

## Civil society forum held for coordinated advocacy in lead up to CONFINTEA Mid-Term Review

24 October 2017, Suwon, South Korea



ASPBAE and several of its members attend the CONFINTEA VI Mid-Term Review Conference.

The [International Council for Adult Education \(ICAE\)](#) played a major role in mobilising civil society organisations (CSOs) for the [CONFINTEA 6 Mid-Term Review \(MTR\)](#) held in South Korea. To ensure that civil society has a meaningful role and coordinated advocacy in the CONFINTEA MTR, ICAE organised a pre-meeting forum for CSOs to agree on key positions regarding youth and adult learning and education (YALE). The meeting also strategised how to advocate these positions strongly to governments and other decision makers.

The [civil society forum](#) was held with the theme ‘*Education 2030: From Commitment to Action*’ with the sub-theme, ‘*Civil society’s contribution to securing the right to education and lifelong learning for youth and adults*’. Almost a hundred participants from different regions in the world gathered to share the imperatives for pushing governments to give their full attention to realising quality youth and adult learning and education in each country.

The participants of the forum, led by ICAE, believed that the mobilisation of CSOs and social movements is necessary to support adult learners worldwide. Ensuring that the contributions and roles of CSOs are recognised in CONFINTEA MTR, the civil society forum was organised to –

1. Review progress on the Belém Framework for Action to inform the CONFINTEA 6 Mid-Term Review Conference
2. Deliberate on the main challenges and opportunities for the right to youth and adult education and lifelong learning in the current policy and development context
3. Strategise on its advocacy within the MTR processes and other related education and development policy arenas
4. Celebrate civil society’s achievements, learn from its rich and diverse experiences, forge solidarity, and collectively define coordinated ways forward
5. Strengthen the global movement to secure the right to the education of youth and adults



ASPBAE President, Nani Zulminarni, addressed the CSO Forum where she emphasised that this was the moment not only to celebrate the work of civil society in the past but to assess the challenges so that civil society can strategise its work and that with governments.

ASPBAE took the lead in the deliberations of the Asia Pacific group. ASPBAE’s Maria Khan (Secretary-General) and Anita Borkar facilitated the discussions on how youth and adult education can benefit adults in diverse country contexts. Many participants agreed that youth and adult learning and education (YALE) is pivotal not only for employment, but especially for transforming people’s lives and societies.

Participants from the South Pacific noted the importance of YALE in sustainable development as well as cultural cohesion. For the South Asians, YALE is deemed important for equipping the youth with decent work and ensuring their participation in community affairs. For Southeast Asians, YALE provides opportunities for out-of-school youth and illiterate adults to continue learning outside of the school system.

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**Kwak Nohyun of the 'Civil Alliance for Social Transformation Through Education (CIATE)', the national education coalition in Korea and an ASPBAE member, stressed that adult education lays the foundation for stronger and fuller democracy that respects the rule of law.**

The Asia Pacific group assessed the implementation of the CONFINTEA Belem Framework for Action in the region with a conversation starter from Rangachar Govinda from India, who also wrote the [Asia Pacific Report of the Global Report on Adult Learning and Education](#). A key concern discussed was on financing of adult learning and education across countries. Govinda mentioned the decreasing support for ALE and the need to “*integrate ALE in the mainstream budget*”. In the regional report and his discussion, Govinda stressed the need for “*integrating ALE into financial strategies across government departments and creating an integrated ALE strategy*”, as committed under Belem Framework for Action.

After the regional discussions, the participants, together with a panel of experts, shared their views on three thematic areas of YALE – (1) literacy and basic skills (2) professional development and vocational skills, and (3) liberal/popular/community education and active citizenship skills.

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ASPBAE Secretary General, Maria Khan facilitated the session focused on planning and strategising for the Mid-term Review Conference including shared work of civil society participants in the conference for effective lobbying and advocacy.

At the end of the Forum, CSOs agreed on a [civil society statement](#) which was disseminated and debated during the CONFINTEA VI Mid-Term Review discussions.

### ICAE holds Executive Committee meeting in lead-up to CONFINTEA 6 Mid-Term Review

21-23 October 2017, Suwon City, Korea

ICAE Executive Committee conducted its annual meeting prior to the CONFINTEA VI Mid-Term Review (MTR). The meeting discussed the 2018 Plan of Action for ICAE and its member's response to the challenges and opportunities linked to the active role of the global civil society network in the achievement of the SDGs, in particular, SDG4.

Intensive preparations resulted in the high profile presence and engagement of the different members of the ICAE Executive Committee and its members during the CONFINTEA MTR Conference.

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