

## Regional Technical Workshop on Developing Gender Equality Measurement Indicators 9-11 September 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

### Information Note

#### 1. Background

The assessment of Education for All (EFA) in 2000 showed that while considerable progress had been made in improving access to primary education in the decade since the EFA initiative was launched in 1990, gender disparities continued to persist in access, retention, learning achievement and completion. In recognition of this, governments agreed to set specific targets to close the gender gap (by 2005) and achieve gender equality (by 2015) within the Dakar Framework for Action<sup>1</sup>. This is also reflected in the Millennium Development Goal 3 on promoting gender equality and empowering women.

Despite the inclusion of a gender equality target in both the EFA and MDGs, there continues to be a lack of data in relation to this, both as a baseline for comparison and to monitor annual progress. Within the set of internationally-comparable indicators to monitor the goals of EFA and the MDGs, there also remains a void in this regard. While both goals currently measure parity between the sexes, there are no available indicators of data to measure equality. At the national level, countries in the Asia-Pacific region collect neither quantitative<sup>2</sup> nor qualitative<sup>3</sup> data to adequately measure gender equality.

Without clear indicators on gender equality in education, countries in the region will be unable to say with certainty the degree to which this goal has been achieved. Therefore, it is important to develop indicators for countries to gauge their current position and progress towards the realization of these goals.

Recognizing this need and upon expressions of interest of Member States, UNESCO Bangkok started in September 2006 the project “Developing and Applying Monitoring and Assessment Tools for Strategic Planning Towards Gender Equality in Education (Phase 1)”, supported by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust cooperation. Jointly initiated by the APPEAL, EPR and UIS-AIMS units of UNESCO Bangkok in partnership with relevant divisions within ministries of education, this project brings together technical expertise in the areas of gender, statistics, planning and management.

The project aims to develop tools, methodologies and mechanisms necessary to collect relevant quantitative and qualitative data and information on girls and boys in the education system, and to identify policies and strategies to collect this information, including the challenges in implementing such policies. Three countries were originally invited to participate

---

<sup>1</sup> Dakar Framework for Action, 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 and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality.

<sup>2</sup> Quantitative data are numerical or statistical facts that can be used to make sense of, monitor, or evaluate some phenomenon.

<sup>3</sup> Qualitative data provide narrative descriptions of a phenomenon. Unlike quantitative data, qualitative data gives indication of beliefs, opinion or perceptions, providing richness of information that supplements quantitative facts.

in the project activities: Cambodia, Mongolia, and Viet Nam. Sri Lanka joined recently, bringing the total participating countries to four.

The first step of the project involved a needs assessment, aimed at collecting comprehensive and consolidated information on the present situation regarding data on gender in education. Specific attention was given to collecting information on the availability of, and needs for data/information on gender equality in education as well as mechanisms and policies for the collection of this data/information. This regional technical workshop is the second step of the project.

## **2. Workshop Objectives**

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- review the needs assessment carried out by the countries,
- discuss possible generic indicators for measuring gender equality in education based on the findings of the needs assessment and the outcomes of the EFA Mid-Decade Assessment,
- provide training on how to develop and adapt generic indicators to national contexts and collect and analyze information to measure gender equality,
- discuss and develop a national follow-up action plan (piloting the generic indicators)

## **3. Workshop Format**

The workshop will be divided into:

- Plenary Sessions
- Working Group/Country Group Sessions

The medium for communication will be English with national languages used as desired in country working group sessions.

## **4. Workshop Organizer**

The workshop is jointly organized by the APPEAL, EPR and UIS-AIMS Units of UNESCO Bangkok with funding support from the Japanese Funds-in-Trust for UNESCO.

## **5. Participants**

Participants to the workshop will include delegations from Cambodia, Mongolia, Viet Nam and Sri Lanka, with participants from Nepal acting as one of the resource persons. In view of the national follow-up activities following the regional technical workshop, the country delegation is recommended to be composed of:

- (1) The Gender Focal Point
- (2) A senior expert/officer involved in planning, monitoring and assessment of EFA and aware of gender issues in education.

(3) A researcher in education management, monitoring and assessment

## 6. Preparatory Work by the Participants

National representatives are expected to be familiar with the results of the needs assessment conducted in their respective countries, if applicable.

