



## **Mission Report**

### **World Education Forum 2015**

19-22 May 2015  
Incheon, Republic of Korea

Prepared by  
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#### **A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission**

1. Kanchulee Punyain, Programme Officer III

#### **B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity**

##### **Background and Description**

1. The World Education Forum is a premium body comprising representatives from governments, education departments, and major organizations involved in education and related activities across the world.
2. In April 2000, the participants of the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, adopted the Dakar Framework for Action "Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitment". The conference, which was held in the international conference centre of the Le Méridien Président Hotel, Dakar, involved over 1,000 national leaders, United Nations agency heads, education policy-makers, non- governmental organizations, business leaders, donors and grassroots workers from over 100 countries. They reaffirmed the vision of the World Declaration on Education for All adopted ten years earlier (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990) and committed to the attainment of six goals, supported by 12 strategies, in order to meet the basic learning needs of all children, youth and adults.
3. In September 2000, world leaders came together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the UN Millennium Declaration, committing to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of targets that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and included two goals related to universal primary education and to gender equality in education, acknowledging the pivotal role of education in human development.
4. The World Education Forum 2015 (WEF 2015) provide a unique platform for global leaders in education, ministers, policy-makers and representatives of civil society, teachers, experts and the private sector to take stock of achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of the EFA goals and education-related MDGs, and to agree on a joint position for the education goal and targets in the post-2015 development agenda, which will be adopted by UN Member States at a Summit in September 2015. It is also an opportunity for the international education community to chart the way for the implementation of the post-2015 education agenda through a Framework for Action.

5. The WEF's outcome is fully aligned to the education goal and targets of the global development agenda to be adopted at the UN High-Level Summit in September 2015, so as to have one single education agenda for 2015-2030.

### **C. Objectives**

Objectives of the WEF 2015 are to

1. Take stock of achievements and shortfalls in the implementation of the Dakar Framework for Action and the education-related MDGs during the period 2000-2015
2. Agree on a joint position for the education goal and targets in the post-2015 development agenda, which will be adopted by UN Member States at a Summit in September 2015
3. Agree on a comprehensive Framework for Action to guide and support the implementation of the future education agenda.

### **D. Participants**

Approximately 1500 global leaders in education, policy makers and representatives of civil society, UN agencies, multilateral and regional organizations, the teaching profession, youth, the private sector, the media and experts.

### **E. Organizer/s**

1. UNESCO, jointly with UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women and the World Bank as co-conveners.
2. The Government of the Republic of Korea hosted the forum.

### **F. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points**

1. On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015,

#### Opening Ceremony

- i. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the event. "Education secures human rights, including health and employment," he told the 1500 participants that education is also essential to fighting security threats, including the rise of violent extremism.
- ii. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova spoke at the opening of WEF 2015. She emphasized on the power of education to eradicate poverty, transform lives and make breakthroughs on all the Sustainable Development Goals.
- iii. President of the Republic of Korea, Park Geun-hye, also spoke at the opening of WEF 2015. She mentioned that education was the foundation of the Miracle on the Han River and pledged to help other countries accomplish their own miracles. Korea, with its advanced information and communications Technology (ICT), can and will make a great contribution to lifting the quality of global education to the next level by applying ICT to education so that people can have easier access to learning.

#### High-level panel debate: "Setting the stage"

This session stimulate a debates on the future of education, drawing on the findings of the independent EFA Global Monitoring Report 2015, the regional analyses of some 120 National EFA 2015 Reviews and the publication "Rethinking Education: Towards a global common good"

- i. 2015 marks the deadline for achieving the six Education for all (EFA) goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established in 2000. The Forum take stock of progress made over the past 15 years, consider remaining and new challenges, and prepare a road map for addressing them within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be adopted by the United Nations in September.
- ii. Collective efforts over the past 15 years resulted in unprecedented progress in education. According to UNESCO's Institute for Statistics, there were 76 million fewer

out-of-school children and adolescents in 2012 than in 2000. During the same period, around 67 million more children received pre-primary education and approximately 50 million more enrolled in primary school

- iii. EFA agenda remains unfinished business. This year's EFA Global Monitoring Report (GMR) shows that there are still some 57 million primary age children and 63 million adolescents out of school and about 781 million illiterate adults globally. The GMR also estimates that it will cost an additional \$22 billion each year to ensure universal pre-primary, primary and lower secondary education by 2030.

## 2. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Plenary Session

### Education 2030- Proposed Agenda and Framework for Action

- i. This session discussed the overall 2030 education agenda and Framework for Action, and the draft WEF 2015 Declaration.
- ii. The Framework for Actions aims at mobilizing all countries and partners around an ambitious global goal and targets, and proposes ways of implementing, coordinating, financing and monitoring the 2030 education agenda-globally, regionally and nationally - to ensure equal education opportunity for all. Hereafter, the 2030 education agenda will be referred to as Education 2030.
- iii. Education 2030 is an integral part of the sustainable development agenda, forming Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The new education agenda is a shared, comprehensive vision. It was developed through a broad consultative process that led to the Muscat Agreement, adopted at the Global EFA Meeting in May 2014. That agreement has informed the global education goal and its associated targets and means of implementation, as proposed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG).

## 3. On 21<sup>th</sup> May 2015, High-Level Statements and Closing Ceremony

High-level representatives of different stakeholders made public commitments to implement the proposed education agenda before the forum is officially closed.

## **G. Role/Participation of SEAMEO**

SEAMEO Secretariat was invited to attend the WEF 2015 as a participant.

## **H. Side Meeting/s** n/a

## **I. Follow-up Actions Needed**

- i. Work together with the entire stakeholder in implementing 2030 Education Agenda.
- ii. Give Feedback from the World Education Forum 2015 at 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Thematic Working Group on EFA on Friday, 29 May 2015

## **J. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs**

1. Draft Concept Note
2. Programme
3. Draft Incheon Declaration
4. Summary of the comments received from Member States and other stakeholders on the Draft Declaration and the Draft Framework for Action
5. Framework for Action



Opening Ceremony On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015



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