

## Strengthening National Capacity for Sector-wide Planning to Achieve SDG4 in Asia-Pacific through South-South Cooperation

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### Asia-Pacific Regional Technical Capacity Development Workshop on Effective Planning of Education Sector for Achieving SDG4-Education 2030 July 24-28, 2017 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Background

In September 2015, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (SDGs) was adopted at the UN General Assembly, laying the way forward for creating a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable society. The SDG target 4 - ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all - clearly states the central importance of education. Subsequently, Education 2030 Framework for Action was officially adopted at the 38th UNESCO General Conference in November 2015, formally launching the Education 2030 actions. In the course of implementing the agenda, countries will be required to design targeted interventions to achieve inclusiveness and equity in education as well as measure effectiveness of education to improve quality and relevance of learning while ensuring efficiency and good governance. Education planning needs to change to meet these new challenges, and there are many lessons to be learned.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are increasingly looking at the Malaysia Education Blueprint as a model for developing an evidence-based and result-oriented education sector plan. Its process, starting with an in-depth analysis of the situation from both internal and external perspectives, followed by a strategic thinking process that produced a selected number of “shifts” leading to the identification of the priority programs and their targets, inspired many countries including Bhutan and Myanmar to follow in Malaysia’s footsteps. While the importance of evidence-based and result-oriented planning has been well recognized in many countries in the region, capacity at the national and sub-national levels remains limited.

In this context, UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok) launched a 2-year regional project titled “Strengthening National Capacity for Sector-wide Planning to Achieve SDG4 in Asia-Pacific through South-South Cooperation” with support from the Government of Malaysia via the Malaysia Funds-in-Trust under the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation

## **Strengthening National Capacity for Sector-wide Planning to Achieve SDG4 in Asia-Pacific through South-South Cooperation**

Programme. This project aims to build the Member States' capacity to develop and implement sector-wide, evidence-based and result-oriented education sector plans to meet the challenges of SDG4 through mutual learning and South-South cooperation. Specifically, the project aims to encourage countries to learn from Malaysia's experiences of the Education Blueprint, while enhancing sub-regional coordination mechanisms.

This 5-day regional workshop will be organized inviting at least 30 key education planners and managers from 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. The workshop will focus on developing technical and practical capacity of the education planners on evidence-based and result-oriented planning and management.

### **Objective of the Meeting**

Develop capacity of education planners of the selected countries in the Asia-Pacific region, with a particular focus on Least Developed Countries and emerging Middle Income Countries, to integrate the SDG4-Education 2030 agenda in their education sector plans and their implementation.

### **Expected Outputs of the Meeting**

- At least 30 education planners, of which 50% are women, from the selected countries become aware of the key components of Education Blueprints or Education Road Maps for achieving SDG4-Education 2030;
- Workshop participants are equipped with the key knowledge, skills and tools for evidence-based and participatory education planning;
- Participants become aware of the requirements for efficient and effective monitoring of the plan implementation; and
- Participating countries identified their potential challenges and next steps in integrating the SDG4-Education 2030 agenda into their national education plans and monitoring;

### **Topics covered**

Day 1	
AM	Stock-taking <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What is SDG4? Unpacking SDG4 and what has been done at the global, regional, and national levels.</li><li>- What are the implications of the SDG4-Education 2030 commitments to education planning?</li></ul>
PM	Countries' experiences to integrate SDG4 into national planning: progress and challenges Malaysian experience in developing and implementing Education Blueprint

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Day 2	
AM	Sector analysis/diagnosis: analyzing the current situation of the sector and the context
PM	Policy formulation: setting visions, goals and strategies
Day 3	
AM	Plan operationalization: defining precise objectives and the means to achieving them
PM	Resource planning: identifying resources required for plan implementation
Day 4	
AM	Study visit to the Malaysian authorities and schools
PM	Action Planning
Day 5	
AM	Monitoring and Evaluation
PM	Next Steps

### **Partnership**

The workshop is being organized by UNESCO Bangkok and the Malaysia Ministry of Education (Performance and Delivery Unit and Education Planning and Research Unit) in collaboration with UNICEF. As much as possible, Malaysian expertise and experiences will be used during the workshop.

### **Participants**

Two senior officials who are in charge of planning, statistics and/or monitoring from each of the selected 16 countries.

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