled Thailand to benefit greatly from the high level of knowledge and expertise shared in Bangkok by regional experts. Recent examples of such activities include the 16th UNESCO-APEID International Conference hosted in Bangkok in collaboration with the Thai Ministry of Education in November 2012; the Asia Pacific Ministerial Forum in ICT and Education hosted in Bangkok in September 2012; the Regional Expert Meeting on Inclusive Education through Quality Teacher Education in Asia-Pacific in July 2012; and the EFA High Level Meeting hosted in Bangkok in March 2011.

Thailand has also been playing an increasing role as a development partner cooperating with neighbouring countries. Therefore, cooperation between UNESCO Bangkok and the Royal Thai Government can be characterised as a mutually beneficial two-way partnership.

#### 2.1.1 Education

UNESCO Bangkok's work in the education sector in Thailand continues to focus on human capital development as outlined in the policy priorities of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP). More specifically, UNESCO's work supports the objectives and policy guidelines outlined in the *National Education Plan 2002-2016* and is carried out in consultation with the Ministry of Education and the Thai National Commission for UNESCO (housed within the Ministry of Education.) Likewise, UNESCO works within the framework of the UNESCO National Education Support Strategy (UNESS) for Thailand, which was launched in June 2011, including:

- Strengthening international and regional cooperation in its fields of competence, and fostering alliances, intellectual cooperation, knowledge-sharing and operational partnerships
- Providing advice and technical assistance for policy development and implementation, and developing institutional and human capacities

UNESCO is working with the Thai government to support capacity development in the education sector aiming to ensure the main objectives of *promoting a just society and developing human development towards life-long learning* are achieved. To this end, UNESCO is offering support in the areas of policy development, advocacy, policy dialogue, and institutional capacity building.

In the process of reviewing progress towards EFA and shaping the post-2015 development agenda, Thai policy-makers, researchers and practitioners have been involved in various UNESCO activities, such as research on equitable and quality learning, forward-looking research of emerging development trends, skills development and governance in education.

UNESCO Bangkok, as part of the UN Country Team in Thailand, in collaboration with the Office of the Education Council, organized a joint seminar to discuss the government's challenges and



opportunities in accelerating progress towards quality learning in the education system and preparing the younger generation to meet the demands of the changing labour market. Along the same lines, UNESCO Bangkok and national institutions, such as the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) and the Quality Learning Foundation (QLF), organized a series of seminars to discuss policy options for curriculum and learning assessment reforms.

UNESCO is currently reviewing aspects related to the expansion and further development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and career guidance systems at the upper secondary education level.

Thai institutions have been actively participating in several UNESCO-supported networks and collaborative research initiatives, such as the Network on Education Quality Monitoring in the Asia-Pacific (NEQMAP), Education Research Institutes Network in the Asia-Pacific (ERI-Net), as well as regional research studies on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills development in education and operationalization of the "learning to live together" concept through education.

Other activities of UNESCO's programme in Thailand have included work on reforms of pre-service teacher education system and curriculum, together with the inclusion of education for sustainable development concept and training for teacher educators; and, improving the quality of education in Thailand through capacity building and dialogue about the use of ICT in education, in particular in curriculum and pedagogy.

UNESCO Bangkok also focuses on advocacy for the principles of Education for All and Lifelong Learning. The involvement of Thailand in regional and international EFA processes and advocacy has been widely acknowledged. Among the activities in this regard are monitoring of progress towards EFA, the dissemination of findings from Global Monitoring Reports (GMRs) on an annual basis; the celebration of international literacy day and international mother language day; sensitization on gender issues in education and the strengthening of Community Learning Centres and Non-Formal Education in the country.

UNESCO is also effectively working on a Joint Programme with other UN Agencies targeting the vulnerable area of Mae Hong Son. This programme was developed in response to the human security needs and priorities of the province. It aims to improve the quality of life and reduce poverty among the vulnerable groups in under-served areas of Mae Hong Son through enhancing both protection and empowerment capacities. This programme represents a pioneering initiative in bringing together a wealth of diverse development-oriented expertise from eight UN agencies, while joining hands with an equal if not greater number of Thai agencies and partners in a collective effort to address this province's multi-faceted developmental challenges. If successful, this programme could be a model for UN joint programming and implementation in other locations. UNESCO is leading the education component, which aims to increase the school attendance rate and provide educational services through both formal and non-formal education (NFE) channels. The effort is focused especially on targeting females in remote areas, while also improving the educational potential of local schools and community learning centres (CLCs).

The Royal Thai Government has played a leading role in the region, particularly in the context of ASEAN, in the field of education. The most recent and clearest example of this is the Thai government's support of educational development and reform in Myanmar. This has focused on

Myanmar's need to promote access to education as a human right by: developing Non-Formal Education (NFE) policies and structures; increasing the leadership capacity of school principals; and strengthening the institutional capacity to use ICT in education. With these focal areas, UNESCO and the government have collaborated on a series of training sessions, workshops and capacity building exercises for relevant actors in both countries. These actions are being organized and funded jointly by UNESCO and the Thai government.

Thailand is also increasingly playing a regional role in the field of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The Thai Ministry of Education has on several occasions provided resource persons in workshops on ESD organized by UNESCO Bangkok. Most recently, the government provided such resources in October 2012 for the regional workshop on curriculum development in Bangkok and for an Education in Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction (EiE/DRR) workshop in Lao PDR.

Since 2005, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand has also been UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador for the Empowerment of Minority Children through Education and through the Preservation of their Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Office of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Projects (OPSP) and UNESCO Bangkok initiated a collaborative effort to improve the quality of life of children and youth in the Asia-Pacific Region. Since its inception in 2005, this collaborative project has been implemented in 28 schools in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, and, most recently, Indonesia.

At the country level, UNESCO is supporting the Thai government's efforts to mainstream climate change adaptation into its key line ministries' sectoral and provincial plans, policies and budgets; and is supporting the Ministry of Education in the development of climate change policies and plans relevant to the education sector. The Thailand Office of the Basic Education Commission is supporting selected schools for pilot ESD initiatives to monitor and evaluate relevant learning outcomes. The method being adopted in these sample schools includes a 7-step case study approach towards the integration of inquiry-based learning that builds upon the principles, values, attitudes, and skills that ESD promotes. However, it is imperative to note that ESD in Thailand is understood to equate to sufficiency economy in parts of the Thai education system.

Activities for capacity development in education policy, planning and management have included the International Institute for Educational Planning's (UNESCO-IIEP) distance education programme on Education Sector Planning, from June 2012 to May 2013, in which government officials from various divisions of the Ministry of Education and academics from national universities participated. Thai government officials also participated in a regional training workshop on education policy formulation and monitoring organized by UNESCO Bangkok aimed at strengthening participants' capacity in developing education policies and reforms, especially through ensuring stronger linkages between education policy, planning, financing and monitoring.

Likewise, UNESCO, as a founding member and co-sponsor of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), is committed to supporting member states in their response to the AIDS epidemic. In Asia and the Pacific, technical support is coordinated through UNESCO Bangkok's HIV Prevention and Health Promotion (HP2) Unit. This unit has a technical assistance support role for Member States in the Asia-Pacific region, with particular support to field offices supporting HIV programming, including Thailand.

Within this context, the unit supports coordinated responses to the AIDS epidemic, including intra-UNESCO coordination (within the education sector and with other sectors), as well as supporting coordinated AIDS responses at the regional and country levels, with a particular focus on young people from key populations at a higher risk of contracting HIV (including men who have sex with men, transgender people, drug users, people selling sex, and those living with HIV). Examples of this include support for the Advanced Youth Peer (Y-PEER) Training of Trainers in Peer Education and Y-PEER Focal Points organised in Bangkok by UNFPA and UNESCO in June 2012; multiple leadership training courses for young key populations at higher risk of HIV exposure and also for programme and policy-makers to better understand their needs; and joint work with Plan Thailand to reach young Myanmar migrants with comprehensive sexuality education in Tak province, and to understand the nature, scope and impact of homophobic bullying in Thailand. Further to this, UNESCO has collaborated with the Thai Ministry of Health's National HIV/AIDS Management Centre and various UN agencies on various projects, including: a study on Situational Analysis of Young People at Higher Risk of HIV Exposure, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA; and support for the establishment of National MSM Guidelines.

