

ISTIC-UNESCO Compendium of International Conference / Forum / Seminar on the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda

Kuala Lumpur Declaration 27 May 2015

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



4

Inclusive and equitable
quality education and
lifelong learning for all



5

Gender equality
and empowerment of
women and girls

**ISTIC-UNESCO
COMPENDIUM OF INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE / FORUM/SEMINAR
ON THE UN POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

From the 25-27 of May 2015, 350 delegates from 33 countries (Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Egypt, Fiji, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Sudan, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda and United Kingdom) met in Kuala Lumpur for the **ISTIC-UNESCO COMPENDIUM OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE / FORUM/SEMINAR ON THE UN POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA** as represented by the Seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2016-2030. The Compendium of ISTIC/UNESCO Events focused the deliberations on UN SDG No. 4 “To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities” and UN SDG No 5 “To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.

The ISTIC/UNESCO Compendium of Events included the following:

- a. **ISTIC/UNESCO/Malaysia National Commission “International Forum on Harnessing Women’s Talents in Science, Technology and Innovation” 25-26 May 2015**
- b. **ASM/ISTIC/IAP SEP “International Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) High Level Policy Forum in Evidence Based Science Education in Developing Countries”**
- c. **ISTIC/UNESCO/FEIAP “High Level Policy Seminar on Accreditation of Engineering Education Qualifications to International Standards and Mobility of Engineers and Technologists in Asia and the Pacific”**
- d. **UNESCO Asia Pacific “Regional Workshop on Promoting Interaction and Knowledge Exchange between UNESCO Natural Sciences Related Centres and Chairs in Asia and the**

Pacific: Promoting Interaction and Knowledge Exchange between UNESCO Science –Related Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific”

e. ISTIC 2015 Governing Board meeting

f. IAP SEP Global Council 2015 meeting

The compendium was graced by the presence of the Honorable Dato’ Seri Idris Jusoh, Minister of Education II, H.E. Irina Bokova, Director-General UNESCO and Ms. Flavia Schelegel, the ADG UNESCO of Natural Sciences UNESCO.

With reference to UN SDG No 4, the participants agreed that:

a. It is a priority for all governments and national Ministries of Education to improve education in all STEM subjects.

b. Ministries of Education should implement small scale but high quality pilot projects on proven hands on inquiry-based methods of science teaching by those who have received training in view of the positive impact on performance in national and international assessment as proven in other pilots already conducted. These pilots could act as demonstration prototypes.

c. More time should be given to science subjects to enable teachers to carry out inquiry-based science approaches.

d. Schools should be given greater autonomy in choosing textbooks and in implementing the science curriculum.

e. STEM teachers should have access to continuous professional development on delivery methods to encourage inquiry thinking.

To keep pace with global demands, the education, training and continuous professional development of engineers and technicians to international standards is vital to achieve the SDGs particularly with respect to inclusive infrastructure development for wealth and employment creation in South countries. Participants agreed that:

a. In view of the of FEIAP's leadership role in Asia and the Pacific, it can mentor the sister regional organisation of the African Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) to play a more active role in UN SDGs.

b. National Engineering Councils/Boards in ASEAN can emulate the Engineers Registration Boards of the member nations of the East African Economic Community to set up the ASEAN association of boards/ councils of engineers to promote mobility of engineers and technicians.

c. A follow-up workshop / forum will be organised in Africa on the subject "Africa / Asia Pacific Cooperation in Engineering Accreditation and Mobility"

d. The role of UNESCO is crucial in providing the intergovernmental leadership. A good start has been made by the agreement between the UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and FEIAP to raise the accreditation of engineering education qualifications in five countries in Asia and in Africa.

With Reference to SDG No. 5, the participants agreed that:

a. All Government ministries and private sector organization have to recognise that women bring different and unique capabilities to the workplace. There must be a mindset change and genuine recognition by society and policy makers that there are benefits in valuing women and having their participation at all levels.

b. There has to be a paradigm shift on how we define success. The female perspective has to be articulated and this will require educating girls helping them develop an identity to find their passion and giving them freedom to choose.

c. Organizations must practice an inclusive and equitable opportunity for both men and women to undergo leadership training and development that takes into account male and female leadership styles.

d. *A supportive and enabling environment which include national policy, integrated eco system that is both women and family friendly through alternative and flexible work arrangements.*

e. *The Women in STI Forum will be institutionalised by ISTIC hosting the Forum once every two years in Malaysia.*

The participants strongly believe that the implementation of strategies towards achieving these goals must be shared by all and that there must be collaboration and knowledge exchange between UNESCO Natural Science Related Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific in implementing the relevant Post-2015 Development Goals. The participants agreed that:

- *The UNESCO Natural Sciences related Category 2 Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific region should develop a strong regional science network to promote interaction, knowledge sharing and joint activities. A good example is the cooperation between ISTIC and IRIS, Iran in technopreneurship training for research scientists and engineers.*
- *The network of UNESCO Natural Sciences related Category 2 Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific region should extend links with other regions such as Africa to strengthen the South-South and triangular cooperation in STI. Good examples are the ISTIC/LAMAP France partnership in STEM education and STI/Caricom Science Foundation partnership in Technopreneurship training.*
- *The UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will continue to mobilize and provide necessary support to the UNESCO's Natural Sciences family in the region for the successful delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Post-2015 framework. A good example is the agreement with FEIAP on raising the accreditation of engineering education qualifications to international standards in five countries in Asia and Africa.*