



Planning Meeting for the Afghan-UNESCO-ACCU Project, Kabul, Afghanistan

20th Regional Workshop on Capacity Building for Trainers of NFE Facilitators in Asia and the Pacific

ACCU, the UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, and the Myanmar Education Research Bureau (MERB) of the Ministry of Education, jointly organized the 20th Regional Workshop in Yangon, Myanmar, from 3 to 12 December 2002.

Thirty-four experts, in responsible positions for training literacy and non-formal education (NFE) personnel in the areas of planning teaching-learning activities and producing learning aids/materials, and three resource persons, participated from 21 countries. Among these countries, the Workshop particularly welcomed Sri Lanka's first-time participation and Afghanistan's participation for the first time in 9 years.

One of the Workshop's main objectives was to provide training for trainers in the field of NFE, especially on: (1) understanding the factors which contribute to effective job performance as a trainer of NFE facilitators; and (2) developing, utilizing and managing learning aids/materials. During the Workshop, the activities were conducted in a very participatory manner. The participants enjoyed this participatory learning experience and friendly learning environment of the Workshop, and found the use of participatory training techniques and processes very useful and effective for their training programmes back home.

Throughout the workshop sessions, the participants developed their knowledge and skills to prepare a training programme for NFE personnel at grassroots level, which was the other main objective of the Workshop. As a result of the workshop, national follow-up action plans for national training activities in the field of capacity building of NFE personnel and material development utilizing ACCU/APPEAL resource packages were submitted.

ACCU and UNESCO will support these national follow-up activities both financially and technically, and place stress on mon-

itoring and evaluating these follow-up activities in order to help each country establish a framework for further strengthening the capacity building programmes for NFE. This is considered very important, with the belief that enhanced capacity of non-formal education in each country will contribute to realization of the goal of "Education for All".

Contribution to Promotion of literacy and Non-Formal Education in Afghanistan

The Ministry of Education of Afghanistan, UNESCO and ACCU jointly organized the Planning Meeting for the Afghan-UNESCO-ACCU Project for Promoting Literacy and Non-Formal Education in Afghanistan from 28 to 29 January 2003 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Thirty-two participants gathered from the Literacy Department, Ministry of Education of Afghanistan, UNESCO and other international organizations, and local/international NGOs.

The main objectives of the Meeting were (1) to review the present situation of literacy/NFE in Afghanistan, (2) to share ideas on feasible NFE projects in the context of NFE policies of Afghanistan and (3) to explore an effective coordinating mechanism among key organizations for implementation of literacy/NFE projects, including "Literacy and Non-Formal Education Development in Afghanistan" (LAND AFGHAN).

The signing ceremony of LAND AFGHAN was held prior to the Meeting. The Plan of Operation was signed by Mr. Sayed Mohmood Khaliq, Deputy Minister for Education of Afghanistan in charge of literacy, and Mr. Martin Hadlow, Director, UNESCO

Kabul, in the presence of the Japanese Ambassador to Afghanistan and the participants of the Meeting.

In the course of the Meeting,

- the present literacy situation and on-going activities in Afghanistan were presented by the Literacy Department, Ministry of Education, UNESCO Kabul and UNICEF and reviewed by the participants;
- LAND AFGHAN was elaborated by UNESCO HQ and discussed by the participants. The project consists of two phases: Phase One is resource development and master trainers' capacity building and Phase Two is Literacy/NFE facilitators' capacity building and implementation of literacy/NFE classes with developed resources;
- technical resources which are adaptable in Dari and Pashtu languages in LAND AFGHAN were shared by UNESCO BKK, ACCU, Japanese National Commission for UNESCO and the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ) and resource persons. The regional resources available included *APPEAL Handbook for Non-Formal Adult Education Facilitators*, *APPEAL Handbook for CLC Establishment and Management*, *ACCU/APPEAL Handbook for Adult Learning Materials Development at Community Level*, *ACCU/APPEAL Literacy Clip Art and ACCU Material Kits on Health & Sanitation, Environment, Women's Empowerment, and Income Generation*, and
- the timeframe of LAND AFGHAN was discussed and the first draft was unanimously adopted.

It was reported during the Meeting that 69% of the total population of Afghanistan still lack the basic skills of reading, writing, and numeracy. Although many efforts have been made after the ending of more than two decades of turmoil, activities in the areas of adult literacy and non-formal education have not been progressing at the pace which had been anticipated, taking into account the large number of people in Afghanistan, men and women, urban and rural, who are very much in need of it. The LAND AFGHAN project is expected to meet this need.