#### Lessons learned:

- Coping with frequent changes of Ministry of Education leadership: The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Thai Education Ministry and UNESCO Bangkok to implement UNESCO's National Education Support Strategy (UNESS) for the period 2010-2015 was signed in April 2011. Thailand UNESS outlines areas of cooperation between the Thai government and UNESCO in order to *contribute to Thailand's economic empowerment and human development strategy through the promotion of quality education*. There remains a need to periodically review and adjust this strategy in line with new developments and the government's emerging needs in national education.
- The UN Joint Programme (UNJP) on Integrated Highland Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son has effectively called for multi-sectoral and collaborative solutions that build on the comparative advantage of different actors. Once finalized, it will set a good example for similar joint activities. The importance of both formal and non-formal education has been highlighted in all UNJP participating agencies by their direct and indirect educational programmes in community-based capacity building programmes. In addition, many educational programmes have raised concerns about limited access to quality education for ethnic minority groups due to language barriers. This provides an opportunity to advocate for mother tongue-based multilingual education.
- We have to be able to generate evidence and support its use for policy-making and programming. This includes evidence to convince decision-makers to make large investments now, and change policies if needed. This evidence, often based on modelling and economic assessments, needs to be locally generated and nationally owned.
- Undertaking programme evaluation studies in order to catalyze necessary policy and programmatic change is feasible and has proven to be a worthwhile investment and effort. Thailand's experience has showed it is possible to leverage funds from various donors, including government sources, to support these changes. Over the past few years, perspectives regarding evaluation among key stakeholders have improved. Programme evaluation is now more commonly seen as an effective tool for identifying both what is done well and areas for improvement.

### Key achievements:

- Thailand has been effectively engaged in national and regional EFA processes and as a result has taken the initiative to organize national EFA-related activities, including the recent International Conference on Education 2013 and the National Seminar on the National EFA 2015 Review.
- The role of Thailand as a development partner on South-South cooperation on education has been strengthened, mainly with neighbouring countries Myanmar, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Indonesia and Cambodia, particularly for Non-formal education and CLCs.
- The National Language Policy of Thailand has been approved, following increased awareness of mother tongue-based multilingual education among policy-makers, NGOs and multilingual education activists. The policy implementation committee was set up and an implementation action plan is being drafted.
- The capacity of 20 provincial government officials in Mae Hong Son has been improved in programming and managing education activities.
- Relevant life skills materials and text books were developed based on the results of a needs assessment for the UNJP in Mae Hong Son; the material will also be disseminated to neighbouring countries, especially to those in the ASEAN region that have a similar context to Mae Hong Son.
- The pre-service teacher education system and curriculum has been successfully reformed.
- Thailand is one of the eight countries in the region which collaborated with UNESCO Bangkok in the development of advocacy guides for promoting inclusive teacher education. Thailand has shown a deep commitment to integrating the values and principles of inclusive education into teacher education, which provide the foundation for preparing teachers with inclusive pedagogical skills. The advocacy guides will also be adapted and translated into the Thai language.
- The understanding of government and civil society partners of the importance of engaging and addressing the needs of young people from key populations in national AIDS responses has been improved.
- The evidence base has been strengthened on critical issues, including health-seeking behaviours of men who have sex with men and transgender people; homophobic bullying in educational institutions; young people from key populations and young migrants; and sexuality education.
- Capacities developed among young people from key populations to more meaningfully engage in Thailand's national AIDS response, and technical guidance developed in partnership with government and civil society in critical areas of HIV and health promotion programming.
- Thailand education institutions and researchers participate in joint research and policy dialogue on educational issues in the region through educational networks, particularly ERI-Net and NEQMAP.
- UNESCO's technical support on capacity development on education policy, planning and management for government officials as well as academics from national research and training institutions proved to be greatly needed for education sector reform in the country.

### 2.1.2 Culture

In the field of culture, UNESCO's cooperation with Thailand has been aligned with the National Priorities of *sustainable management of natural resources and the environment* and *promoting a just society* under the 11<sup>th</sup> NESDP. In supporting these priorities, UNESCO has offered policy advice and has supported capacity building to the Ministry of Culture and other institutions involved in culture.

As per 34 C/4 Overarching Objective 4 “Fostering cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and a culture of peace”, UNESCO’s Culture Programme in Thailand involves supporting the country’s efforts to sustainably safeguard cultural and natural heritage resources as well as to promote culture and development. Given that UNESCO’s programme is anchored by the seven culture conventions, efforts have tended to fall within these frameworks.

UNESCO’s past and current programme in culture in Thailand has focused on:

- a) Promoting Thailand’s adherence to the international normative instruments. This involves monitoring and capacity building for the implementation of the *1972 Convention for the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, as well as encouraging the ratification of the *1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*, *2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage*, the *2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* and the *2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*;
- b) Aligning national policy, legislative and administrative frameworks towards the effective implementation of these conventions;
- c) Strengthening capacity among relevant stakeholders within the framework of these conventions;
- d) Partnering with UN agencies and national and local authorities in joint UN efforts for sustainable development.

For the *1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, UNESCO Bangkok has cooperated with Thai authorities in site monitoring, providing technical support for statutory activities, capacity building for the protection of World Heritage sites in Thailand and in the preparation of future inscriptions. This included intensive support for the Periodic Reporting process conducted in 2010-2011, expert inputs following the 2011 flooding at the Ayutthaya World Heritage property provided at the request of the Royal Thai Government and for the Reactive Monitoring of the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai World Heritage property. Inputs for capacity building activities initiated by the government are also provided on an ongoing basis

For the *2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, identified as a national priority, the ratification process is being conducted hand-in-hand with national capacity building, awareness-raising, and support drafting the necessary legislation. Moreover, Thailand has already begun implementing regulatory and policy measures in anticipation of ratification and in line with the convention. In order to ensure that there is adequate understanding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) and the convention among the general public and lawmakers, UNESCO has actively contributed to awareness-raising and training activities on the safeguarding of ICH in Thailand organized by the Ministry of Culture.

For the *2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* and with a view to strengthening capacity in implementing the convention and its annex, UNESCO has cooperated closely with the Fine Arts Department in establishing the Regional Field Training Centre on Underwater Cultural Heritage in Chanthaburi province. Regional training activities have been delivered at the centre using a rigorous training curriculum developed with the support of the International Council of Monuments and Sites’ International Committee for Underwater Cultural Heritage (ICOMOS-ICUCH). The Fine Arts Department has committed to supporting the centre’s operations in the future. As for the 2003 Convention, although Thailand has yet to ratify it, the Kingdom by and large implements the principles of the 2001 convention in its own laws.

For the *2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, UNESCO has been in close discussion with the Ministry of Culture to facilitate the process of ratification. Thai representatives have taken part in various UNESCO activities at the regional and sub-regional levels aiming at promoting the convention in the Asia-Pacific context. Thailand was also included in a study commissioned by UNESCO examining the issues affecting ratification processes in the sub-region.

Within joint UN programmes, UNESCO's culture unit is also involved in the UN Joint Programme on Integrated Highland Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son, which promotes the sustainable management of natural and cultural resources and therefore demonstrates the contribution of culture to development. Under this joint programme, eco-tourism opportunities have been identified and local authorities' initiatives are being supported.

For the last 15 years, UNESCO has been an active partner in the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), developing culturally appropriate approaches to combating HIV/AIDS, human trafficking and drug use, with measures aimed at vulnerable ethnic minority populations within the Greater Mekong Sub-region. UNESCO has developed advocacy materials in a range of highland population languages and databases using Geographic Information Systems platforms aimed at reinforcing evidence-based policy making in this area.

Within the framework of the UN Partnership Framework for Thailand (2012-2015), UNESCO was appointed the co-chair of the Joint Team between the Thai government and the UN agencies in spearheading efforts to develop Thailand's creative economy. Through cooperation with UN agencies such as the ILO and UNIDO, and through intersectoral collaboration with Education programmes and UIS, UNESCO is expected to contribute to reinforcing 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills among workers and the creation of a national information system on the creative economy. The latter will use the Framework for Cultural Statistics as a reference.

#### Lessons learned

Thailand is seeking to move ever more towards a knowledge-based economy wherein culture and creativity are recognized as key drivers for sustainable growth. Accordingly, Thailand has given greater prominence to culture and heritage as part of its national development strategy. In this context, while culture had previously not been a mainstream component of the UN's development agenda, Thailand's current engagement with the body increasingly includes culture, with UNESCO as the leading agency providing technical support.

Moreover, through its cooperation with UNESCO, Thailand has been able to position itself increasingly as a sub-regional or regional hub providing assistance to other countries, as with the underwater cultural heritage training programme. This focus on culture and creativity within the context of a knowledge economy is also becoming increasingly prominent in other emerging middle income countries in the region and represents a "niche" opportunity for UNESCO in terms of policy advice and technical support.

Nevertheless, in some instances, alignment with government priorities has proven to be challenging following changes in government administration. However, building up solid institutional linkages at the sub-national level or with specific line agencies, for instance for the Mae Hong Son programme, has allowed for programme continuity even in the face of national political turnovers.



