

National Workshop on Reorienting Teacher Education towards EFA and ESD in Thailand

25-29 April 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

Co-organized by
UNESCO Asia and the Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
UNESCO International Bureau of Education
Chulalongkorn University
Thai National Commission for UNESCO

Information Note

Background

With 3 to 4 years left to meet the goals of Education for All (EFA) and the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), there is an overwhelming need to embed EFA and ESD concepts firmly into the school curricula and to develop appropriate pedagogies, lesson plans and teaching materials.

To address this need, UNESCO Bangkok has implemented a project on *Reorienting Quality Teacher Education towards EFA and ESD* with the support of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust. The project aims to enhance the capacity of teachers who play a major role in transmitting knowledge, values, principles and skills to their students. One component of the project is to assist teacher educators and teachers to design and integrate ESD and EFA contents into their curricula and teaching materials.

UNESCO Bangkok has also collaborated with the International Bureau of Education (IBE), a UNESCO institute that specializes in curriculum policies, processes, content and methods, to produce four training modules on educational environment, natural-disaster risk education, climate change and gender sensitization. These modules are useful tools for supporting the capacity development of teacher education institutes in Asia under IBE's initiative to develop a global resource pack for curriculum development, containing eight modules with conceptual frameworks, training activities and case studies from all UNESCO regions.

Consequently, UNESCO Bangkok, IBE, Chulalongkorn University and the Thai National Commission for UNESCO are organizing a national workshop to enhance the capacity of teacher educators and teachers in incorporating ESD and EFA issues into teacher education and school curricula in Thailand. More specifically, the workshop will focus on six themes: environmental protection; climate change; gender sensitizing; intercultural understanding; human rights education and child-friendly schools.

The workshop programme will feature presentations from experts on the six themes to provide an overview of key issues within each theme. Examples of good practices will be showcased to demonstrate how they have been successfully implemented on the ground. These will serve to inspire and encourage educators in Thailand to develop their own projects and activities that are aligned to the local situation and context. Participants will be actively engaged in hands-on group work to reinforce the knowledge they will gain on the six themes. The intensive five-day workshop will also help to foster closer collaboration and

networking among teacher educator institutions and educators in Thailand to ensure continuing and sustainable support after the workshop.

The working languages will be Thai and English. Modules for three themes – environmental protection, climate change and gender sensitizing – will be translated into Thai and shared during the workshop to enhance the development of teaching and learning materials.

Objectives of the workshop

- Introduce teacher educators and teachers to the concepts, principles, values, context and content of six ESD and EFA thematic issues – climate change; gender sensitizing; intercultural understanding; human rights education and child-friendly schools;
- Examine how these concepts, principles, values, context and content can be incorporated into the teacher education/school curricula and teaching/learning materials;
- Promote action research to document ‘good practices’ of curriculum development, pedagogical approaches and institutional policies for ESD and EFA; and
- Facilitate collaboration in developing educational resources on these thematic issues as an integral part of teacher education and school curricula.

Expected outcomes

- Capacity of teacher education institutions in Thailand to develop and incorporate ESD/EFA contents into their teacher education programmes is enhanced.
- Knowledge and skills of teacher educators and teachers to teach ESD/EFA concepts and contents are increased.
- Good and innovative ESD/EFA practices are shared and put into use.
- Resource materials on ESD/EFA are developed and shared.
- ESD and EFA networks are enhanced and increased.

Participants

About 90 people are expected to be at the workshop, including:

- participants comprising deans, teacher educators and teachers from teacher education institutions and schools in Thailand
- resource persons/experts to facilitate the thematic sessions
- speakers to showcase successful EFA/ESD projects
- representatives from UNESCO, Chulalongkorn University and Thai National Commission for UNESCO

Dates

25-29 April 2011

Venue

Hotel Windsor Suites, Sukhumvit Soi 20, Bangkok, Thailand

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