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Educational, Scientific and
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Process of Regional Benchmarks on SDG4

Asia-Pacific Updates to the TCG

7th TCG Meeting
27-29 October 2020

Regional SDG4 Coordination and Regional Thematic Working Group(TWG) Education 2030+

- Well-established regional coordination mechanism- Since EFA period
- Serve as a regional platform for
 - Advocating and promoting SDG4/policy dialogue in the region;
 - Exchanging and sharing information and experience among the Member States and Regional Institutions
 - Liaising with global, other regional/sub-regional, national bodies on SDG4 within the context of SDGs
- More than 20 regional and sub-regional bodies on Education including – SEAMEO, SAARC,PIF.
- Sub-groups on MLE, Gender, ECCE, Disability
- Co-chair: UNESCO Bangkok and UNICEF EAPRO and UNICEF ROSA

Potential Roles TCG on Regional benchmarks

- Promote and advocate the important of Regional Benchmarking in the context of Mid-Term Review
- Coordinate the process of benchmarks in the region with sub regional bodies;
- Contribute in technical work of setting regional/sub-regional benchmarks with UIS and relevant partners; (Sub-Thematic working groups on ECCE, MLE, Disability)
- Joint Capacity development support (UIS and other relevant regional bodies) to the Member States in the region



Some relevant Activities on SDG4 Monitoring

1. Organization of regional SDG4-Education 2030 meetings, including APMED
 - Annual Event to discuss policies, strategies, programmes and monitoring of SDG4 at national level
 - To strengthen the network of national SDG4 coordinators
 - To develop key regional strategies, communiquees and advocacies
2. Organization of periodic regional monitoring exercises
 - 5 Years Progress Report of SDG4 in Asia and the Pacific
 - Plan to conduct Mid- Term Review of SDG4 in the region 2022-23
 - Setting benchmarks can help in monitoring in the region

Future events to discuss benchmarks

- Discuss “Benchmarks – process and TWGs role” in the TWG-SDG4- Education 2030 meeting on 3rd November 2020
- Forthcoming Asia Pacific Regional Ministerial Meeting (APREC), 2nd Quarter of 2021 (Political Level)
- Asia Pacific SDG-4 Coordinators’ Meeting on Education (APMED) in 2021 (Technical Level)

Sub Regional Bodies and Process of regional benchmarks



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Monitoring activities in the region

SEAMEO

- SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2021-2030 in addition to the 2015 Education Agenda Targets and Indicators
- SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2021-2030
- SEA-PLM

ASEAN

- ASEAN SDG Indicators Baseline Report and the ASEAN Online Database for SDG Indicators was launched on 23 October 2020 through ASEAN Community Statistical System
- The ASEAN SDG Indicators Baseline Report 2020 and ASEAN Online Database for SDG Indicators are together a priority economic deliverable for Viet Nam's Chairmanship. The ASEAN SDG Indicators Baseline Report 2020 aims to establish the baseline information of the SDG indicators being tracked and measured in the region

Monitoring activities....

SPC

- Drafting the Status of Pacific Education report which includes selected SDG 4 indicators for monitoring the PacREF
- Preparing national education system infographics for key key PacREF indicators for each of the countries
- Publishing the SDG4 global ad thematic indicators in the SPC data hub
- Progress report on PacREF for Pacific Heads of Education System (PHES) and Forum Education Minister' Meeting (FEDMM)

SAARC

- Framework of action is endorsed by minister meeting in Maldives
- Draft regional monitoring mechanism developed with support of UENSCO and UNICEF has been presented in a regional workshop and will presented to Senior officials meeting in order to recommend to a Ministerial Meeting

Education Agenda/strategies and Monitoring Frameworks in the Region

	Education agenda / strategy	Monitoring framework	Report on strategy / monitoring framework	Targets and benchmarks in monitoring framework
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	Work Plan on Education 2016-2020		Yes	No
Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2021-2030 – Education Agenda 2035 – SEA PLM 	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)	SAARC Framework for Action Education 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drafted - need refinement and endorsement by MS 	Yes	No
SPC Pacific Community (Education Quality Assessment Programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PacREF 2018-2030 - PILNA 	Yes	Yes	No



Steps / anticipated meetings to reach a ministerial/higher level decision on benchmarks for the 7 indicators

South East Asia

SEAMEO

- High Officials Meeting (HOM/Vice Ministers Meeting) - 30 November 2020
- SEAMEO Councils of Ministers Meeting - Singapore, May 30, 2021

ASEAN

- The proposal of setting up benchmarks will be presented to Senior Official Meeting of Education (SOMED) – 18 November 2020

South Asia (SAARC)

- Education Ministerial Meeting in Nepal- end of 2021

Pacific

- Forum Education Ministers' Meetings (FEEdMM) March 2021
- Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES) March 2021

Regional Specificities that can accelerate or delay the process towards benchmarks

- Strong awareness among regional partners and Regional coordination mechanism exist e.g. TWG for SDG4- 2030
- Availability of baseline data – new data on learning for South East Asia (SEA-PLM) and Pacific (PLM)
- Countries in the region are progressing with setting up of monitoring mechanism – efficiency in data generation

Challenges

- Consulting with countries which are not under any sub regional bodies e.g. East Asian and Central Asia countries
- Difficulty in organizing high level meeting to endorse the benchmarks due to the political reasons (some sub region)
- Not having clear baseline data (Pacific) for many countries, it might be difficult to set benchmarks for some of the proposed indicators
- The regional benchmark could be influenced heavily by some of the countries progress due to population size such as PNG in the case of Pacific. Such variations could bring difficulty in agreeing the benchmarks.
- Endorsing the regional benchmarks should go through complex political processes. Agree on common benchmarks might not be that easy and need lots of consultation and discussions and could delay the process.
- any delays in the organization of scheduled meetings due to covid-19 pandemic could delay the process

Thank you Very Much