

# PROMOTING **LIFELONG LEARNING** FOR ALL

## Recommendations to the **Ministers of Education of Southeast Asian Countries** From Seminar on Lifelong Learning Policy Frameworks in the Southeast Asian Countries

# Seminar on National Policy Frameworks for Lifelong Learning in ASEAN Countries

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- held in Ha Noi on 10 and 11 January 2013
- co-organised by the **Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training**, the **UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning** and **UNESCO in Viet Nam** with the support of the **UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok** and **dvv international** (the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association)
- 150 participants from seven countries

## considering that...

### ***Background***

- ASEAN countries cover a land area of **4.49 million km<sup>2</sup>**, 3% of the world's total land area, and have a population of approximately **610 million people**, 9% of the world's total
- In the last decade, the ASEAN members have made **considerable progress in social and economic development**
- However, they continue to face **critical development challenges**, such as **growing disparities in access to quality education** and other **basic social services**, **uneven progress in reducing poverty**, and **environmental problems**
- These challenges have created **significant barriers** to building **inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies** in the region.

## considering that...

### ***Background***

- Based on the motto, "One Vision, One Identity, One Community", ASEAN has emphasized regional cooperation through the three pillars of security cooperation, socio-cultural integration, and economic integration.
- Education and learning lie at the core of ASEAN's development process as it seeks to forge a common identity and build caring and sharing societies where the welfare of the peoples are enhanced.
- Education and learning can help to create a sense of belonging to a single ASEAN socio-cultural community, with appreciation for the richness of the region's history, languages, cultures and common values.

Stemming from this vision, the education ministers of ASEAN countries have defined **four priority educational efforts:**

1. *Promoting awareness of ASEAN among member states' citizens, particularly youth;*
2. *Strengthening ASEAN's identity through education;*
3. *Building human resources in the field of education in ASEAN member states; and*
4. *Strengthening ASEAN's university network.*

# Rationale

To realise ASEAN's aspirations, there is an urgent need to promote the concept of lifelong learning for all and to build a learning society in the region. It is critical that in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, **priority is given to lifelong learning for all and building a learning society**, for the following reasons:

(2) By adopting lifelong learning for all as a master concept for education reform, continuous learning allows a region to foster a more equitable society. Lifelong learning can be planned, expanded and transformed to cater to the changing needs of ASEAN member states. Lifelong learning enhances well-being and ensures that all ASEAN citizens are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for sustainable development and prosperity. Formal, non-formal and informal learning opportunities become providers of lifelong learning opportunities for all learners (infants, children, adolescents and adults).

**We thus propose to the Ministers of Education of  
Southeast Asian countries the following  
recommendations:**

## On policy and legislation

1. To develop national policy or legislation to promote lifelong learning for all as integral to national social and economic development and as a key component in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals;
2. To establish national coordination mechanisms by involving all related government departments, the private sector, civil society, development partners and other stakeholders;
3. To design and implement monitoring mechanisms to measure and report on progress, achievements and lesson learned, and to facilitate evidence-based policy developments;

## On finance

- To increase financial resources in compliance with legislation and policy to promote lifelong learning for all and allocate an equitable share of investment across sub-sectors of education and training;
- To develop mechanisms to mobilise additional funding and other resources from the public and private sectors, social organisations and individuals;

## *On provision of learning opportunities and enhancement of quality*

- To expand the provision of rich and diversified learning opportunities;
- To create learner-friendly environments that meet the learning needs of all, giving special attention to disadvantaged and marginalized groups to achieve gender equality and social inclusion;
- To take concrete measures to make education structures, curricula and teaching-learning practices more oriented to lifelong learning;
- To enhance the use of ICTs and the development of multilingual open learning resources;

## *On awareness-raising:*

- To promote common understanding of the concepts of lifelong learning for all and the learning society through open discussion and consultation between all sectors;
- To regenerate public awareness of the values of education and learning as keys to development, prosperity, harmony and happiness;

## *On regional collaboration:*

- To develop an ASEAN policy framework on lifelong learning for all;
- To set up an ASEAN lifelong learning fund to support innovative initiatives promoting lifelong learning for all in ASEAN countries;
- To strengthen collaboration on research and capacity building to promote lifelong learning for all;
- To promote the recognition, validation and accreditation of the outcomes of all forms of learning, leading eventually to an ASEAN Lifelong Learning Qualification Framework.
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# Thank You