## Key achievements

- Enhanced capacities of key Thai institutions in implementing the 1954 and 1972 Conventions, as well as the core principles of the 2001, 2003 and 2005 Convention, alongside progress towards ratification of the latter three.
- Enhancing south-south cooperation in cultural heritage, in particular, by positioning Thailand as a regional centre of excellence in underwater cultural heritage through the establishment of the Regional Field Training Centre in Chanthaburi province.
- Highlighting the role of culture in development within the context of a middle income country, particularly through leading the joint UN system in upstream planning and programming for Creative Economy.

### 2.1.3 Communication and Information

UNESCO Bangkok is also active in Thailand in the Communication and Information sector. The central tenet of this part of UNESCO's work is to promote the free flow of ideas by promoting dialogue between and within member states and encouraging governments, public institutions and civil society groups to strive toward freedom of expression and freedom of the press as a central element in building strong democracies.

In Thailand, UNESCO has worked towards this objective through numerous partnerships and activities. In collaboration with organizations such as the Thai Journalists Association (TJA), Thai Public Broadcasting Service (TPBS), and the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), UNESCO has promoted the observance of World Press Freedom Day in Thailand. As a result, several partnerships to improve Media and Information Literacy (MIL) among user-generated content producers and users through formal and non-formal teacher training institutions have been forged.

Thailand has also been an active participant in UNESCO's work on preserving documentary heritage, particularly through its Memory of the World (MoW) Programme. In May 2012, UNESCO Bangkok hosted the 5th General Meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) in collaboration with the Thai Ministry of Culture and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA). The Chair of the Thai National MOW Committee is the Goodwill Patron of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia-Pacific (MOWCAP) as well as a member of its bureau.

Thailand currently has two items inscribed in the Memory of the World (MoW) international register: The King Ram Khamhaeng Inscription and The Archival Documents of King Chulalongkorn's Transformation of Siam, and one in the regional register, The Epigraphic Archives of Wat Pho. The Memory of the World Regional Committee for Asia Pacific (MOWCAP) has issued a new call for submissions of nominations for inscriptions on the regional register of documents or collections relating to Asia and the Pacific.

Thailand is an elected member of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), and was elected Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the IPDC Council in March 2012. Through the IPDC, UNESCO has brought forward several initiatives in Thailand to strengthen community media movements, build the professional capacities of media professionals and training institutions, and advance gender mainstreaming in the media. In 2012, with the assistance of IPDC funding, Thai PBS joined the project *Gender Mainstreaming in Broadcasting Organizations in the*

*Asia-Pacific Region* carried out by the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU). The work that has already been done served as a precursor for the adaptation and piloting of the Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media (GSIM) prepared by UNESCO. In applying the (GSIM) in the context of Thai PBS, the aim is to produce a set of evidence-based recommendations and follow up on their implementation in order to integrate gender awareness into media practices through the adoption of policies and initiatives to promote gender-conscious journalists and media practitioners as well as to produce gender-sensitive media content in Thailand and in the region.

UNESCO Bangkok has been the primary mobilizer at the forefront of the Thai Media and Information Literacy (MIL) network. UNESCO has worked with different stakeholders, such as educational institutions, the Thai Public Broadcasting Service and NGOs, on a series of consultations and workshops aimed at understanding the needs of Thai practitioners interested in embedding MIL in their sectors. Child Media Thailand, one of UNESCO's partners is currently translating UNESCO's MIL Curriculum for Teachers into the Thai language. UNESCO Bangkok has also supported the Research Centre of Communication and Development Knowledge Management (CCDKM) to help it launch MILThailand.org, the first Media and Information Literacy web portal in the Asia-Pacific.

The Communication and Information Unit of UNESCO Bangkok is working on the Intersectoral Platform "Learning to Live together through Education and Youth Empowerment in the Asia-Pacific Region", promoting and facilitating the integration of core MIL competencies within Thailand's educational system, policies, plans and curricula. In addition, UNESCO, in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, is conducting a MIL mapping exercise in the Mekong region. The project is ongoing and teachers representing primary, secondary and tertiary schools will be responsible for identifying, in line with UNESCO MIL guidelines, examples of how MIL is being used in teaching institutions in Thailand and other Mekong countries. This project is part of UNESCO's initiative to develop MIL indicators to assess teacher competencies at various educational levels. The collected MIL examples will provide evidence-based data for the development of resources and tools to enhance the MIL capacities of teachers and students. The final report was completed in September 2013.

Thailand is a regional hub for many NGOs and key regional organizations working to promote freedom of expression and information, press freedom, and sustainable media development in South and East Asia. One of UNESCO's key partners is the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), a coalition of press associations and media advocacy groups. In 2013, with funding from the IPDC, UNESCO supported SEAPA in organizing and delivering the training of the trainers workshop "*Know your rights: Navigating the laws that influence the work of media*", which took place in Chiang Mai. The objectives of the training programme were to raise awareness around the legal provisions and tools that can both negatively impact the media as well as those that offer protection, and to stress the importance of good reporting to minimize harm and outline the basic protections offered by courts. Training methods that would be useful to the targeted editors and media trainers and replicable within their organizations and the wider media community were also shared. Participants expressed their commitment to rolling out these training exercises in their respective countries.

Finally, in 2013, UNESCO Bangkok conducted an assessment of Media Legislation in the Mekong countries and the opportunities for the development of Public Service and Community Broadcasting.

Lessons learned:

- Thai partners and experts are often mobilized in UNESCO initiatives aimed at providing South-South cooperation to neighbouring countries in the media field. This has been

particularly true in countries such as Myanmar and Lao PDR, where Thailand's experience in this area has been used as the basis for best practices.

- Thailand is home to a unique public service broadcasting model as well as to an independent converged regulator, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, both of which are often showcased as best practices at the regional and international levels.
- Media legislation and community media are two fields in which UNESCO and its Thai counterparts should continue to work together. Advancing towards the decriminalization of opinion is a key issue to be addressed in the next few years along with seeking regulatory clarity for community media services.

Key achievements:

- Press freedom and the principles of freedom of expression have been actively promoted in collaboration with Thai national counterparts by providing support to Thai organizations working in this field, assessing and offering advice on media legislation challenges in the country, and by providing training opportunities to Thai journalists and other media professionals.
- Documentary heritage has been further preserved in Thailand through the Memory of the World Programme and the active work of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP).
- Media development has been fostered through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), which has financially supported different media development projects in Thailand over the years.
- Gender equality in and through the media has been fostered in the country through the participation of Thai PBS in the development and implementation of Gender Sensitive Indicators for the Media (GSIM) as well as through the active participation of Thai institutions in the Global Forum on Media and Gender (Bangkok, December 2013) and the resulting Global Alliance for Media and Gender.
- UNESCO has actively participated in the introduction of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) into the national discourse by identifying and mobilizing key stakeholders who have endorsed and promoted MIL in their activities and fields of intervention. These range from formal and non-formal teacher training institutions to NGOs and social responsibility departments of major Thai foundations. MIL practices in Thailand have been mapped and used as examples at the international level.

#### 2.1.4 Natural Science

UNESCO has been strengthening its cooperation with Thailand in the field of natural science by drawing on its competence in fresh water, ocean and coasts, as well as biosphere and geosciences to enhance relevant scientific research, expand observing systems and develop ecosystem-based solutions. This has been done in accordance with Thailand's Eleventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP) 2012 – 2016, particularly the sixth development objective, "Managing natural resources and environment towards sustainability".

### *Hydrological Sciences*

Since 2000, the UNESCO Office in Jakarta has supported the Thai National Committee for IHP (International Hydrological Programme), which is highly active in the region. Two IHP Regional Steering Committees for Southeast Asia and the Pacific were held in Thailand in 1997 and 2006 and the Kingdom also hosted many events related to IHP in the region, such as the meeting of UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Category II Water-Related Centres and Special Side Event on "Ecohydrology – an interdisciplinary challenge" at the International Conference on International Perspective on Environmental and Water Resources as well as many water-related training courses. The IHP Committee contributed to information sharing for the WHYMAP (World-wide Hydrogeological Mapping and Assessment Programme) project as well as for the gathering for ISARM (Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management), regarding their transboundary groundwater bodies. Within the framework of the IHP Crosscutting Programme Asia Pacific FRIEND (Flow Regimes from International and Experimental Network Data) (APFRIEND), the IHP Committee has contributed to the development of the Catalogue of Rivers for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Fourteen river basins in Thailand were incorporated in the Catalogue of Rivers. Within AP FRIEND and the International Flood Initiative (IFI), the Thai National Committee for IHP, in collaboration with the two Category II Water Centres i.e. Humid Tropics Centre in Malaysia and ICHARM in Japan, is currently involved in the Flood Forecasting and Warning System in Tropical Region Project, as well as in APFRIEND Phase 2 focusing on flood design methods, which progressed with the "Flood Hydrograph" workshop held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 28 February to 1 March 2011.

