

National education network in Myanmar (NNER) calls for education reforms in the country

16 December 2017, Dawei, Myanmar



ASPBAE member, National Network for Education Reform (NNER), Myanmar, held a meeting with the theme - 'Freedom of Education and Sustainable Development'. Participants engaged in discussions and deliberated on the national education reform in Myanmar.

ASPBAE member, National Network for Education Reform (NNER), Myanmar, held a meeting with the theme - 'Freedom of Education and Sustainable Development'. 150 participants from 69 civil society education groups, including student unions, teachers' unions, people with disabilities, and ethnic and faith-based education groups took part in the meeting. Participants engaged in discussions and deliberated on the national education reform in Myanmar.

In a statement formulated by NNER, the network highlighted its support for mother tongue-based multi-lingual education that is being implemented by ethnic-based education organisations for all children. NNER

supports this initiative as it believes the official recognition of ethnic-based education programmes are most effective in restoring and maintaining peace in fragile contexts. Furthermore, NNER emphasizes the importance of ensuring the democratic participation and the promotion of activities, capacities, and perspectives of education organisations as an essential political mandate for democracy.

NNER expresses concern that democratic political processes are weak in Myanmar that that instances of discrimination and intimidation of education groups are on the rise. It emphasises the need for more decentralised and transparent processes for the effective implementation of national education laws and education sector management.

NNER advocates that the Myanmar government should take the following for education reform in the country –

1. Officially recognise ethnic-based education programmes.
2. Recognise the right to self-determination in education.
3. Implement programmes effectively and in a timely manner to provide equal opportunities to a quality education for every child.
4. Effectively implement the education goal (SDG 4) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
5. Reform current national education laws and education management systems.
6. Ensure the right of participation and dialogue of all stakeholders, including student unions and teachers' unions, in determining education policies and education sector plans.
7. Ensure the right of citizens to form student and teacher unions independently.
8. Guarantee the right and the freedom of education and improve the quality of education and teacher professional development.



NNER expressed concern that democratic political processes are weak in Myanmar that that instances of discrimination and intimidation of education groups are on the rise. It emphasised the need for more decentralised and transparent processes for the effective implementation of national education laws and education sector management.

END