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Malaysia
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PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Project Data Sheet	
Project Name	Strengthening Ministry of Education Leadership in the Implementation of Education Policy and Reforms
Project Number	Fund 188-RAS-0401
Country / Region	Regional Asia
Project Dates	May 2015 to November 2017
Budget	US\$ 325,440
Funding Source	Malaysia Funds-in-Trust under the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperative Programme (MUCP)
Executing Agency	UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)
Implementing Partners	Institut Aminuddin Baki (IAB), Malaysia National Institute for Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Delhi, India Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI), Seoul, Republic of Korea
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Project Description

Project rationale

During the past 50 years, South and East Asia witnessed massive demographic changes, resulting mainly from falling fertility rates and migration. Other trends impact on the provision of education service. Urbanization contributed to reduce densities in rural areas, increasing the costs of reaching the remaining rural school age population. Counterbalancing these trends were national policies to achieve universal basic education that fostered strong increases in participation in schooling.

Expectations are that education will not be treated as generously in the future, as it was in past decades, compared to other social sectors such as health and care for the elderly. Aging populations across the region and a slowing global economy are likely to contribute to changes in resource allocations. Adapting education service provision to changing enrolment pattern and demand will bring with it new, institutional challenges. The redeployment of education personnel is an issue likely to yield high political costs for any government, for example, and school closures remain difficult as local schools are seen by rural communities as a core component for a viable community life.

Policy formulation, planning and public resource allocation need to take into account more systematically long-term demographic shifts, migration and urbanization, to anticipate and adapt to changes in enrolment pattern and social demand for education. In many countries, these dimensions of public policy need to be reinforced in public policy making.

Objectives, beneficiaries and activities

The project is an attempt to increase the knowledge base available to governments and provide practical insights that might be useful for national education policy and planning. IIEP initiated a comparative study to examine effects and implications of demographic shifts on education sector development. The study covered three countries in Asia that display very different demographic trajectories: India, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea.

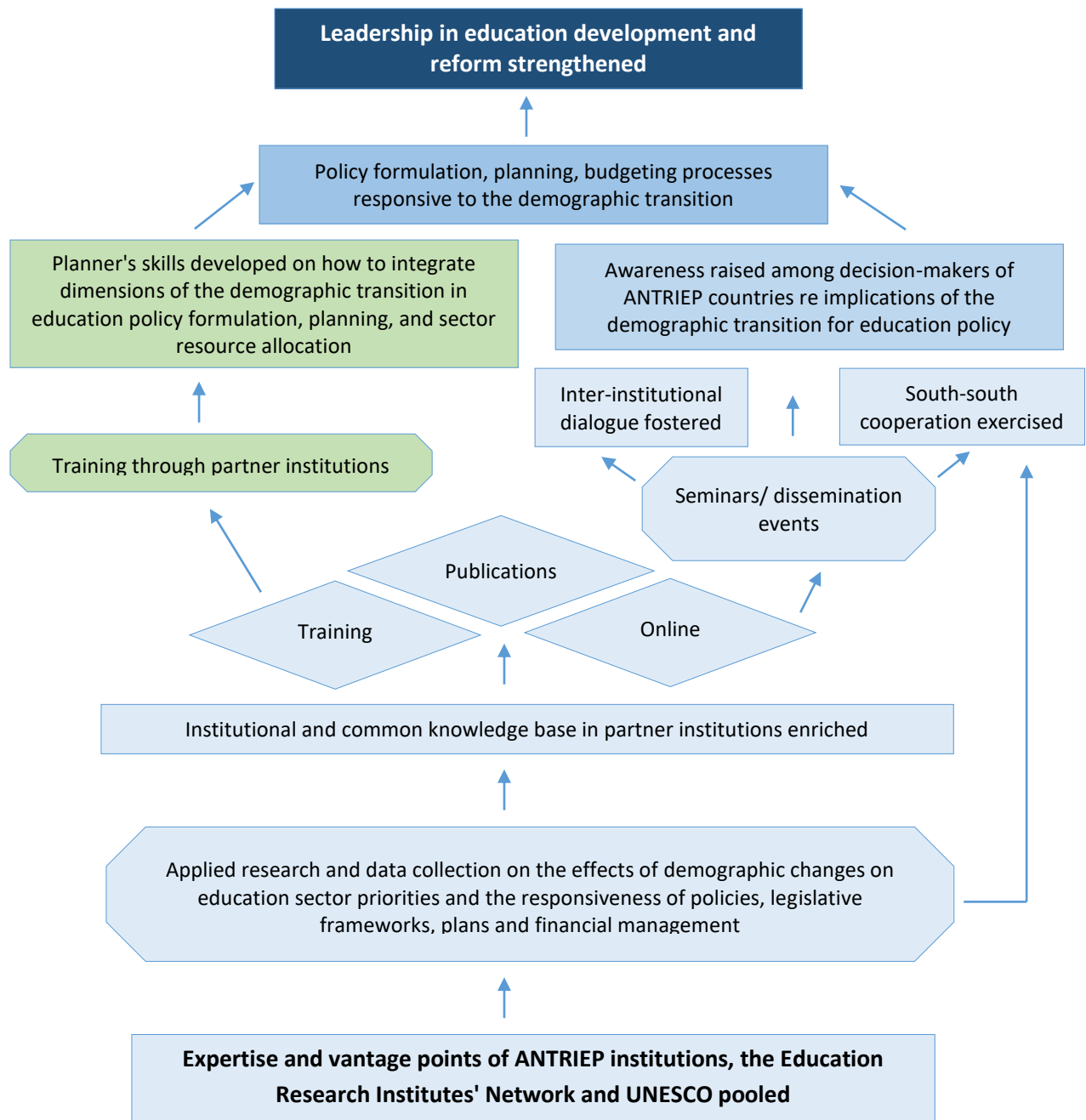
The country-based research was undertaken in partnership with the Institut Aminuddin Baki (IAB), Ministry of Education, Malaysia; the Korean Education Research institute (KEDI), Seoul, Republic of Korea; and the National Institute for Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Delhi, India.

Findings and conclusions were reviewed at a regional policy seminar in Malaysia in May 2017 that brought together experts from Ministries of Education and the Asian Network of Training and Research Institutions in Educational Planning (ANTRIEP) that regroups 22 institutions from 13 countries.

A set of printed and web-based information materials and training resources was produced by the project. These outputs are intended to be instrumental in providing a comparative information base and raise awareness among education professionals and researchers about the importance of incorporating the demographic dimension in education policy analysis and long-term sector development planning.

A schematic overview of the project design is below.

Schematic overview of the Project



Sponsorship

The Project was funded by the Government of Malaysia under the Malaysia-UNESCO Funds-in-Trust (FIT) 2014-2019. The FIT scheme is part of the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperative Programme (MUCP) established in 2011. Projects contribute to South-South Cooperation and benefit in particular countries in Asia and the Pacific region and Africa, with priority given to Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDSs). The Ministry of Education acts as responsible authority for the implementation of the Agreement on behalf of the Government of Malaysia.