

# **Report**

## **4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on GCED and Update Meeting on UNESCO Category 2 Centres (C2C)**

**3 - 4 September 2019  
Seoul, Republic of Korea**

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1. **Event:** 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on GCED and Update Meeting on UNESCO Category 2 Centres
2. **Venue:** Seoul, Republic of Korea
3. **Duration:** 2 days (3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2019)
4. **Participant:** Ms. I. A. Madanayake, Deputy Secretary General, Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO representing South Asian Centre for Teacher Development (SACTD).

#### 5. **Conference Summary:**

The conference organized by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding under the auspices of UNESCO (APCEIU) comprised of the main conference, breakout sessions and additional update meetings. The conference was attended by UNESCO Officials, education policy-makers in central and local governments, GCED experts, representatives from the private sector, teachers, educators, mentors, counselors, youth, parents and representatives of UNESCO Category 2 Centres (C2Cs) as well as the Secretary to the Ministry of Education in Sri Lanka.

The conference was focused on SDG 4, especially SDG 4.7 and Global Citizenship Education (GCED). The conference demonstrated GCED's unique potential in relation to reconciliation and solidarity, and that this potential can be fully harnessed first through promoting the use of transformative pedagogy, and second, by systematically mainstreaming GCED in terms of policy, curriculum and teacher training.

Overall, it was expected that participants leave the conference with an enhanced understanding of the relationship between reconciliation and GCED.

#### 6. **Update Meeting on UNESCO Category 2 Centres:**

APCEIU has sustained its commitment in strengthening collaborative ties among Category 2 Centres through various joint initiatives, contributing to the strategic objectives of UNESCO. APCEIU believes that the efforts to continue engagement among these specialized centres will be beneficial in learning from each other's experiences and overcoming challenges together, particularly in realizing inclusive and quality education globally. Exchanges and networking among the centres are integral in this process. Aligned with these efforts, APCEIU organized an update meeting on the sides of the conference, which focused on exchanging information on the activities of the centres contributing to SDG 4 and GCED. Representatives from the Following UNESCO Category 2 Centres were in attendance of the Update meeting:

- Regional Centre for Adult Education (ASFEC)
- International Centre for Higher Education Innovation (ICHEI)
- International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)
- International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED)
- Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence in Education (RCQE)
- Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU)
- **South Asian Centre for Teacher Education (SACTD)**
- Additionally, officials representing UNESCO Headquarters, UNESCO Bangkok and UNESCO Beirut, participated in the meeting.

The meeting focused on discussing UNESCO's strategy for Coordination of and Collaboration with C2Cs in Education (Future of C2Cs), sharing updates on activities of participating C2Cs in Education (Appendix 1) and discussing areas of collaboration.

### **Future of C2Cs**

UNESCO Representatives elaborated on the final draft of the "Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO (2019)" submitted by the Director-General in pursuant to 206 EX/Decision 19." Accordingly, the following major changes/issues were discussed:

- (i) The one-year period for signature of the Agreement and its entry into force following the designation of C2C status by the General Conference
- (ii) The annual contribution of US \$1,000 by the C2C to the Organization
- (iii) The institution of tripartite agreements between Member States, the proposed centre, and UNESCO concerning the establishment and renewal of C2Cs.

Since the renewal process of SACTD is due in July 2020, it was also noted that "C2Cs whose renewal process is due to be launched after the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference, will have their agreements renewed in accordance with the 2019 strategy, as adopted by the General Conference" with the above-mentioned changes in effect.

### **Updates on activities of participating C2Cs**

It was evident that SACTD was the only Category II Centre that is lagging behind in progress. The representative from UNESCO showed special concern over the inactivity of SACTD and indicated the dire need to reactivate SACTD as soon as possible.

### ***SACTD- Sri Lanka***

Setting up of SACTD has been delayed due to managerial changes within the Ministry of Education and SACTD. Sri Lankan National Commission for UNESCO with the help of National Institute of Education (NIE) and Ministry of Education (MoE) are expecting to expedite the process of setting up the Centre with the following initial actions;

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Board of Management of SACTD is proposed to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 to discuss the way forward of the Centre, establish the roles, responsibilities and rules of procedures for the Board of Management and approve the special coordinating team to expedite the setting up of the various faculties and the institutional arrangements of the Centre.
- Four Consultants for the four departments within the Centre are to be recruited. The ToRs and advertisements for this purpose are in place and the applications are to be called in October, after the Meeting of the Board of Management
- Calls for nominations for Focal Points in each country within the South Asian Region were made and awaiting correspondences.
- A temporary page for SACTD will be created within the website of Sri Lankan National Commission for UNESCO until an independent website for SACTD is established.

### **Possible Collaborations**

- Many C2Cs, especially Regional Centre for Adult Education (ASFEC) and Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) showed interest in collaborative efforts towards teacher development once the centre is operational. E.g. Workshops, exchange programs and information sharing.

## **7. Suggestions**

Realizing the potential of SACTD, many officials encouraged the expedited operationalization of the centre.

Recruitment of four consultants for the four departments of SACTD should be done as soon as possible to develop strategic plans for each department and, thus, to operationalise the Centre.

According to the agreement signed between UNESCO and the government of Sri Lanka, the renewal process of the Centre is to begin in December, which is 6 months prior to the expiration of the agreement. If substantial progress is not evident in the Centre, “concerned Member States will be invited to undertake, within a specified period, appropriate measures for each non-compliant C2C to bring it into alignment with the Management Framework, or to inform UNESCO of their intent to renounce the C2C designation granted by the General Conference, leading to termination.”- 207 EX/14

In view of the UNESCO’s intention to reduce the numbers of “non-operational” Category 2 Institutes and Centres, and considering the inactive-nature of SACTD, SACTD should show considerable progress by January 2020 to remain an UNESCO Category 2 Centre.