In terms of water education, UNESCO Jakarta has been supporting the participation of Thai scientists and government officials in IHP Nagoya training courses, which are held annually in Japan.

### *Geological Sciences*

Within the Coordinating Committee for Geosciences Programmes in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (CCOP), Thailand was involved in the Southeast Asian Network for a Geological Information System (SANGIS), a UNESCO geological information management project involving national geological surveys and governments. The regional network simplifies the exchange of data both within and beyond Southeast Asia through the Internet. The aim was to make data easily available and accessible to all participating geological surveys as well as to decision-makers for more effective socio-economic and environmental planning.

Thailand also participated in the UNESCO Asian Multilingual Thesaurus of Geosciences (AMTG), which enabled the transposition and translation of concepts into many languages. The thesaurus allowed different linguistic groups to index and retrieve geoscience terms in their own languages. The Multilingual Thesaurus for Southeast Asia was compiled using the existing Multilingual Thesaurus (in European languages) as a starting point. Participating countries, including Thailand, established national committees responsible for agreeing upon the translations of geoscience terms in their respective national languages. This initiative has facilitated and promoted data exchanges between the SANGIS (Southeast Asian Geological Information System) Member Countries. This could also be integrated in other regional programmes on data exchange as metadata and data compilation. A launch meeting organized by UNESCO, the CCOP and the CIFEG (Centre International pour les Echanges en Geoscience) was held in Bangkok in August 2003. The AMTG is now available in book form and online in nine Asian languages, including Thai.

### *Ocean and Coasts*

Thailand boasts a sea area of 350,000 square kilometres, equivalent to about 68 per cent of its land size. Since 2002, Thailand has been a member of the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), the sole competent organization within the UN system for promoting international cooperation and coordinating programmes in marine research, observation systems, and capacity development. Since 1994, Thailand has hosted the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC). The sub-commission is currently housed within Thailand's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

WESTPAC has been assisting Thailand in developing capacity for, and enhancing its regional role in, marine scientific research and observations. The body aims to generate and improve scientific knowledge underpinning the management of ocean areas, particularly regarding the exploitation of marine resources as well as the prevention and mitigation of the effects of natural hazards. WESTPAC accomplishes this through its various programmes and training initiatives, particularly those on: ocean observations and forecasting; harmful algal blooms; marine invasive species; as well as coral reef conservation and restoration techniques. In cooperation with Thailand, one mooring buoy was deployed in the Andaman Sea in November 2012, within the framework of the WESTPAC South East Asian Global Ocean Observing System (SEAGOOS), to provide a real-time oceanographic and meteorological data stream of high temporal resolution to monitor the onset of the Asian Monsoon and its seasonal evolution in light of the significant role of the monsoon in the region's social and economic development. Meanwhile, a demonstration system for the Gulf of Thailand has been in place, providing three days forecast products of surface wave height, wave period, current, sea temperature and salinity to serve the needs of a variety of activities related to ship safety, fisheries management, the protection of the marine environment and the conservation of marine ecosystems, as well as the prevention and mitigation of impacts from natural hazards.

As a coastal middle-income country, Thailand has contributed much to the development and implementation of IOC and WESTPAC programmes. This includes providing research vessels and ship time as well as hosting several regional workshops and training sessions. As such, the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources has been awarded the IOC 50th Anniversary Certificate in recognition of its contributions to the development of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in the Western Pacific at the 8th WESTPAC International Scientific Symposium in Busan, Republic of Korea, 28-31 March 2011.

#### *Tsunami early warning and mitigation*

The IOC has also been developing Thailand's capacity for its tsunami early warning and mitigation systems through the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/PTWS) and the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS). The IOC has published numerous tsunami awareness, preparedness and educational materials in Thailand, with the support of the UNESCO/IOC Jakarta Tsunami Information Center (JTIC), through the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) funded project on Tsunami Awareness and Preparedness Tools and Materials Assessment. The project was implemented in cooperation with the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) of Thailand. The objective of this project was to optimize the use of materials available in Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand for wider public awareness and education. The IOC helped build capacity in Thailand through workshops for trainers, school students, the media, and authorities, using materials developed in the Thai language. In Thailand, awareness raising efforts using these learning materials were launched in Krabi, Phang-Nga, and Ranong provinces, reaching more than 500 teachers, students, community leaders and media representatives. Earlier, from 2006-2008, the IOC and WESTPAC helped support the NDWC's efforts to raise schools' levels of preparedness for tsunamis in 24 villages and seven coastal provinces, including through the successful full scale tsunami evacuation drill that took place on July 25, 2007, with the support of the government of

Belgium through the Adaptive Learning in Disaster Management for Community Awareness and Resilience (ALDCAR) project.

### *Man and the Biosphere*

Thailand has been a member of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves since 1976 when its first biosphere reserve was designated. It currently has four biosphere reserves. It is also an active member of one of the regional networks for biosphere reserves, the South-East Asia Biosphere Reserve Network (SeaBRnet). As a member of this regional network Thailand stands to benefit from regional exchange of information and experiences on issues such as sustainable development, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Thailand has been a member of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) governing body, the MAB International Co-ordinating Council since 2012

#### Lessons learned:

- Encouraging high-level policy makers to attach importance to sciences over the long term remains a challenge.
- Overall organization costs for the annual Regional Steering Committee (RSC), the platform for the implementation of IHP activities in the region, were previously fully sponsored through a Japanese Funds-In-Trust with UNESCO. Now 40% of all countries support the participation of their own delegates in the forum. In order for UNESCO to focus its support on the least developed countries, it is expected that Thailand will start supporting itself at the RSC.

#### Key achievements:

- The Thai National Committee for IHP has been actively involved and has made valuable contributions to the IHP's activities in the region
- The capacities of eight Thai scientists and government officials have been strengthened through their participation in the annual IHP Nagoya Training Courses.
- The role of Thailand as a regional hub for IHP activities has been strengthened through its hosting of numerous international conferences and training courses.
- Key data on geological information has been made easily available and accessible to Thai survey organisations and decision-makers for more effective socio-economic and environmental planning.
- A Thai national committee for the UNESCO Asian Multilingual Thesaurus of Geosciences (AMTG) has been established.
- More than 560 persons, representing students, teachers, village leaders and media professionals, participated in an education and awareness raising campaign on tsunami preparedness.
- Thailand's national capacity in marine scientific research and observations has been improved, and its ocean forecasting capacity has been gradually raised.
- There is now an improved understanding among the marine scientific community and governmental agencies of air-sea interactions, ocean and coastal processes, the management and conservation of marine biodiversity, the maintenance of ocean health, and the prevention and mitigation of impacts from natural hazards.

- Thailand's national capacity for its tsunami early warning and mitigation systems has been built through the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Pacific and Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation.
- Awareness has been raised and tsunami preparedness tools have been shared among national stakeholders, such as media professionals and authorities, as well as other stakeholders such as students.

#### 2.1.5 Social and Human Sciences

UNESCO Bangkok hosts the Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHSAP). RUSHSAP has experts on and extensive networks in bioethics, ethics and climate change, philosophy education, peace education, and youth-led social innovation. As such, many of RUSHSAP's activities are held in Bangkok and directly benefit Thailand, even though they are often framed as regional activities.

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific School of Ethics has annual regional meetings on the implementation of UN Bioethics Declarations, and the development of bioethics and philosophy education programmes from the pre-school level to university.

UNESCO Bangkok has partnered with numerous Thai universities and organisations in an effort to further dialogue in the field of peace and human security in recent years. These partners have included Chulalongkorn University, Ruamrudee International School, Prince of Songkla University, and Chiangrai Rajabhat University, all of which have hosted and collaborated on events related to peace and human security with UNESCO Bangkok.

In terms of Thailand-specific initiatives, UNESCO Bangkok is currently assisting in developing materials for regional action plans for the teaching of philosophy and bioethics education and implementing these plans in curricula on peace and human security education. RUSHSAP's work in Thailand also includes studying the ethics of energy technologies, the ethics of climate change, philosophy, human rights, gender studies, social inclusion, and issues related to youth.

#### Key achievements:

- RUSHSAP has developed good networks with policy-makers both local and national levels as a result of building trust with local authorities and partners.
- Awareness has been raised among Thai social scientists and researchers on ethics, peace, human security and social inclusion

#### 2.1.6 UN Joint Partnerships

UNESCO has used UN Joint Partnerships as a modality to engage with the Thai government on multi-sectoral issues. The UNCT has developed such joint partnerships in six priority areas in Thailand. As stated, UNESCO is an active member of the Joint Partnerships on Social Protection, Strategic Information, Climate Change, Human Rights and Access to Justice, and is co-chair of the one on Creative Economy.

