

Report of the Education Policy Summit Asia - 2019
Singapore
November 4 - 6, 2019

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1.0 Introduction

Hon. Minister of Education, Sri Lanka has nominated me as a speaker at the 'Education Policy Summit Asia – 2019' held in Singapore from November 4-6, 2019. During this international summit I was able to contribute extensively as a speaker at the two panel sessions and also learnt lessons largely on many matters related to 21st century skills agenda and education policy matters.

2.0 Programme

The Education Policy Summit Asia is the annual event organized by the TERRAINN, Singapore parallel to the 'EduTECH Asia' exhibition. These events basically aiming to inspiring the next generation on education and this is the Asia's largest education conference and exhibition. In 2019, there were 10 dedicated premium conferences and 170+ exhibitors participated in this expo.

Details of the programme and the matters related to the conference is given below.

Day 1: Sunday - November 3, 2019

- Departure from Sri Lanka to Singapore.

Day 2: Monday - November 4, 2019

- In the morning, I attended to inauguration session and the first panel session on 'ministry perspective on 21st century skills, education and the workforce: implementing a future-facing policy strategy' as a speaker. Speakers from Malaysia, Vietnam, Estonia, Sri Lanka, Finland and Pakistan contributed for this session. As the moderate requested to talk about how the Sri Lanka able to initiate the policy on improving socio-emotional skills of students. I was able to explain this matter in relation to the policymaking perspectives alongside the education policymaking and reforms in Sri Lanka. Other speakers talk about ICT, technology education, policy reforms etc. This was interesting session that different countries had similar experiences and faced multi-dimensional constraint and challenges. However, such countries have taken measures to overcome such challenges and constraints. Participants asked many questions and clarifications from speakers and due to limitation of time the panel was able to give some reasonable answers and clarifications and detail discussions were under way during the other times and roundtable discussions.

- In the afternoon, I have participated in the panel session on: ‘creating a coherent policy strategy for developing nations’. Speakers from Singapore, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Lao PDR contributed for this panel session. The moderator asked me to explain the policy formulation process and steps taken for policy strategies in Sri Lanka. Having so, I was able to explain the policy formulation process and steps with the policy reform agenda with examples. Also I was able to explain on education system with special reference to the free-education policy in Sri Lanka. Other speakers of the panel talk about their country context and policymaking process with positive and negative effects. Participants asked many questions and clarifications from speakers and due to limitation of time the panel was able to give some reasonable answers and clarifications and detail discussions were under way during the other times and roundtable discussions.



Vising Singapore Management University (SMU) and City of Singapore - November 4, 2019



Day 3: Tuesday - November 5, 2019

- In the morning, I was able to attend the 'EduTECH Asia' exhibition. Firstly, for the opening session and there were several presentations mainly focusing on technology education and the ICT education. EduTECH Asia is the annual event organized by the TERRAINN, Singapore. This expo basically aiming to inspire the next generation on technology, innovation and ITC education. This is the Asia's largest education conference and exhibition. In 2019, there were 10 dedicated premium conferences and 170+ exhibitors participated in this expo. The organizers have arranged a VIP tour in the expo area and had opportunity to talk with different exhibitors on their innovations.



Day 4: Wednesday - November 6, 2019

- Departure from Singapore to Sri Lanka.

3.0 Conclusions and outcomes of the visit

Following lessons were learnt during the visit:

- Shared knowledge and gained experiences on improving skills of students demand of the global and local labour markets.
- Learnt lessons on how to implement technical/technological and ICT education.
- Importance of having linkages between schools and industrial sectors.
- Matching the curriculum with future labour markets demands.

Prepared by:

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