Children participating in Income Generation Programme at CLC (Community Learning Centre), Myanmar

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Chinese teachers greeting to elementary school children in Okayama prefecture (Japan)



Some of newly published ACP vernacular versions

ACCU Invitation Programme for International Educational Exchange of Teachers and Professionals

In August 2002, ACCU, in cooperation with the United Nations University (UNU), launched a new personnel exchange programme entitled the "ACCU Invitation Programme for International Educational Exchange of Teachers and Professionals". The programme aims to promote human capacity development and mutual understanding among teachers and professionals mainly in Asia and the Pacific region, and consists of two types of invitation projects, one for elementary and secondary school teachers and administrators, and another for scholars and professionals in the fields of education, culture, science and technology. During the first year of the programme ACCU invited to Japan about 200 school teachers from China and the Republic of Korea, and about 100 scholars and professionals from more than 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

As the "School Teachers Invitation Project", ACCU invited 97 elementary and secondary school teachers and administrators from China for two weeks from 1 to 14 December 2002, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. This programme was organized in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China relations, and was intended to provide Chinese school teachers with opportunities to observe and understand the Japanese educational system as well as Japanese culture.

The programme started with an opening ceremony in Tokyo, followed by lectures by MEXT staff on themes such as the Japanese educational system and teachers' training. In the reception on the same day teachers were welcomed by Minister Toyama Atsuko. After the visits to schools and a museum in Tokyo and a one-day tour to Hakone, they were divided into four groups, one group of elementary school teachers, another of junior-high school teachers and two other groups of high school teachers. Then, each group moved to one of the designated prefectures, namely Wakayama, Kochi, Okayama and Hiroshima respectively, and observed school class activities and exchanged opinions on various educational topics with Japanese teachers in those prefectures. They also

visited other educational institutions such as a prefectural institute for educational research and in-service teachers' training. The Chinese teachers participated very actively. In some groups, members held a meeting on their own initiative and compiled a list of questions to submit to the schools to be visited next day. In one evening during these activities, they visited several volunteer families in smaller groups and enjoyed dinner with members of the host families.

After six days in each prefecture, four groups assembled in Kyoto, where they visited several historic monuments of ancient Kyoto, one of the UNESCO World Heritages in Japan and the monument of Zhou Enlai in Arashiyama Park. The programme concluded with presentations by group leaders on activities in each prefecture to share experiences with other groups. ACCU hopes that these experiences and knowledge about the Japanese educational system will be widely shared with fellow Chinese teachers and their students, and facilitate mutual understanding of both countries.

Newly Published ACP Vernacular Versions in 2001 and 2002

During Japanese fiscal years 2001 and 2002 (from April 2001 to March 2003), a total of 17 ACP vernacular version titles were published, or are still under production.

The basic scheme of the ACP vernacular version production is that ACCU lends the positive films free of charge to those countries wishing to use them, and sometimes buys a portion of the total copies printed, in order to encourage the publica-

tion by reducing the cost. The production of some versions was realised thanks to the financial support provided by such organisations as Japanese Trade Union Confederation (JTUC), Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA), and Koishikawa Rotary Club.

What is noteworthy this time is that *Meet My Friends!* is now being published in two of the major Afghan languages, Pashto and Dari, with the kind cooperation of the National Book Foundation, Pakistan, and Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, Iran. Those ACP national agencies have done production and distribution work for their neighbouring country. This is a part of the ACCU project called "Educational Support for Reconstruction of Afghanistan," and the book production was made possible by the financial assistance from the Tokyo Club, Japan.

The books are to be distributed to Afghan children living in refugee camps as well as inside Afghanistan. We sincerely hope the book brings some light to the children living in the war-torn environment, however difficult it may be to convey its version of the culture of peace.

Meanwhile, the titles from the Ecology Series continue to be translated and republished as local versions. This achievement has reported at the session "Water and Cultural Diversity," at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan, in March 2003. ACCU welcomes the efforts and encourages publishers in the participating countries to produce vernacular versions of not only the latest titles but also the older ones, so that more children would have the chance to appreciate Asian and Pacific cultures.

Titles	Country	Language	Financial support providers
<i>Meet My Friends!</i>	Viet Nam	Vietnamese	
	Iran	Farsi	JTUC
		Dari	Tokyo Club
	Pakistan	Urdu*	JTUC
		Pashto	Tokyo Club
	Japan	Japanese*	
	Thailand	Thai*	
	Indonesia	English*	
<i>The Earth</i>	Iran	Farsi	
	Nepal	Nepali	JATA
	Thailand	Thai*	
	Indonesia	English*	
<i>Water</i>	Bangladesh	Bengali	JTUC
	Rep. of Korea	Korean	
	Myanmar	Myanmar	Koishikawa Rotary, ACCU
<i>Trees</i>	Iran	Farsi	
	Bangladesh	Bengali	JTUC

*under production as of March 2003