As a founding member and co-sponsor of UNAIDS, UNESCO Bangkok also plays an active role in the UN's response to the AIDS epidemic in Thailand, working with the government as well as civil society partners. UNESCO Bangkok targets marginalized and vulnerable populations, including young

people, and is focusing on sexuality education and information on sexual and reproductive health issues.

#### 2.1.7 UNESCO Priority: Gender Equality

In line with UNESCO's current global priority of Gender Equality, UNESCO Bangkok, in collaboration with the Thai government, has taken substantive action across all sectors to promote gender equality in Thailand. UNESCO has aimed to enhance equitable access to quality education among boys and girls by raising public awareness around and addressing the "hidden" gender disparities mentioned in the situation analysis portion of this document. Through the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) group, UNESCO is currently co-authoring a discussion paper on gender and disability and researching the poor school performance of boys in Thailand.

UNESCO is also focusing its efforts on preventing Gender Based Violence (GBV). The organization held a seminar in Bangkok in May 2012 on "Cultural Factors in the Prevention and Promotion of Gender Based Violence". As a result of this event, a regional community of practice has emerged which will continue exploring cultural factors in GBV research and programming, with a focus on interventions through the education system.

## 2.2 General Lessons Learned

A review of past and present activities in Thailand has shown that UNESCO's actions in Thailand have moved "upstream", with less development assistance and more partnering with ministries to provide policy advice and very specific technical assistance. While UNESCO Bangkok is still engaged in specific operational work, such as its initiatives with vulnerable youth or those involving community learning centres, the majority of the organization's actions in Thailand now reflect the shift upstream.

Reflective of the overall UN goal of "Delivering as One", many of UNESCO's actions in Thailand are part of wider United Nations programmes or projects. This is true of the UN Joint Partnership on Creative Economy, which UNESCO co-chairs with the Thai government, as well as the other joint partnerships UNESCO is involved in. Even for operational projects, UNESCO's operations in Thailand tend to be collaborative with other UN agencies. This is the case for the project aimed at helping ethnic minorities in Mae Hong Son develop sustainable community-based tourism, which is part of the wider UN Joint Project for Integrated Livelihood Development in Mae Hong Son being undertaken by various ministries, as well as the WHO, UNHCR, FAO, UNIDO, UNFPA, IOM, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNESCO.

Outside of these joint programmes and projects, many of UNESCO's other actions in Thailand are event-orientated, often coinciding with regional and cluster level events and conferences being held in Bangkok. These events also serve to further UNESCO's role in providing advocacy, information exchange, and policy support to the Thai government and the country in general. Other collaborations are undertaken with the Thai government to mark significant days. UNESCO's involvement with the Office of Non-formal and Informal Education's (ONIE) annual celebration of World Literacy Day, most recently in Nong Khai, is an example of such an event. We have also learnt that, particularly in the field of education, Thailand has the capacity to play a leading role regionally and has the desire to do so. The most recent example of this is the government's keen interest in supporting the development of education and related reforms in Myanmar. It is focusing in particular on the need for Myanmar to promote access to education as a human right by developing NFE policies and structures; increasing the leadership capacity of school principals; and strengthening the institutional capacity to use ICT effectively in education in Myanmar.



### **Part 3: Proposed Cooperation Framework**

#### **3.1 Programming principles**

##### 3.1.1 Human Rights-based approach (HRBA)

All UNESCO Bangkok programmes, activities and projects are planned, implemented, monitored and evaluated in accordance with the principles of a human rights-based approach. In particular, focus is given to the root causes of discrimination, inequality and exclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups. The Thai government has also emphasised its commitment to a human rights-based approach in all of its actions.

##### 3.1.2 Gender mainstreaming

Gender equality is one of UNESCO's two global priorities under the six year Medium Term Strategy (34 C/4) and will most likely continue over the next eight-year period. This global priority is reflected in all of UNESCO Bangkok's programmes, ensuring that all of the organization's actions are supportive of women empowerment, new masculinities, and gender equality in UNESCO's fields of competence. UNESCO Bangkok will continue to align its actions in Thailand, and its internal structures and procedures, with the UNESCO Gender Action Plan 2008-2013 (GEAP).

##### 3.1.3 Evidence-based approach

Essential to a successful human rights-based approach is that all proposed programme activities must be developed and monitored based on concrete and verifiable evidence. Emphasis is thus placed on solid analyses of baseline data, underlying causes and diverse stakeholders. The analysis of barriers and underlying causes for exclusion allows stakeholders to be identified and promising solutions to reach the unreached. The involvement of these stakeholders in identifying problems and needs as well as possible solutions is crucial for the ownership and sustainability of programme activities.

##### 3.1.4 Culturally Appropriate Programming

As the UN agency with a specific mandate for culture, and in keeping with the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, UNESCO strives to strengthen the recognition of cultural rights as one of the five fundamental human rights. UNESCO Bangkok will continue to integrate culture into all of its development programmes and strategies for ethical reasons and also to help ensure the efficacy of these programmes. UNESCO Bangkok recognizes that there are no ready-made development paths. As such, relevant local populations, institutions, and development partners should determine their own paths based on their unique cultural contexts. UNESCO Bangkok will continue to use culturally

appropriate programming principles in designing all of its programmes in Thailand. The office will also encourage its development partners to adopt these principles. These steps will help ensure respect for and the promotion of cultural diversity and cultural rights as critical dimensions of sustainable development. Moreover, culturally appropriate programming principles help us to understand how cultural practices and knowledge can strengthen the programme or policy being analyzed. This increased understanding and respect in turn helps ensure the efficacy of delivery by increasing programmes' chances of success and long-term community sustainability.

### 3.2 Strategic Direction

UNESCO Bangkok's strategy is aligned with Thailand's National Priorities of "developing human resources for a life-long learning society"; "sustainable management of natural resources and the environment"; "promoting a just society"; "strengthening economic and security cooperation in the region"; and "developing a knowledge-based economy and enabling environment". And it will continue its focus on policy advice, knowledge management and technical support to quality assurance, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. In addition, UNESCO will continue regularly participating in UNCT consultations with National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB). This approach is in line with the overall UN strategy set out in the UNPAF.

UNESCO Bangkok is committed to continuing to help Thailand strengthen its role as a regional and sub-regional provider of technical assistance in the fields of education and culture, particularly in "underwater cultural heritage" and communication and information.

Policy advice to Thailand will be provided directly by UNESCO Bangkok and also through mobilizing expertise available at UNESCO headquarters and UNESCO's specialized institutes, such as the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS) in Montreal and the International Institute for Education Planning (IIEP) in Paris.

### 3.3 Implementation

#### *a) Process for managing programmes and coordinating implementation with other partners*

UNESCO Bangkok will continue working closely with national partners and other UN agencies. In education, the UNESCO Education Support Strategy (UNESS) for Thailand will continue to be used as the framework for systematic, evidence-based cooperation with the Kingdom in the education sector. UNESCO GEAP will also lead our work on mainstreaming gender equality. Likewise, UNPAF is providing the overall strategic direction for the proposed framework.

Given our dual function as the Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, with regional programmes in culture, social sciences and communication, UNESCO Bangkok will be able to mobilize diverse expertise to support the implementation of programme activities in the country and the region, including through joint programmes developed by the UNCT. UNESCO Bangkok will continue to collaborate with the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) as a platform for South-South and North-South-South cooperation to support programme implementation in Thailand.

#### *b) Monitoring, evaluation and accountability arrangements*

The director of UNESCO Bangkok will oversee the programme's implementation. The activities will be monitored every six months to coincide with UNESCO's reporting cycle to its governing bodies, while responding to other ad-hoc requests by the UNRC or donors. Each responsible programme officer will upload activity-level reports on UNESCO's System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results (SISTER), the organization's online planning and reporting system.

### 3.4 Sector-specific frameworks

#### 3.4.1 Education

UNESCO Bangkok will continue engaging with the Ministry of Education and other Thai institutions in an effort to achieve Education for All goals in Thailand by 2015 through different modalities, including policy advice and dialogue, technical and capacity development support as well as research and knowledge production. Furthermore, building on successful collaboration in the field of basic education, especially in non-formal education, UNESCO will increase its efforts in Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). UNESCO will provide technical support and policy advice to design appropriate interventions linked to key strategic priorities of the Thai government's 11th NESDP, including the development of human resources to promote a lifelong learning society, as well as to implement the second phase of the government's education reform. Likewise, UNESCO stands ready to support the government in a comprehensive higher education policy review and to contribute to the thematic programmes of: university research capacity development; governance and management of higher education institutions; quality assurance systems and mechanisms; institutional autonomy and accountability of higher education institutions; and the internationalization of higher education institutions.

