



ASPBAE's Executive Council and staff interact with members in Japan

27 February 2019, Tokyo, Japan



Eri Yamamoto of SVA Japan, addressing the interaction with Japan members in Tokyo. She is also a member of the ASPBAE Executive Council.

ASPBAE's Executive Council (EC) meeting was convened from 28 February-4 March 2019 in Gotemba, Japan, hosted by its members, the Shanti Volunteer Association (SVA) and the Development Education Association and Resource (DEAR) Centre, with the support of the Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE).

It has been customary for the Executive Council meetings to be organised in a way that allows the Executive to directly interact with its members in the country where the meetings are convened. This facilitates greater exposure of the EC to the contexts of work and engagements of its members; and thus, help root and better inform the EC in

their deliberations on ASPBAE's work and future plans.

For its 2019 meeting in Japan, an interaction was organised with ASPBAE members in the country. The interaction was organised around the following specific objectives –

1. Offer a space for the ASPBAE EC members and staff to better understand the education context in Japan, through the prism of equity, a core principle advanced by ASPBAE.
2. Learn from the rich experience of Japanese members and ASPBAE in advancing the SDGs and SDG4, in particular. This is especially relevant given that SDG4 is under the review spotlight in 2019 through the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) processes.
3. Discuss ways and avenues for coordination action and strengthened engagement of Japan members in ASPBAE initiatives.
4. Discuss ways of collaboration with JNNE on its advocacy initiatives.

After a formal welcome by Eri Yamamoto of SVA and ASPBAE President, Nani Zulminarni, and an introduction to the meeting by ASPBAE Secretary-General, Maria Khan, Chizuko Nagaoka of the Japan Women's University gave a presentation on '*Understanding the Japanese Context: A focus on Education and Marginalisation in Japan*'. The presentation outlined existing education policies and programmes aiming to reach those who have been marginalised in the Japanese education system – those who have not completed compulsory education, adults with none or limited literacy skills, migrants, children, youth, and adults from minority ethnic communities.



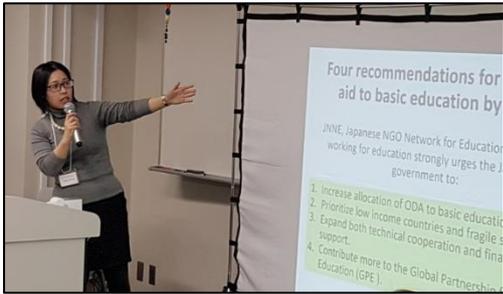
DEAR's Eno Nakamura spoke about the work of DEAR, especially on global citizenship education and advocacy with governments to mainstream SDG 4.7 in Japan's education systems.

ASPBAE's Rene Raya presented on findings of the CSO Spotlight Reports on SDG 4 in the Asia Pacific, including Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and SDG rollout, and ASPBAE's Cecilia (Thea) Soriano addressed ASPBAE's SDG-SDG 4 advocacy plans. Other presentations included mainstreaming SDG 4.7 in Japan (DEAR) and on Japanese development cooperation and education – analysis and advocacy plans of JNNE. Eno Nakamura of DEAR briefed the participants on the work of DEAR, especially on global citizenship education and their advocacy efforts with governments to mainstream SDG 4.7 in Japan's education systems.



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JNNE proposed ASPBAE's participation in a workshop during the C20 event (21-23 April in Tokyo) on education financing addressing issues of privatisation and commercialisation of education at C20 Japan. They also sought ASPBAE and its members' participation and input in the C20 Policy Paper on Education.



Participants of the Japan members' meeting.

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