

Thematic Working Group on Education 2030+ defines work plan for 2017

8 March 2017, Bangkok, Thailand



The Asia Pacific region continues to strengthen regional coordination and support for implementation of education through the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Education 2030+.

In the second year of the implementation of the global education and development agenda, the Asia Pacific region continues to strengthen regional coordination and support for implementation of education through the Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Education 2030+. The TWG Education 2030+ is part of the overall SDG follow up effort steered by the UN regional commissions, in this case, the UN Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (UN ESCAP). Co-convened by UNESCO and UNICEF to follow up SDG4, it facilitates peer-learning, capacity-support for governments in their efforts to implement

SDG4, offer platforms to monitor progress and spaces for multi-stakeholder dialogue on the SDG 4 roll out. Development partners, civil society organisations as well as intergovernmental bodies are represented in the TWG.

The TWG held its first meeting of 2017 in Bangkok where participants discussed two important issues - the draft work plan for 2017 and preparations for the 3rd Asia Pacific Meeting on Education 2030.

The draft work plan laid down the areas of work, tasks, and outcomes that the TWG on Education 2030+ hopes to achieve for the year. It is guided by the TWG's objectives as stated in the final draft of its Terms of Reference - *"to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) – Education 2030 and contribute to the overall achievement of the SDGs."* It is important to note that taking on an integrated approach is categorical in the TOR which states that, *"By calling ourselves "2030+", we are referring to both the need for taking a generational view of creating and sustaining the next developments in the education sector, as well as the integration of other sectors into providing a holistic education."*



ASPBAE is a core member of the TWG on Education 2030+, as are CSOs like Education International, ActionAid, and DVV International. Members are encouraged to form sub-technical working groups to address key thematic areas.

There are six programme areas in the draft work plan for 2017. They are -

1. Mapping and review stocktaking
2. Coordination, networking, and partnership building for SDG4
3. Capacity analysis and provision of capacity building support
4. Knowledge leadership, analysis, and publications
5. Policy advocacy and communications
6. Regional monitoring of SDG4 progress

The draft work plan is still being finalised, however, there is much room for civil society organisations (CSOs) to contribute, both at the regional, and significantly, at the country level, by engaging governments on the implementation. For one, CSOs can start collecting and analysing education in

Thematic Working Group on Education 2030+ defines work plan for 2017

8 March 2017, Bangkok, Thailand



In the TWG meeting, DVV International and ASPBAE recommended that a sub-technical group on youth and adult education be convened. This group will focus on strategies and activities that will ensure Member States give equal attention to youth and adult education in non-formal education.

hard-to-reach areas or with marginalised communities to feed into country and regional monitoring of SDG4. The regional monitoring is a long process; capacity building and framework for collecting can be started in 2017.

In the policy advocacy and communications programme area, one of the outcomes is “CSOs, NGOs, youth groups, and the media are actively engaged in the implementation of the SDG agenda in the region.” ASPBAE has been proposed as the lead agency in the “Creation of space/sessions for CSOs/NGOs, youth, and media at regional events.”

ASPBAE is a core member of the TWG on Education 2030+, as are Education International, ActionAid, and DVV International. Members are encouraged to form sub-technical working groups to address key thematic areas. In the TWG meeting, DVV International and ASPBAE recommended that a sub-technical group on youth and adult education be convened. This group will focus on strategies and activities that will ensure Member States give equal attention to youth and adult education in non-formal education. DVV and ASPBAE suggested that the work of the sub-technical group could focus on advocating governments in the implementation of SDG 4.4 (increase number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship), 4.5 (eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable) and 4.6 (ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy).

Further, ASPBAE called the attention of the TWG in linking its work to other education events happening in the Asia Pacific region, such as the Consultative Council of NGOs (CCNGO) being organised by UNESCO Headquarters in Cambodia in May 2017. DVV International also highlighted the need to link with the CONFINTEA mid-term review being organised by the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning (UIL) in South Korea in July 2017.

In the TWG Education 2030+ meeting, Maki Hayashikawa of UNESCO-Bangkok announced that the 3rd Asia Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 3) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4-6 July 2017. The technical meeting will focus on SDG 4.7 (ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development) where Member States, CSOs, and other development partners will be invited to participate. To follow immediately after is the meeting of the SDG4 national coordinators. The concept note and agenda are still being finalised.

Much is to be done in 2017 for Education 2030+ at the Asia Pacific and country levels. ASPBAE, with its membership of both the national education coalitions and the adult education organisations, can contribute much in ensuring that the implementation of SDG4+ ensures that marginalised, excluded, and vulnerable children, youth, and adults are not left behind.

END