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Celebrating Teachers: Invest in the future, Invest in teachers

This year on 5 October UNESCO celebrated the 20th anniversary of World Teachers' Day.

Teachers are an investment for the future of a country. What today's children will face in adult life cannot be predicted and so the teachers of today and tomorrow need the skills, knowledge and support that will enable them to meet the diverse learning needs of every learner.

In Cambodia, the World Teachers' Day 2015 was celebrated under the theme "Enhancing Teacher Potential for Building Sustainable Societies" on 7th October 2015 at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia. Anne Lemaistre, UNESCO Representative, emphasized the important role of teachers in shaping the lives of our next generation and called on a close cooperation of schools and communities to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, addressed the issue of strengthening teachers' capacity for quality education. On this day, UNESCO Phnom Penh initiated a SMS distribution opportunity across Cambodia in cooperation with Smart Axiata to provide a chance for people to express their respects to their teachers.

The Global Thematic Consultation on Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda states the essentials for supporting teachers' effectiveness: (1) good conditions of employment, including appropriate contracts and salaries, and prospects for career progression and promotion; (2) good conditions in the work environment, based on creating school contexts that are conducive to teaching; (3) high-quality pre-and in-service training for teachers, based on respect for human rights and the principles of inclusive education; and (4) effective management, including teacher recruitment and deployment.

This World Teachers' Day UNESCO and its partners invite all to help spread the message that investing in teachers is key. After all, an education system is only as good as its teachers.

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