



10th APFSD

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27-30 March 2023



Special Event | 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Transforming Education Now and for the Future We Want: TES National Follow-up Actions to Move towards the Achievement of SDG 4

Thursday, 30 March 2023
9:00 am – 12:00 pm (GMT +7)

Organizers

UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, UNICEF East-Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) and UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA).

The event is co-organized under the overall umbrella of the Asia-Pacific Learning and Education 2030+ (LE2030+) Networking Group.

Description

The global Transforming Education Summit (TES), convened at the United Nations in September 2022 by the UN Secretary-General (UNSG), elevated education to the top of the global and national political agendas and mobilized action, solidarity and solutions to recover learning losses, address the learning crisis, transform education systems, and renew momentum towards achieving SDG 4.

TES resulted in a [Vision Statement by the UNSG](#), ‘Transforming Education: An urgent political imperative for our collective future’,¹ in which the principles for education in the twenty-first century are put forward, and which emphasizes the need to rethink the purpose and content of education so as to achieve a ‘truly transformative education’, one which ‘should respond to local, national and global needs, cultures and capacities...[and] promote the holistic development of all learners throughout their lives, supporting them to realize their aspirations and to contribute to their families, communities and societies.’²

¹ See: [Vision Statement of Secretary-General on Transforming Education | United Nations](#)

² Ibid, p. 2



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To meet this goal, transforming education in the following areas is required:

- Ensuring a learning environment that supports the development of all learners
- Enabling teachers to transform themselves and become agents of change
- Harnessing the digital revolution for the benefit of public education
- Investing more, more equitably, and more efficiently in education

Above all, the UNSG statement reminds the world that education is a fundamental human right, and it is a principle for society to ensure the right to quality education throughout life. Education can also help to advance realization of other rights.

Notably, as a result of extensive national consultations convened by Member States prior to the Summit, 133 [National Statements of Commitment](#) to transform education were submitted, of which 29 were from the Asia-Pacific region, and which 65 Heads of States/Governments delivered during the Summit.

In these Statements, countries commit to take action to transform their education systems, including ensuring COVID-19 recovery, building resilience to future shocks, addressing educational exclusion, transforming the teaching profession, renewing curriculum content and methods, enhancing digital learning, increasing financing of education, governing education as a common good, and engaging youth.

At the Summit itself, five Global Initiatives/Calls to Action³ were launched to support countries to improve their education systems, namely by making these systems more inclusive and resilient to future challenges, including: greening education; providing digital learning for all; providing foundational learning and addressing the learning crisis; and advancing gender equality and education in crisis situations. The Summit also resulted in a 'Call to Action on Transforming Education Financing', and the establishment of the International Financing Facility for Education; as well as a Youth Declaration. Moreover, a proposal for the establishment of a Global Commission on the Teaching Profession, and a Global Youth Initiative, emerged from the Summit process.

The future success of this extraordinary mobilization for education hinges upon the actions that countries will now take to deliver on their National Statements of Commitment, which will also reinforce the implementation of SDG 4. Led by countries, the Summit follow-up requires collective efforts and multi-stakeholder engagement from the local to the national levels, no less a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, all supported by the international community and other stakeholders at both the regional and global levels.

Given this perspective, this Special Event, **'Transforming Education Now and for the Future We Want: TES National Follow-up Actions to Move towards the**

³ [Calls to Action | United Nations](#)



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Achievement of SDG 4, taking place six months after TES, will focus on how countries from the Asia-Pacific region have operationalized their commitments, review progress made, to date, and seek to understand how countries have so far engaged with TES's global initiatives.

The Special Event is organized as an associated event of the **10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)**, which will take place from 27 to 30 March 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The annual APFSD, organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with UN partner organizations, is an inclusive intergovernmental forum and the agreed platform for follow-up and review of the SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region, its work ultimately feeding into the global High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), as well as supporting national progress assessment. This year's forum is organized on the theme, 'Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific'.

The associated Special Event is organized by UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok), UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (UNICEF EAPRO) and the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA), under the auspices of ESCAP. It is scheduled to take place on **30 March 2023, from 9.00 to 12.00 (GMT +7)**.

This Event will provide a platform for participating countries from Asia and the Pacific to share and learn from good practices and innovations they have initiated to transform their education systems and address the learning crisis, contributing to SDG 4 and realizing the right to education for all.

Speakers representing governments and other education stakeholders from the region will discuss priority actions, innovations, progress made, bottlenecks, and more equitable and efficient financing, within the general framework of building more equitable, inclusive and resilient education systems, focusing on three priority areas, namely 1) Transformation of teaching and learning: curriculum, pedagogy and assessment; 2) Climate change education and making education systems more climate resilient; and 3) Digital learning and transformation.

This Special Event also aims at enhancing regional and South-South cooperation and partnership.

