



# United Nations Girls' Education Initiative East Asia and Pacific Regional UNGEI EAP UNGEI

## How can I get involved?

We can all help to create a world where all girls and boys have equal access to free, quality education. The initial step in addressing and advocating for any issue though is to first understand it.

You can do your part by learning how to look at the world from a gender perspective. Check out the UNGEI website to stay up to date with the latest news, publications, activities, and join the mailing list to receive the EAP UNGEI newsletters. We are always looking for real life experiences and good practices as well. If you have something to share, please send an email to: [eapungei@unicef.org](mailto:eapungei@unicef.org).

## EAP UNGEI regional partners:

The East Asia and Pacific Regional UNGEI partners are: Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE), Baha'i International Community, Commonwealth Secretariat, CARE, CISCO, Education Development Center (EDC), International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Oxfam Great Britain, Plan Asia Regional Office, Room to Read, Save the Children, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Regional Support Team - Asia Pacific, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) East and South-East Asia Regional Office, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and World Vision Foundation of Thailand.

## To learn more about EAP UNGEI please contact:

East Asia and Pacific Regional UNGEI  
c/o UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office  
19 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200 Thailand  
Tel: (66-2) 356 9499 Fax: (66-2) 280 3536  
Email: [eapungei@unicef.org](mailto:eapungei@unicef.org)

Website: [www.ungei.org/infobycountry/2253\\_2255.html](http://www.ungei.org/infobycountry/2253_2255.html)



UNGEI's vision is a world where all girls and boys will have equal access to free, quality education.

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### Why is there a need for UNGEI?

All children have a right to education, but not everyone receives an education. Faced with unique obstacles - it is often girls who lose out in this regard.

While progress has been made with gender parity and access to education, more attention is needed on issues pertaining to gender equality, discrimination and stereotyping in the classroom. Recent studies have shown that there are 72 million children around the world who are out of school; of those, around 54% are girls. Gender disparities become even more apparent at the secondary education level. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) can only be achieved through quality education for both girls and boys. Research has demonstrated that education, particularly education for girls, has the potential to prepare young people for a better quality of life and equip them with the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed to reduce their risk of contracting HIV.

### What is the Global UNGEI Movement?

To address these challenges, there has been a global commitment to both Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Education for All (EFA) goals to achieve gender parity at the primary and secondary school level by 2005 and gender equality by 2015.



The United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) was launched in April 2000 at the World Education Forum in Dakar by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Its goal is to narrow the gender gap in primary and secondary education and to ensure that by 2015, all children complete primary schooling, with girls and boys having equal access to all levels of education. UNGEI, the EFA flagship for girls' education, is a partnership that embraces the United Nations system, govern-

ments, donor countries, non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, and communities and families. UNGEI provides stakeholders with a platform for action and galvanizes their efforts to get both girls and boys in school.

### What is UNGEI doing in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region?

The East Asia and Pacific Regional UNGEI (EAP UNGEI) was launched in May 2002 and seeks to establish networks and partnerships among experts and organizations promoting the right to education and gender equality. At country level, the EAP UNGEI is active in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Acknowledging the idea that gender issues in the EAP region are complex and multifaceted, the goal of the regional group is to ensure the availability of quality



education for all girls and boys, across the region. In order to attain this goal, EAP UNGEI seeks to advocate and build strong networks to:

- Strengthen existing programmes by ensuring that the national Education for All (EFA) plans are gender responsive;
- Place gender equality in education on the agenda at meetings and events at all levels;
- Develop girls' education advocacy tools;
- Share good practices, information and data on gender in education; and
- Strengthen existing and establishing new linkages with other groups and networks working for education and gender issues.

### What are some of EAP UNGEI's accomplishments?

The EAP UNGEI has proven to be an active voice for promoting gender equality in education. The strong network of EAP UNGEI regional partners and individual members collaborate with gender focal points in relevant national Ministries such as the Ministry of Education, and also with sector processes such as Fast-Track initiatives, in addition to providing technical and consultative support, when it is approached by international or national agencies.

Several resources have been published, providing an overview of gender in education in the region as well as recommendations to address major challenges. Recent publications include (1) the Progress Note and Snapshot on Gender Equality in Education - East Asia and Pacific (2009), (2) Making Education Work: The Gender Dimension of the School to Work Transition (2009), and (3) What's the Difference?: Confronting Factors that Affect Gender Equality in Education (2008). A newsletter is released on a quarterly basis to highlight and raise awareness of gender in education from different perspectives. The EAP UNGEI also hosts a yearly photo contest in which winning entries are featured in a calendar and distributed throughout the region.

Other key regional activities include producing advocacy and policy briefs on gender issues in education (particularly in ensuring that gender concerns are mainstreamed), and training education reporters and journalists from the Mekong Region.