## 7. Date and Venue

9-11 September 2008

Fifth Floor Conference Room  
UNESCO Bangkok  
920 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10110  
Tel: 66-2-391 0577  
Fax: 66-2-391 0866

UNESCO Bangkok is located on Sukhumvit Road between Sukhumvit Street number 40 and 42; and between the sky train (BTS) Thonglor and Ekamai Stations. More details are available at: [www.unescobkk.org](http://www.unescobkk.org)

## 8. Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)

DSA for the meeting will be provided to participants nominated for this workshop at a special rate of 150 USD/day. Participants are expected to cover their hotel accommodation cost and other expenses from the DSA. The total DSA will be calculated based on the total number of days each participant attends the aforementioned workshop. Therefore, it is critical that arrival and departure information be submitted in advance to allow time to process the DSA. DSA will be provided to all participants on the second day of the meeting.

## 9. Accommodation

UNESCO Bangkok has arranged accommodation for country participants at a special rate at:

**St. James Hotel**  
**18 Sukhumvit Soi 26, Bangkok 10110**  
**Tel: 66-2-261 0890-7**  
**Fax: 66-2-261 0902**  
[www.amari.com](http://www.amari.com)

**For taxi:** โรงแรมเซนต์เจมส์ สุขุมวิท ซอย 26 (เข้าไป 200 เมตร ขวามือ ติดกับ ร.ร. ธารา)

The hotel is located just off Sukhumvit Road (Sukhumvit Street number 26) in the heart of the city and near the Emporium Shopping Complex. The sky train and underground train are close at hand providing access to easy transportation throughout the city. More details are available at: [www.amari.com](http://www.amari.com).

The special rate for participants is 2,300 Baht per night for single rooms and 2,700 Baht net per night for twin rooms. The rates are inclusive of breakfast buffet, service charges and government tax. We would urge participants to remain in residence at the hotel throughout the duration of the meeting as the rates are negotiated on a minimum occupancy. Participants are requested to inform the organizers in advance if their accommodation will be arranged personally. Participants will be asked to settle accounts with the hotel on an individual basis upon check-out.

## **10. Transportation**

Participants are requested to arrange their own transportation from the Bangkok International Airport to the hotel and vice versa. Public taxis are available just outside the airport building (follow the signs). The cost of the taxi to Sukhumvit area (near UNESCO) is about 300 Baht (USD 8) and will take approximately 40-60 minutes. There is also a separate limousine service that costs about 700-800 Baht (USD 16-18). The hotel can also provide a limousine service for 1,000 Baht per trip.

From St. James Hotel to UNESCO, a van from UNESCO will pick up all participants daily. Participants can also take the skytrain (BTS) from Prompong Station to Thonglor Station. The cost of the skytrain is 15 Baht (\$0.5) for one station. Skytrain Prompong Station is about 200 metres from the hotel. Thonglor Station is about 200 metres from UNESCO. The total travel time will be around 20 minutes. Taxis from the hotel to UNESCO costs around 40-60 Baht (\$1-2) and will take approximately 15-20 minutes in normal traffic. Participants are requested to arrange their own transportation back to the hotel after the workshop.

## **11. Lunch**

Lunch and coffee break will be provided for all meeting participants for all three days of the workshop, complements of UNESCO Bangkok.

## **12. Visa**

Participants are required to obtain, where necessary, entry visa to Thailand from the Royal Thai diplomatic or consular mission in their own countries in advance. Holders of UN/LPs are allowed to enter the Kingdom visa free for 30 days.

## **13. Climate**

Temperatures can be expected to be in the mid-30's Celsius. A light jacket or shawl is also recommended inside the conference room as the air-conditioning may get quite cool.

## 14. Currency exchange

The commercial rate is subject to change daily. The exchange rate for cash is slightly lower than for travelers' cheques. There are banks and currency exchange kiosks located near the hotel, but you may exchange from the hotel cashier as well.

## 15. Contact Information

Ms Maki Hayashikawa  
Programme Specialist in Gender and Quality Basic Education  
APPEAL Unit, UNESCO Bangkok  
[m.hayashikawa@unescobkk.org](mailto:m.hayashikawa@unescobkk.org) or [appeal@unescobkk.org](mailto:appeal@unescobkk.org)  
Tel: +66 2 391 0577 ext.317

Ms Leotes Lugo Helin  
Assistant Programme Specialist  
Assessment, Information Systems, Monitoring and Statistics (AIMS) Unit  
UIS Asia-Pacific Regional Office, UNESCO Bangkok  
[l.lugo@unescobkk.org](mailto:l.lugo@unescobkk.org)  
tel: +66 2 391 0577 ext.236  
fax: +662 391 0866