Expected Outcomes

- Information exchanged on good practices, innovations and experiences in translating National Statements of Commitment on transforming education into practice



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- Knowledge enhanced on key challenges, bottlenecks and solutions, including the contribution of the implementation to SDG 4 achievement in the region
- Fostering of regional cooperation and partnerships, including South-South collaboration for TES follow-up and the implementation of SDG 4

Speakers

Representatives of Governments from across the region including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, the Philippines and Thailand, and education institutions from the Republic of Korea and Thailand will illustrate how TES commitments can be implemented at the country level.

Participants

Selected Member States from Asia and the Pacific and key education stakeholders

Youth Involvement

The follow-up of TES should continue to involve and engage youth as active agents of change and include youth in the processes of implementing policy and systematic changes to education stakeholders and governments.

Watch the [Youth Declaration Process on Transforming Education](#). The **Youth Declaration** (available in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Spanish](#),) aims to drive political commitment on the need to transform education and build young people's ownership over this process. In total, an estimated 450,000 young people worldwide have made contributions to the process.

Working language

English will be the working language of the meeting.

Format

Hybrid: In-person attendance and online Zoom conferencing

Date and Venue

Thursday 30 March 2023
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (GMT +7)

Conference Room 3, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok
and via Zoom conferencing



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Registration

To participate in the session, kindly ensure that the registration is completed and submitted online in advance of the meeting, and no later than Friday, **24 March 2023**.

- Please register on both (**two**) links:
 1. Registration to the **Special Event on ‘Transforming Education Now’**:
<https://forms.microsoft.com/e/gTtbZKR13b>
 2. Registration to the **10th APFSD**:
<https://indico.un.org/event/1003108/>
For participants of the Special Event, please select the category ‘Others’ (Media, Side Events, SDG Acceleration Pavilion, Roundtables, Associated Events, etc.).
Once registered, you will receive an approval email from ESCAP (process may take about 2-3 days).
To enter the UNCC building during APFSD, registering to the main Forum is required in order to facilitate security clearance and entrance to the premises.

Please find the information note, guidance note for online participation, and provisional agenda on the Special Event page: <http://bit.ly/3YJsZuk>

Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda
8:45 – 9:00	Coffee/Tea
9:00 – 9:10	<p>Welcoming and opening remarks</p> <p>Mr Shigeru Aoyagi Director, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok)</p> <p>Introductory Remarks (Video message)</p> <p>Ms Stefania Giannini Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO</p> <p>Mr Robert Jenkins Global Director of Education and Adolescent Development, UNICEF</p>
9:10 – 9:15	<p>Setting the scene</p> <p>Ms Margarete Sachs-Israel Chief, Inclusive Quality Education Section, UNESCO Bangkok</p>



9:15 – 10:20	<p>PART I:</p> <p>Moderator: Dr Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat</p> <p>Towards a more resilient education system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transformation through learning how to learn: New Curriculum, pedagogy and assessment at secondary level education in Bangladesh <i>Hon. Dr Dipu Moni, Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, Bangladesh</i>• The Philippines Basic Education reform Agenda: <i>MATATAG: Bansang Makabata, Batang Makabansa</i> <i>Assistant Secretary Alma Ruby C. Torio, Assistant Secretary for Curriculum and Instruction Department of Education, Republic of the Philippines</i>• Contextualizing the Transformative Education Summit <i>Dr. Hari Prasad Lamsal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal</i>• The equitable and innovative funding model of education funding of the Equitable Education Fund (Thailand) and its programs <i>Dr. Kraiyos Patrawart, Managing Director, Equitable Education Fund (EEF), Thailand</i> <p>Q & A and Discussion</p>
10:20 – 11.45	<p>Part II:</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Mitsue Uemura, Regional Education Advisor, UNICEF EAPRO</p> <p>Transformation of teaching and learning: curriculum, pedagogy and assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Merdeka Belajar Road to Transforming Education in Indonesia <i>Dr Anindito Aditomo, S.Psi., M.Phil., Ph.D., Deputy Minister for Educational Standards, Curriculum, and Assessment, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, Republic of Indonesia</i>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia’s Spotlight on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy <i>Dr Bo Chankoulika, Director of the Department of Policy, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia</i> <p>Digital learning and transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Transformation of Education: A Case from the Republic of Korea <i>Dr Jongwon Seo, Director, Office of Planning and Coordination Korea Education and Research Information Service, Republic of Korea</i> • Transforming Education to benefit all people <i>Mr Qin Changwei, Secretary-General, National Commission of the People’s Republic of China for UNESCO</i> • Thailand’s actions on Digital Transformation in Education <i>Dr. Thira Bhawangkanan, Deputy Secretary-General Office of the Basic Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand</i> <p>Climate change education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Lao PDR is incorporating climate resilient design measures to protect the school from the impact of disasters <i>Mr Souphap Khounvixay, Head of Research and Executive Division, Executive Secretary to Minister, Permanent Secretary Office, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR</i> <p>Q & A, discussion</p>
11: 45 – 12:00	<p>Wrap-up Mr Peter de Vries Regional Education Advisor, UNICEF ROSA</p> <p>Closing Ms Debora Comini Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific, UNICEF</p>



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