



Mission Report

The Learning Metrics Task Force (LMTF) Forum 4-6 February 2015 Kigali, Rwanda

A. SEAMEO Official on Mission

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B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

The main purpose of this forum would be to help countries to improve learning through the implementation and analysis of learning assessments, and the use of their results to inform policy makers. Taking a partnership approach, this forum would focus on building national capacity for all of these activities, and promote the use of equity lens throughout them. It would also play a convening role for regional and international assessments, supporting the country-level work and promoting the comparability of measures. Through an emphasis on transparency, this forum would further promote the availability of data on learning outcomes at both country and global levels.

The objectives of the meeting:

- To present the results of Learning Champions' national mapping and planning exercises as well as to receive feedback and to finalize for moving forward with the implementation;
- To present conceptual and practical guidance on key aspects of the strategic dimensions of LMTF with which Learning Champions are experimenting;
- To clarify the roles and relationships of the LMTF Secretariat and Task Force members (globally and at the country level) and specify strategies and actions to undertake after the forum to provide appropriate support to and follow-up of Learning Champions;
- To identify available tools, technical assistance, and potential funding sources to implement Learning Champion plans; and
- To cultivate a sense of common mission and collaboration among the Learning Champions and identify concrete strategies for supporting consultation and cooperation after the forum within (and across) regions.

C. Participants

Participants included the Learning Champions from the MOEs/Education Offices of Argentina, Colombia, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Zambia, Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia and Canada.

Participants also included the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), Brookings India, Campaign for Female Education (Camfed), COSYDEP (Coalition des Organisations en Synergie pour la Defense de l'Education Publique), Dubai Cares, Educate!, FHI 360, Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) Youth Advocacy Group, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Inter-American Development Bank, International Education Funders Group (IEFG), International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), Jordan Education Initiative,

Korea Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE), Office of Julia Gillard, Porticus, Pratham, Save the Children, USAID, UK Department for International Development (DFID), UNESCO, UNICEF, University of Warwick and Rwanda Education NGO Coordination Platform (RENCP).

D. Organizers

Centre for Universal Education (CUE) at the Brookings Institution and UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) were the two organizers of this forum.

E. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points

- The forum began with the welcome remarks by the Hon. Prof. Silas Lwakabamba, Rwanda Minister of Education followed by the overview of the meeting objectives by the Chair, Hon. Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia, Brookings Distinguished Fellow and GPE Chair.
- CUE then gave an overview of the LMTF and its history. Subsequently, the participants were divided into five groups and the Learning Champions made presentations in their assigned group. These were done concurrently. The presentations were about the progress including issues and challenges on the implementation of their assessment projects in their own country.
- The keynote speeches were given by Dzingai Mutumbuka of ADEA and Seamus Hegarty of University of Warwick titled “Making the Case for Learning Assessment: Technical and Political Considerations”.
- The second day of the forum started with the first panel session with the key topic as “Beyond Literacy and Numeracy” and followed by small group sessions to develop takeaways. Throughout the day, the panel sessions were carried out similarly with Panel 1 session. The Panel 2 session focused on “Assessment across the Education Universe” whereby the Panel 3 session focused on “Using Assessment Implementation and Results to Inform Policy and Practice”. The last panel of the day discussed on the “International Platform on Assessing Learning” that ended with an open forum. The organizers held a welcoming dinner to all participants at Heaven Restaurant Rwanda.
- The last day of the forum convened the participants into five group work to support the Learning Champions and later, it ended with the regional break-out group sessions. Finally, the forum concluded with the closing remarks by the Chair.
- The panelists and their presentation topics for the Panel 1 session were:
 - Angelica Towne of Educate! on “Infusing Entrepreneurship into Ugandan National Examinations”
 - Miguel Caro, Bogota Secretary of Education on “Assessing Citizenship and Civic Skills in Bogota”
 - Annie Kidder of People for Education on “The Impact of School Climate on Learning”
 - Kate Anderson of CUE on “Measuring Global Citizenship & Readiness to Learn”
- The panelists and their presentation topics for the Panel 2 session were:
 - Joseph Karuga of Kenya Primary Schools Head Teachers Association (KEPSHA) on “Classroom Level Assessment in Kenya”
 - Mohamad Matar of The Palestinian Commission for Mathematics on “The Palestinian Experience: Engagement in National & International Assessment”
 - Emmanuel Muvunyi of MOE Rwanda on “Regional Assessments: A Rwandan Perspective on PASEQ & SACMEQ”

- Maya Prince of UIS on “Documenting Assessment Experiences and Developing Global Indicators for Monitoring Learning Outcomes”
- The panelists and their presentation topics for the Panel 3 session were:
 - Saba Saeed (Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi) and Usha Rane (Pratham) on “Impacts of ASER on Classroom Practice and Community Decisions around Schools”
 - Mercedes Miguel, Buenos Aires Secretary of Education on “Using the LMTF Domains across the Curriculum in Buenos Aires”
 - Suzanne Grant and Estelle Zadra of IIEP on “Planning for Improved Learning – The Plan4Learning Portal”
 - Hon. Julia Gillard of CUE & GPE on “Australian MySchool Platform and the Potential for a Global MySchool”

F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO Secretariat

The SEAMEO Secretariat staff participated actively in the forum especially in the working group sessions by sharing with the participants the details of the implementation of the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM). The discussions focused on the advocacy and the buy-in from SEAMEO Member Countries on the implementation of the regional assessment (SEA-PLM) as well as how the domains were decided.

The SEAMEO Secretariat staff proposed to present and share about the implementation of the SEA-PLM for the next LMTF meeting.

E. Pictures



SEAMES with Hon. Julia Gillard, the Forum Chair and Dzingai Mutumbuka of ADEA



Solange Mukayiranga of MOE Rwanda promoting Learning Achievement in Rwandan Schools (LARS) Initiative



Joseph Karuga of KEPSHA made presentation on "Classroom Level Assessments in Kenya"



Hon. Julia Gillard made presentation on “Australian MySchool Platform and the Potential for a Global MySchool” during the Plenary Session



Angelica Towne of Educate! during Q&A session on “Infusing Entrepreneurship into Ugandan National Examinations”



Small group session to support the Learning Champions headed by Preethi Nampoothiri of CUE



Small group session to support the Learning Champions headed by Kate Anderson of CUE