

## Unpacking SDG 4, basic, youth and adult education and learning in ASPBAE's flagship annual leadership course

Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC)

Bogor, Indonesia, 12-17 November 2019



**ASPBAE President, Nani Zulminarni (L), addressing participants of the 2019 BLDC that was held in Indonesia and hosted by PEKKA, an ASPBAE member.**

This year's Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC), ASPBAE's flagship capacity building training programme, was hosted by PEKKA, an ASPBAE member in Indonesia. Thirty-three participants from 16 countries in the Asia Pacific participated in the 6-day residential course.

The BLDC aims to engage leadership from the Asia Pacific to foster greater interaction between education and the wider SDGs and strengthen interaction between practitioners of youth and adult education and SDG 4 advocates. More specifically,

the BLDC in Bogor addressed issues such as the principles of adult learning; frameworks for transformative education (rights-based approach to education and development, lifelong learning perspectives, gender equality and education, education for sustainable development, and global citizenship education); adult education practice and lifelong learning provisioning (regional overview; SDGs and SDG 4); thematic engagements, policy platforms, and frameworks for developing leadership in basic, youth, and adult education and lifelong learning; and building and mobilising networks.

A vast array of interactive sessions was integrated in the programme to enable participants to share experiences and to learn from one other. The Course Directors – ASPBAE President, Nani Zulminarni; ASPBAE Executive Council Member representing the South Pacific, Peter Clinton Foasese; and ASPBAE Executive Council Member representing Southeast Asia, Kim Anh Nguyen; along with Course faculty member, Anita Borkar (ASPBAE) – worked to ensure that the content designed was pertinent and relevant to the context of the participants. Regional Director for South and Southeast Asia, DVV International, Johann Heilmann, provided rich inputs on the SDGs and the relevance of Adult Learning and Education (ALE).

One of the most important segments of the BLDC were the site visits where participants had the opportunity to visit and interact with local organisations in Bogor which have demonstrated credible and sustained efforts to empower communities. An open-air session in the local Botanical Garden was highly innovative. The refreshing beauty of the garden lent itself to learning through simulation and other activities, followed by collective reflection and synthesis.



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The solidarity dinner and cultural evening were the icings on the cake! The exposure to diverse cultures through song, dance, stories, languages, and national dress made for a truly memorable evening. Special invitees for the cultural evening were the BLDC alumni based in Indonesia who shared how the BLDC had helped them in their work and personal lives.

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On the final day of the Course, participants were asked to prepare action plans reflecting on the learnings from the BLDC and ways of integrating them to the on-going work of their organisation where ASPBAE would provide technical and mentoring support for the completion of the action plans. These will be documented in the BLDC Tracer Study that aims to track and document BLDC alumni's application of learning from the BLDC, especially with respect to how those learnings support their work towards the SDGs and SDG 4.



**Course Directors for this BLDC were ASPBAE President, Nani Zulminarni; and Executive Council members Peter Clinton Foase (L) and Kim Anh Nguyen (R); along with ASPBAE's Anita Borkar who was the Course faculty member.**

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