To support of the Royal Thai Government's education reform agenda, UNESCO Bangkok will provide assistance as required in areas identified as priorities by the government. These include the improvement of education, especially supporting a stronger alignment between education policy, teacher education, curriculum development, teaching and learning processes and assessment systems, as well as the development of robust governance and management systems. In this regard, capacity development support will be provided for government institutions and partnerships in research and policy dialogue will be strengthened with education think-tanks and non-governmental institutions to support evidence-based policy development and implementation.

The Royal Thai Government and UNESCO Bangkok will strengthen partnerships for cooperation in the field of education in order to facilitate cooperation among education systems in the Asia-Pacific region in the area of development. UNESCO has the capacity and experience to facilitate access to regional and international two-way exchanges (between Thailand and other countries) on selected issues pertinent to education. Thailand's role in helping to organise regional meetings and dialogues that cover the entire region is highly commended and it is expected that this role will become increasingly prominent in the future.

In anticipation of the formation of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, UNESCO will support Thailand in assessing and debating the development and reform of education systems to contribute towards social integration and economic growth. This will include supporting the improvement of TVET and higher education systems, such as developing an ASEAN Qualifications Reference

Framework and encouraging the adoption of the revised Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education 2011, and the participation of more countries from the region in the UNESCO Portal of Recognized Higher Education Institutions.

Moreover, UNESCO stands ready to boost its efforts with the Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC) and ONIE to reduce the number of out-of-school children through the provision of alternative and flexible learning/schooling programmes within both formal and non-formal/informal education channels.

### 3.4.2 Culture

In the field of Culture, UNESCO will continue to support Thailand's NESDP and will work closely with cultural institutions as well as private sector and civil society actors in delivering its programme.

With regards to the normative instruments on cultural heritage, UNESCO will continue to support Thailand in putting the principles of the various conventions into practice, while working on the ratification process through required national procedures.

UNESCO will continue to advocate for the ratification of the *1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property*. In line with this, and with a view to strengthening the country's capacity in the fight against the illicit traffic of cultural property, UNESCO plans to undertake initiatives at the regional level to develop operational tools, for instance through the application of Object ID, the standardised registration system for describing cultural objects, which would also benefit Thailand.

In regards to the *2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, at the request of the national authorities, UNESCO will continue to provide technical advice for conducting national capacity building on the ratification and subsequent implementation of the convention as well as on community-based inventorying.

With a view to support the implementation of the principles of the *2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage* and to capitalize on previous achievements, UNESCO will provide Thailand with ongoing support to further strengthen its capacity in the protection of underwater cultural heritage and its ability to engage in South-South cooperation in this field by strengthening the Regional Field Training Center.

UNESCO will continue its engagement with the Ministry of Culture to identify mechanisms and facilitate the process of ratification of the *2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*. The focus will be on raising awareness about the convention and its benefits among the various groups of stakeholders through events and targeted communications, as well as helping to facilitate networking initiatives among these groups. Within the framework of the convention, UNESCO will continue to support Thailand in further developing cultural and creative industries as per the national development plan and also as reflected in the UNPAF pillar on the creative economy. Furthermore, UNESCO will also cooperate with relevant municipal authorities in laying the groundwork for joining the Creative Cities network, notably for the city of Chiang Mai.

In order to strengthen the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*, UNESCO will focus on supporting Thailand in updating its tentative list, nominating new sites, including both cultural and natural ones, and reinforcing policies as well as capacity for key issues, particularly disaster risk preparedness and mitigation. To this end, UNESCO will cooperate with national authorities and expert institutions to prepare a disaster risk plan for the Ayutthaya World Heritage site, as a pilot effort for protecting other heritage sites in the country.

### 3.4.3 Communication and Information

UNESCO Bangkok will continue to work with Thai partners, such as the Thai Public Broadcasting Service, the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA), NGOs and CSOs to promote an enabling environment for freedom of expression, and to strengthen free, independent and pluralistic media. In addition, through a network of Thai universities, UNESCO aims to improve the capacities of journalism education institutions based on the *UNESCO Model Curricula for Journalism Education*, and foster media and information literacy, particularly through teacher training institutions.

The Communication and Information Unit of UNESCO Bangkok will continue working on the Intersectoral Platform “Learning to Live together” through education and youth empowerment in the Asia-Pacific Region, promoting and facilitating the integration of MIL core competencies within the Thai educational system, policies, plans and curricula.

As stated earlier in this document, Thailand is a member of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and in March 2012, Thai representatives were elected vice-chairpersons of the Bureau of the IPDC Council. UNESCO will continue to work with our Thai counterparts to promote media development initiatives supported by the IPDC based on media development indicators, in particular focusing on strengthening freedom of expression, promoting community media development and training media professionals.

As part of UNESCO’s awareness-raising efforts to draw attention to freedom of expression and press freedom as fundamental human rights, the organization will work with our Thai counterparts to sensitize government authorities, media organizations, public institutions and civil society through the annual celebration of World Press Freedom Day and organizing complementary activities.

As UNESCO’s contribution to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in and through the media, UNESCO Bangkok and its national counterparts in Thailand, namely the Thai National Commission for UNESCO, Thai PBS and Thammasat University, are actively involved in the organization of the first *Global Forum on Media and Gender*. This pioneering global event will be held in Bangkok in December 2013 and will be an important follow-up to one of the critical areas of concern raised in the Beijing Declaration, specifically the “Women and the Media Diagnosis” Platform for Action and its strategic objectives to increase women’s participation and access to the media as well as their role in decision-making and to promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media. One of the key outputs of the forum will be the establishment of a *Global Alliance for Media and Gender*. Member states will be encouraged to take steps towards

integrating media in national gender policies and strategies according to the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

UNESCO is also committed to safeguarding the world's documentary heritage by working with the Thai Memory of the World National Committee, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, the Thai Library Association, as well as the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SAMEO-SPAFA) to strengthen the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme, support the Memory of the World Committee for Asia-Pacific (MOWCAP) and identify national documentary heritage.

#### 3.4.4 Natural Sciences

In addition to the joint partnership on climate change, UNESCO will support Thailand's efforts to make advances in the area of "managing natural resources and the environment towards sustainability" through its individual programmes. IOC/WESTPAC will continue to build Thailand's capacity for climate change mitigation and adaptation, while also helping to improve the management and sustainable development of Thailand's coastal areas and oceans. This will be done through:

- Developing a higher-resolution ocean forecasting system for the Gulf of Thailand;
- Extending coverage of the SEAGOODS Ocean Forecasting Demonstration System to the Andaman Sea;
- Jointly deploying buoys and conducting cruises in the Andaman Sea to study the impact of anomalies related to the onset of the monsoon on marine ecosystems, such as coral bleaching.
- Developing a long-term monitoring programme on the effects of ocean acidification on coral reefs
- Establishing an IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Climate Change and Ocean Ecosystems within the Phuket Marine Biological Center.

UNESCO has been actively involved in the Asia-Pacific Water Forum since its creation and contributed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Beppu, Japan, in 2007. UNESCO is keen to continue our active role in the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and its Summit. As such, UNESCO will actively contribute to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Thailand in May 2013 as the lead organization in the Focus Area Session on "Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Process for a Water Secure World". The session will be coordinated by UNESCO Jakarta in collaboration with key partners and member states.

#### 3.4.5 Social and Human Sciences

In the field of social and human sciences, UNESCO Bangkok, will continue to work with the Royal Thai Government and Thai CSOs on issues related to bioethics, ethics and climate change, philosophy education, peace education, and youth-led social innovation. This will entail continuing to host ethics and non-ethics based meetings, conferences and dialogues in Bangkok and throughout Thailand; working with the ECCAP (Ethics and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific) network on

climate change issues; and partnering with Thai universities and educational institutions to build capacity in social and human sciences.

UNESCO Bangkok plans on continuing to extend its work in the areas of Peace and Human Security, and Development Ethics, particularly through increased partnerships with Thai universities and other organizations. This upstream approach will not only help build capacity within Thailand but will also take advantage of Thailand’s position as a middle income country and a regional hub to share knowledge and expertise throughout Asia and the Pacific.

Thailand’s work implementing the Regional Action Plans for Teaching Philosophy and Bioethics will continue to be supported by UNESCO Bangkok through individual technical assistance.

