

## **ARNEC's Engagement in post 2015 Global Development Policy Development ~ECD at the heart of post 2015 global agenda~**

**June, 2014**

Intro:

Since 2011, ARNEC has been actively engaged in the post 2015 global discourse to advocate holistic and inclusive ECD and to bring the Asia-Pacific regional voices to the global discussion table.

Currently, the discourse is coming to the final phase. There will be a last push by ECD community (global, regional, national) and the ECD supporting UN member states. On 16 June, there'll be an ECD Session at the UN's Open Working Group meeting in New York, USA earlier that day, the Global Petition will be presented to the UN Secretary General's deputy.

Recently, ARNEC has endorsed this "policy appeal": ***Early Childhood Development: The Foundation of Sustainable Human Development for 2015 and Beyond** (attached in the email) prepared by the Consultative Group on ECCD and Sustainable Development Solutions Network, May 2014*

In this appeal, there're several calls to action in which there're things we, as an advocate for ECD from the Asia-Pacific region, can do.

- 1) **Public advocacy**
  - Think and express why ECD is important for you?
  - Sign the [online Global Early Years petition](#), if you have not yet done so.
  - Encourage stakeholder groups and the public you know in your country to get behind international efforts to draw attention to the benefits of ECD and
- 2) **Highlight good practice in your country** –Champion examples of good practice, cost-effective ECD interventions from your country and explain the benefits of investing early in children's development.
  - Share with ARNEC. We will be very pleased to feature them and to disseminate widely to the ECD community at regional and global levels!
- 3) **Call for targets that cut across the framework** – ECD is not a single intervention. It is a comprehensive package of interventions covering health, education, social protection, women's empowerment, nutrition and security which contributes not only to the well-being of children but their families, communities and countries. Further, ECD programs offer an opportunity to bring a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development. It will also be important to ensure that targets and indicators are disaggregated by age 0-2 and 3-5 years.

→ See **“ONE GLOBAL GOAL - ONE VOICE: 'Ensure all children get the best start in life and for learning'<sup>1</sup>** - with 1 goal, 3 targets and 19 indicators were proposed at the ARNEC Regional Stakeholder Consultation, November 2013.

*Goal: Ensure all children get the best start in life and for learning'*

Target 1: Ensure that all children are healthy, socially and culturally competent, respectful of diversity, and learning successfully.

Target 2: Increase the number of children experiencing positive, responsive, sensitive and nurturing child-rearing practices in safe and peaceful environments.

Target 3: Ensure equitable access to quality, inclusive, and sustainable early childhood programmes and services.

→ See also ***The White Paper: Promoting Holistic Development of Young Children- An Imperative for the Advancement of Nations in Asia-Pacific<sup>2</sup>***, ARNEC, April 2013

A Call to Action

- ✓ Expanding access to holistic early childhood development and promoting equity
- ✓ Ensuring good quality of early childhood interventions
- ✓ Building an enabling policy environment for holistic early childhood development
- ✓ Strengthening capacities of parents, families and communities

- 4) **Speak out about young children and ECD during OWG sessions** – Reference to young children is missing from discussion around the post-2015 goals. Young children have also largely been absent from stakeholder consultation. It is up to us to ensure that children’s rights and well-being are represented beyond simply child survival, growth-nutrition and access to pre-primary education.
- If you can reach your nation’s representative to the UN Open Working Group, please convey them to speak about young children and ECD on behalf of all young children in the Asia-Pacific Region!

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.arnec.net/ntuc/slot/u2323/conference/images/ARNEC%20consolidated%20goal\\_final3.pdf](http://www.arnec.net/ntuc/slot/u2323/conference/images/ARNEC%20consolidated%20goal_final3.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.arnec.net/ntuc/slot/u2323/publication/ARNEC\\_WhitePaper\\_150413.pdf](http://www.arnec.net/ntuc/slot/u2323/publication/ARNEC_WhitePaper_150413.pdf)

For your further information:

During the 2012 ARNEC Regional Stakeholder Consultation, November 2011, the following recommendations were made in developing goals, targets and indicators for measuring our progress in ECD.

**What are we going to measure/focus? (We measure what we treasure)**

- ✓ Shift focus from education to learning, care, and development
- ✓ Focus on children birth to age 2, not only in health but in holistic learning and development areas as well
- ✓ Focus on providing fair opportunities for all children
- ✓ Pay attention to children in the most disadvantaged circumstances
- ✓ Provide the services in a seamless way from birth to age 8
- ✓ Focus on quality for ALL

**How are we going to measure the progress?**

- ✓ Move from using national averages to reducing gaps in disparities between groups
- ✓ Find ways to measure quality and not just count quantity
- ✓ Measure holistic learning
- ✓ Measurement in home settings, not just schools

ARNEC will provide the leadership in coordinating ECD advocacy at the international level and the evolving capacity of the early childhood community in the Asia-Pacific Region.

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