

Mission Report

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum on ICT in Education

13-14 July 2011
Manila, Philippines

By Tinsiri Siribodhi

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| Organizers: | UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Department of Education, Philippines, SEAMEO INNOTECH, World Bank and Intel Corporation. |
| Background | <p>The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum on ICT in Education is an annual forum which was initiated by UNESCO in 2010. The 1st Forum was organized in Bangkok in November 2010. SEAMEO RIHED took part in the 1st Forum. The SEAMEO ICT Integration in Education publication was distributed at the Forum.</p> <p>The 2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Forum was held in Manila in July 2011. The theme of the Forum is “Evaluation and Assessment: Effective and Safe Use of ICT in Education”.</p> |
| Participants: | <p>The 79 participants were Ministers, high level officials of the Ministry of Education, educators, and experts in ICT in Education from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Canada, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom, United States and Vietnam.</p> <p>International organizations such as SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO INNOTECH, UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank, Intel Corporation and Microsoft also attended the forum.</p> |
| Objectives | To serve as a regular platform to share experience and discuss strategies on the roles and uses of technology in education in the region. |
| Interesting points | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Brother Armin Luistro, the Secretary of the Department of Education and former SEAMEO Council President gave an opening remark which inspired all participants. He started by pointing out the potential use of ICT to make quality education accessible to all learners. He said that ICT plays an important role in improving quality education through comprehensive practices. He then provided some examples of ICT projects in the Philippines such as Text2Teach project, using mobile phone, and Misosa project for community development. He said that it is important to make technology accessible because ICT is a tool for development. He ended by saying that we need to equip learners with the competency for the future and one of the competencies is ICT skill. |

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| | <p>2. Mr. Anjan Ghosh, the Regional Director Corporate Affairs of Intel Corporation stated that there are significant links between “Economic growth and Innovation of Education”. These links are via 1) digital and 21st century skill, 2) employability: nurture innovation and capacity building, 3) entrepreneurship (social and technological). He said that we need to help students to have confident to solve the day to day issues intelligently.</p> <p>3. Dr. Gwang-Jo Kim, the Director of UNESCO Bangkok shared information on recent development on ICT in Education of some countries in the Asia Pacific. For example, the E-content project of South Korea. The government of South Korea plans to convert all text books into digital format by 2015. Students can access the digital textbooks through smart phone, tablet PC and smart television.</p> <p>He also mentioned about problems from cyber bullying among schools students and teenagers. He encouraged policy makers to set up “Cyber Safety” policy in their relevant countries. He concluded with some pertaining issues which policy makers need to seriously take into consideration. These issues are sustainability of investment in ICT in Education and the development of proper tool for monitoring ICT in Education (access, education management, pedagogy and learning outcomes).</p> <p>4. Mr. David Miles from the Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) gave a presentation on the FOSI Grid Project which is the global resource and information directory of online safety. It can be viewed via http://www.fosigrid.org/</p> <p>5. Ms. Priscilla Hoveyda, UNICEF Digital Safety Initiative presented a very interesting project titled, “Digital Citizenship and Safety”. She gave the definition of the digital citizenship as “ability to judge, create, navigate, and consume digital content and services in an optimal and safe way”. She showed some projects in South Africa and Russia which youth take an active role in developing digital safety practices and procedures. She concluded by proposing the policy makers to consider “evidence-based policy initiative” to address this issue.</p> <p>6. Mr. Jaywon Lee, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology shared a concept of “Green Digital for All” and “Infollution zero” (information+pollution). He suggested several effective and safe use of ICT in Education. In addition, he gave examples of law and registrations from some countries such as Germany, USA, Japan, China, Korea, and Thailand in Cyber safety. He emphasized on the development of “Clean digital environment” and awareness of “green digital culture”.</p> |
| Task | 1. Represented Dr. Witaya, the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat who |

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| Performed | <p>was invited as a distinguished guest to the forum.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Established connection with potential partners: UNICEF New York (Digital Safety Initiative), Intel Regional Director Corporate Affairs. 3. Explore possible collaboration with UNICEF New York on Digital Safety in Southeast Asia. 4. Promoted SEAMEO publication, "Report of ICT in Education Implementation in Southeast Asia" to the Republic of Korea 5. Note: attended the Forum only the 1st day. |
| Attachment | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agenda 2. List of participants |