### 3.4.6 UNESCO’s opportunities for action in Thailand

OUTCOMES	Expected Result of UNESCO activity	Performance Indicators and benchmarks
<b>Education</b>		
<b>Outcome 1: The quality of education is improved and disparities are reduced</b>	A new generation of better qualified teachers has been supported	Indicator 1: Number of teacher training institutions receiving support for pedagogical improvement  Indicator 2: Teacher policies reviewed and recommendations submitted to MOE
	Government’s efforts on reducing disparities in access/ participation, quality and learning outcomes in basic education have been supported	Indicator 1: Provision of policy advice to OBEC and ONIE  Indicator 2: MOE equipped with better statistical methodology and capacity for capturing OOSC and identifying related policy options
<b>Outcome 2: The role of NFE for skills training is enhanced</b>	An improved and sustainable NFE and skills development policy has been developed	Indicator 1: Number of CLCs supported and strengthened  Indicator 2: Number of CLCs and other non-formal learning institutions providing skills development programmes
<b>Outcome 3: Lifelong learning society is promoted and education sector reform is supported</b>	Second Decade of Educational Reform is implemented	Indicator 1: A holistic Education Policy Review conducted with recommendations for improvement

		Indicator 2: Number of analytical research papers to build evidence in Government's education priority areas (e.g. teacher, ICT, curriculum, etc.)
	Educational administration and management has been revitalized	Indicator 1: Number of MOE officials and experts trained in capacity building workshops and courses on education policy analysis, planning and management  Indicator 2: Number of schools and communities supported in education planning at local level
	Implementation of lifelong learning and knowledge-based society 's concept has been better translated into practice.	Indicator 1: Lifelong learning strategy is available  Indicator 2: Costing of the free and compulsory education policy is available
<b>Outcome 4: Thailand's involvement as an emerging partner for international cooperation is facilitated</b>	Thailand's role in global partnership for development has been promoted	Indicator 1: Number of regional seminars on education development organized with support from RTG  Indicator 2: Number of countries supported with technical and financial support from Thai institutions in collaboration with UNESCO
<b>Culture</b>		
<b>Outcome 5: Ratification of Conventions 1970, 2001, 2003, 2005 are promoted and 1954 and 1972 Conventions are better implemented</b>	Regulatory framework and institutional and technical capacity in safeguarding cultural heritage has been enhanced in the application of the conventions.	Indicator 1. Number of government officials and members of civil society who have been involved in capacity building activities.  Indicator 2. Number of consultations aiming at ratification of conventions.  Indicator 3. Number of policies, plans or guidelines which have been improved in line with the conventions.
	Improved evidence-based policy making for culture and development through strengthened government	Indicator 1. Number of policies and programmes which explicitly use information about culture and cultural diversity to enhance



	capacity for information management regarding culture and cultural diversity, ie, cultural statistics and ethnic minorities.	development outcomes.
<b>Communication and Information</b>		
<b>Outcome 6: Freedom of expression, media development and access to information and knowledge have been promoted</b>	Press freedom and freedom of expression have been actively promoted in collaboration with Thai national counterparts	Indicator 1: Number of Thai organizations having received support  Indicator 2: Advisory services provided on media legislation  Indicator 3: Number of Thai journalists and media professionals trained.  Indicator 4: World Press Freedom Day in Thailand observed.
	Media and Information Literacy (MIL) is further promoted in the country, MIL core competencies and aspects of “learning to live together” in teaching and learning in Thailand have been identified.	Indicator1: Key stakeholders further mobilized.  Indicator 2: MIL indicators applied for assessment.
	Media development has been fostered through the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).	Indicator: Number of projects implemented through the IPDC
	Gender equality in and through the media have been fostered in the country	Indicator 1: Thai PBS developed and implemented policies on gender equal opportunities  Indicator 2: Thai media professionals ensured fair gender portrayal in news, current affairs and advertising.  Indicator 3: Thai media participate actively in the Global Alliance for Media and Gender.
<b>Outcome 7: Preservation of documentary heritage and universal access to information is promoted.</b>	Documentary heritage has been further preserved in Thailand through the Memory of the World Programme and	Indicator1 : Supportive materials developed Indicator 2: Technical assistance provided for preparation and

	the active work of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP).	submission of at least 2 inscriptions from Thailand
<b>Natural Science</b>		
<b>Outcome 8: Institutional capacities for protecting and sustainably managing Thailand's coastal areas and oceans have been strengthened</b>	A higher-resolution ocean forecasting system for the Gulf of Thailand has been developed	Indicator 1: 15-20 Thai young scientists received relevant training on ocean models and hands-on exercises.  Indicator 2: a higher-resolution ocean forecasting system for the Gulf of Thailand developed.
	The coverage of the SEAGOOS Ocean Forecasting Demonstration System to the Andaman Sea has been extended.	Indicator 1: the present SEAGOOS OFS expanded to the Andaman Sea with ocean forecasting product provided
	Impacts of monsoon onset anomaly on marine ecosystems, such as coral bleaching have been studied	Indicator 1: two –three cruises conducted in the Andaman Sea;  Indicator 2: two scientific workshops convened to review the progress and analyze the result
	A long-term monitoring program on the effects of ocean acidification on coral reefs has been developed	Indicator1: expert networked within and outside Thailand Indicator 2: two workshops convened to share knowledge, identify technical requirements.
	An IOC Regional Training and Research Center on Climate Change and Ocean Ecosystems within the Phuket Marine Biological Center has been established.	Indicator: establishment of one regional Training and Research Center

## 3.5 Joint Partnerships

### 3.5.1 UN Joint Partnerships

Much of UNESCO's work in Thailand takes the form of participation in official UN "Joint Partnerships". UNESCO currently chairs the Creative Economy Joint Partnership and is involved in the Social Protection, Strategic Information, and Climate Change Joint Partnerships. UNESCO has recently also joined the Joint Partnership on Human Rights and Access to Justice. However, it should be acknowledged that all partnerships are currently under review by the UNCT and adjustments are expected.

#### *3.5.1.1 Creative Economy*

UNESCO is co-chairing the Creative Economy Joint Partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister. The Royal Thai Government has adopted the Creative Economy as a key engine to move the country forward under the 11th NESDP (2012-2016). The fourth strategy of the 11th NESDP refers to Creative Economy development within the context of developing a knowledge-based economy and an enabling environment as well as promoting Thailand as a regional hub. The Creative Economy will allow the country to lessen the economy's dependence on heavy industry and move towards information and knowledge-based activities and sustainable non-polluting industries.

The Joint Partnership modality will ensure the systematic coordination of the UN's collective support to the Royal Thai Government. The joint partnership has the participation of the following UN agencies: UNIDO, ILO, FAO, ITU, and WIPO. These agencies are well placed to contribute their long-standing experience in their respective fields and to mobilize strong links with partners in the region and world-wide.

Developed after extensive consultations with government agencies, private sector representatives, education institutions, and creative entrepreneurs, the five-year UNPAF work plan indicates three main areas of cooperation between the Royal Thai Government and its UN partners:

- Developing skills for the creative economy
- Creating an information and knowledge system for the creative economy
- Strengthening the enabling environment for the creative economy, including necessary legislation and institutions

At the time of the drafting of the UCPD, the government is still in the process of finalizing its overall national coordinating mechanisms for the Creative Economy. Cooperation with line agencies on specific technical issues remains ongoing.

#### *3.5.1.2 Social Protection*

Under the *Social Protection* Joint Partnership, and working towards the National Development Priority of "Enhancing Thailand's capacity in establishing a Welfare Society by 2017", UNESCO is involved in two key elements of the partnership's work.

The first of these is working towards the desired outcome stated outcome: “The Royal Thai Government progressively provides more adequate universal basic social protection measures, which maintain people above the nationally defined poverty line level throughout their life cycle.” To this end, UNESCO has partnered with the ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO as well as the National Commission on Social Welfare and Sub-Commissions.

The second desired outcome is to see that, “Framework and budget support to ensure the financial and institutional sustainability of the social welfare system is developed and implemented”. To achieve this end, UNESCO has partnered with the ILO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women as well as the Thai Ministry of Education, Social Security Office, Ministry of Labour, Fiscal Policy Office, Ministry of Finance, National Economic and Social Development Board, Health Insurance System Research Officer, Thailand Development Research Institute, and HelpAge International.

#### *3.5.1.3 Strategic Information*

Under the Strategic Information Joint Partnership’s goal of “Statistical and information systems inform policy development to reduce inequality”, UNESCO is involved with two key elements of the partnership’s work.

Working towards the desired outcome of having a “Unified, harmonized and well-coordinated national statistical and information systems in place” UNESCO has partnered with IOM, ITU, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UN Women as well as the National Economic and Social Development Board, National Statistical Office, Ministry of Information Communication and Technology, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Health Systems Research Institutes, line ministries, universities, private sector parties, journalists, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Working towards the outcome of “Relevant line ministries are able to analyze and utilize data for evidence-based policy making with a particular focus on reducing inequalities”, UNESCO has partnered with these same parties.

