

SUMMARY REPORT

FASPPED DELEGATION PARTICIPATION TO FIRST CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR EDUCATION IN THE UNESCO NEW DELHI CLUSTER COUNTRIES OF BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA, MALDIVES, NEPAL, AND SRI LANKA ON 24 - 25 MARCH 2010 IN NEW DELHI, INDIA

First Contact Group Meeting of the Parliamentarians for Education in the UNESCO New Delhi Cluster countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka was held on 24 - 25 March 2010 at the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi. The opening ceremony was presided over by Hon. Mr. Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of Human Resource Development of India, continued by keynote address of Hon. DR. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, representing the President of Forum of Asia Pacific Parliamentarians for Education (FASPPED) / the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, Hon. Marzuki Alie. The meeting was attended by 30 delegates from 7 countries and 20 observers from international organizations such as the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, etc.

The main objective of this New Delhi meeting was to discuss the situation of education in the Asia Pacific region especially in the South Asia cluster countries. Therefore, this meeting aimed to strengthen cooperation between UNESCO, parliamentarians and other partners, so as to create a broader and sounder platform for educational development in the Asia Pacific region.

Education For All (EFA), as an international development goal, requires a collective approach, and the political commitment and support of parliamentarians in these countries will be a significant step towards making

EFA a reality for the developing world, which will thus effect to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015.

DPR-RI Delegates representing Speaker of the House of the Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia as the First President of FASPPED (2008 until 2012) to the First Contact Group Meeting, are as follows :

1. DR. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, M.Si (Head of Delegation/Deputy Chair of Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation (BKSAP) DPR-RI)
2. Mr. Heri Akhmadi (Member/ Deputy Chair of Commission X DPR-RI)
3. Mr. Abdul Hakam Naja (Member/ Deputy Chair of Commission X DPR-RI)

The participation of DPR-RI delegation at this meeting had a special mission. On 5 and 6 July 2010 Indonesia will be the host of The 1st FASPPED General Assembly, which invites 45 FASPPED member countries. In this meeting, DPR-RI delegation had meetings and made socialization actively to other participants regarding to the event. The highlight of the participation of the Delegation as follows:

A. Keynote address Presiden FASPPED in the Inauguration/Opening session

DR. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, M.Si delivered keynote address of the President of FASPPED which contains :

- Education is the key for human development.
- To emphasize the importance of Education For All (EFA)
- The 2009 MDGs Report indicates some progress on achievement of the target of universal primary education.
- Parliament has a significant contribution to the achievement of six goals of EFA.
- Indonesia fully supports the achievement of education goals and has a strong commitment in education matters, which is manifested in the presidency of FASPPED.

- In this opportunity, Indonesia invites all South Asia cluster countries to attend the 1st FASPPED General Assembly in Jakarta on 5 - 6 July 2010.

B. Meeting with the Director of UNESCO New Delhi Cluster office, Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen dan the Dputy Director of UNESCO Regional Bangkok, Mr. Etienne Clement :

- Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen fully supported the 1st General Assembly FASPPED event in Jakarta, and he will endorse the South Asia cluster countries to participate in the Assembly.
- Therefore, relating to the modalities assistance from UNESCO, especially budget, Mr. Parsuramen explained that the usual problem faced by some countries that they cannot hold the event without UNESCO financial support. Besides UNESCO, host country should involve the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, etc to give assistance and ensure more participants attending the Assembly.
- Indonesian delegation and UNESCO Regional Bangkok agreed to hold one or two meetings such as New Delhi's First Contact Group Meeting before The 1st FASPPED General Assembly in Jakarta. The meeting will invite Central Asia cluster countries such as Iran, Afghanistan, etc and also South-East Asia cluster countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, etc.

C. Presentation on Overview of the FASPPED and the role of Parliamentarians for educational development by Mr. Heri Akhmadi :

- FASPPED was established in Jakarta on October 2008 by 16 countries of Asia Pasific region that have awareness on parliamentary role in developing EFA.
- Indonesia was unanimously elected as the First President of FASPPED for 2008 - 2012 period. Meanwhile, FASPPED Vice-Presidents are : Republic of Korea (representing East Asia), Samoa (representing Pasific), Nepal

(representing South Asia) dan still vacant (representing Central Asia dan West Barat).

- Parliament guarantees the education policy which is a part of national development as stated in FASPPED Statute and Jakarta Declaration.
- Indonesian Parliament has formulated the law which allocated 20 % of national budget for education sector.
- On 9 June 2009, FASPPED organized The 1st Executive Bureau Meeting of FASPPED in Jakarta, which made some recommendation such as The 2nd Executive Bureau Meeting of FASPPED in Seoul on 25 - 26 May 2010 and The 1st FASPPED General Assembly in Jakarta on 5 - 6 July 2010.

D. Meeting with the representative of the Forum of African Parliamentarians for Education (FAPED), Mr. Aime Damiba :

- Main activity of FAPED is to encourage member countries to form the Education Commission in their parliaments.
- Current President of FAPED is Kenya, and the Vice-Presidents are Uganda, Chad, Ghana and Mapoto.
- FAPED cannot establish the Secretariat in Dakar - Senegal because of political problem. In addition, they are experiencing financial difficulties to host the FAPED meetings. Usually UNESCO assists the accommodation and travel for 2 (two) delegates of each member country.
- Statute of FAPED can be amended, for instance the number of Vice-president.
- For African cluster countries, modalities assistance from UNESCO is usually in the form of trainings.
- In regard to the 1st FASPPED General Assembly in Jakarta, FASPPED delegation will invite the FAPED representative to attend the Assembly.

E. Meeting with Senior Education Specialist of the World Bank, Mr. Sam Carlson :

During the meeting, Head of DPR-RI delegation had a meeting with Mr. Carlson to discuss the possibility of supports given by the World Bank relating to the hold the 1st FASPPED General Assembly in Jakarta.

The closing session was presided over by Smt. D. Purandeswari, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India, during which the New Delhi Declaration was unanimously adopted.