#### *3.5.1.4 Climate Change*

Under the *Climate Change* Joint Partnership’s goal of “National development processes enhanced towards climate resilience and environmental sustainability” UNESCO has partnered with the FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNISDR, WHO as well as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of the Interior/Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education, Emergency Medical Institute of Thailand, and civil society organizations and communities.

## Joint Partnerships and UNESCO's contribution

Several Joint Partnerships established in the UNPAF Thailand 2012-2016 are currently under review, and therefore UNESCO's contribution might change.

Joint Partnership on Social Protection		
Outcome	Expected Result of UNESCO Activity	Performance Indicators
Outcome 2: The Royal Thai Government progressively provides more adequate universal basic social protection measures, which maintains people above the nationally defined poverty line level throughout the life cycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A social protection assessment that integrates education into social protection floor conducted.</li> <li>• Recommendations from the assessment discussed and put forward for implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment report available and validated by all counterparts.</li> <li>• A dialogue between line-ministries and identified stakeholders is operational.</li> </ul>
Outcome 4: Framework and budget support to ensure the financial and institutional sustainability of the social welfare system is developed and implemented.		Under review
Joint Partnership on Strategic Information		
Outcome	Expected Result of UNESCO Activity	Performance Indicators
Outcome 1: Unified, harmonized and well-coordinated national statistical and information systems in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data issues and problems identified with recommendations for remedies.</li> <li>• Coordination among different offices of MoE who are responsible in data collection and production for education strengthened/established.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of MoU between NSO and offices under ministry of education who are involving in education data collection and production established.</li> <li>• Report on diagnostic of education data quality assessment available.</li> <li>• Frequency of the meeting.</li> </ul>
Outcome 2: Relevant line ministries are able to analyse and utilize data for evidence based policy making with a particular focus on reducing		Under review

inequalities.

**Joint Partnership on Creative Economy**

Outcome	Expected Result of UNESCO Activity	Performance Indicator and benchmarks
<p>Outcome 1 Skills development systems reformed and strengthened to drive creativity and knowledge based society.</p>	<p>1.1 HR strategy for CE developed. 1. 2 Workforce creative skills developed in priority areas of development.</p>	<p>Indicator1.1: -Number of workshops and seminars organized in which all government stakeholders are represented to develop the strategy -CE HR strategy document available.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2:  -CE HRD institution policy developed endorsed by the government. -Number of workshops and seminars of capacity development and program development.</p>
<p>Outcome 2 Information harmonized and knowledge system on the Creative Economy (CE) Strengthened for evidence-based policy making.</p>	<p>2.1 Currently available data and information on CE identified and systematically classified based on a clearly defined definition. 2.2 National data plan produced, with strategy and roles/responsibilities for data collection/reporting/dissemination determined and key indicators for sector performance identified and reflected in Thailand’s CE development.</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1 : Clearly defined operational definition of CE in Thailand’s context available A systematic mapping of currently available data and gaps Extent of data identified and classified systematically and properly.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: A set of key indicators to monitor CE performance including those based on available data and others requiring additional collection.</p>

## **Part 4: Partnerships**

UNESCO's continuing work in Thailand is only made possible by extensive collaboration with various partners. This includes relationships with various agencies within the Royal Thai Government, UN agencies, other international organizations, non-profit organizations, Thai civil society and the private sector. These partnerships are key elements in strengthening UNESCO's outreach and impact in Thailand and in some cases have led to the mobilization of additional resources. Efforts will continue to enhance these collaborations and expand into new ones.

### **4.1 National Commission**

The Thailand National Commission for UNESCO is the main counterpart of UNESCO Bangkok. It is the focal point for the implementation of most UNESCO activities in the country, which results in a close, effective and successful collaboration. It is chaired by the Minister of Education, Mr. Chaturon Chaisang. Its Secretary-General is Ms Churairat Sangboonnum, its Deputy Secretary-General is Ms. Duriya Amatavivat, and its Assistant Secretary-General is Mrs. Kanitta Haniratisai. The 19 members of the commission, who are appointed by the Cabinet, represent ministries, national organizations, NGOs, as well as individuals in their personal capacities. The National Commission is very active in Thailand in all sectors under UNESCO's fields of competence and plays a key role in coordinating inputs from Thai institutions for all UNESCO initiatives in Thailand, in the region and globally, with the regional bureaus in Bangkok and Jakarta as well as with headquarters.

### **4.2 Ministries**

UNESCO Bangkok has a close and fruitful relationship with various ministries in Thailand. This involves working regularly with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment's Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, the Ministry of Health's National AIDS Management Centre, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation at the Ministry of Interior and the Office of Knowledge Management and Development in the Prime Minister's Office. UNESCO Bangkok also works occasionally with other ministries on particular projects or when they request our collaboration.

### **4.3 Other official partners**

In education UNESCO Bangkok collaborates frequently with the Office of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Projects (see above).

UNESCO Bangkok is also involved frequently with non-ministry government agencies such as the Thai Public Broadcasting Service, the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand, the National AIDS Management Centre, the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre, various provincial and regional government agencies, including the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, as well as with many public and private universities and research institutes throughout Thailand.

### **4.4 United Nations Country Team**

UNESCO Bangkok is an active member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). It collaborates with all UN sister agencies. A more intense collaboration has developed with those UN agencies or

programmes which share common fields of competence. For instance, the office works closely with UNAIDS, UNFPA, ILO, UNICEF, and UNDP, all of which share the mandate of reducing HIV infection in Thailand. In education, UNESCO works closely with UNICEF on numerous programmes and projects, and in communication and information it collaborates with UNDP's Regional Policy Specialist for Access to Information, e-Governance and Media Development.

#### 4.5 International organizations and partners

Among other international organizations, UNESCO Bangkok collaborates with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and with the South East Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), as a platform for South-South and North-South-South cooperation to support the education programme's implementation. The fact that the SEAMEO secretariat and UNESCO Bangkok share the same compound heightens the effectiveness of this collaboration. An example of the numerous collaborative efforts between the two bodies is the proposed *Building Leadership for All Schools in Myanmar and Thailand* project in 2012. The ASEAN Regional Centre of Excellence on MDGs at the Asian Institute of Technology has also been a key partner for UNESCO Bangkok in ensuring that Thailand is on track to meet the MDGs relevant to UNESCO's work.

#### 4.6 Non-governmental organizations

UNESCO Bangkok continues to collaborate with national and international NGOs in Thailand. For example, the NGOs SIL International, CARE International, Room to Read and the Foundation of Applied Linguistics all sit with the SEAMEO secretariat on the Multilingual Education Working Group, of which UNESCO Bangkok is a founding member. UNESCO Bangkok has also partnered with Plan International Thailand and PATH to introduce various sexual education initiatives in Thailand. Such intense collaboration with NGOs is commonplace in all of UNESCO's fields of competence.

#### 4.7 Civil Society

UNESCO Bangkok has partnered with various Thai civil society groups. In the field of communication and information these include the Broadcasting Journalist Association, IPS News, Internews, and the Thai Journalist Association. In HIV Prevention and Health Promotion the office has extensive partnerships with different networks and associations such as the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health, 7Sisters, Youth Lead, and Youth Voices Count.

#### 4.8 Private Sector

UNESCO Bangkok understands the increasingly important role that private sector parties play in development and believes in working with them towards common goals. Therefore we have engaged in partnerships to tackle issues of common concern. A good example of this was UNESCO Bangkok's collaboration with a group called "Power of Thai", which consisted of 12 major private companies supporting 84 flooded schools. UNESCO Bangkok is interested in continuing stronger and longer-term partnerships with other companies and foundations that share our core values and are committed to human rights and sustainable development.

#### 4.9 Invitation for New Partners to Collaborate with UNESCO in Thailand

UNESCO Bangkok seeks to build new collaborations with governmental and non-governmental, national and international partners and donors, in the public and private sectors. The kind of



relationship between a member state and an intergovernmental organization like UNESCO is privileged and facilitates access to the highest policy level in the country.

As a specialized agency of the United Nations system, UNESCO can offer to its partners access to high-level policy forums in Thailand and to expertise and networks in education, sciences, culture, communication and information. This expertise resides in UNESCO Bangkok and in all of UNESCO's components in the region, at headquarters and through its specialized centers and institutes. In-house collaboration between the various components of this "UNESCO family" is an integral part of the way UNESCO operates. The diversity of expertise available in all these units of the organization gives a significant comparative advantage to partnering with UNESCO Bangkok in Thailand.



United Nations  
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