

‘Early Years’ Regional Workshop

“Supporting Learning from 0 – 8, Creating the Future”

(Supported by Solomon Islands Government, PREL, PRIDE, PIFS, UNESCO, UNICEF and SPBEA)

Dates: 26 – 30 March 2007

Location: Honiara, Solomon Islands

Target Groups: The workshop is targeted at government policy makers and NGO practitioners and carers of children between the ages of 0 – 8. Participants are invited from all Forum Island countries and Associates.

Objectives of the workshop:

1. Reconfirming the importance of 0 – 8 years olds’ care, development and learning
2. Getting government policy makers and practitioners of 0 – 8 years olds education to commit to developing vision, policy, curriculum guidelines/framework and appropriate programmes and initiatives for this age group.
3. Strengthening of national and regional networking amongst 0 - 8 practitioners.
4. Sharing assessment techniques used for 0 -8 years olds.

Proposed Keynote speakers

- Dr Glen Palmer – ECCE FESP consultant in Fiji - to discuss the links between Early Learning Development Standards, policy, curriculum development and assessment
- Ms Maki Hayashikawa, Regional Programme Specialist in ECCE, Primary Education and Gender Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education - UNESCO Bangkok - to discuss global issues related to 0 – 8 year olds.
- Keynote Speaker from Papua New Guinea to discuss language issues for 0 – 8 years olds
- Mr Canisius Filibert to discuss the Head Start Program

Panellist and facilitators

- Mrs Ufemia Camaitoga – Critical Friend – Lecturer ECCE – Lautoka Teachers’ College, Fiji
- Mrs Jennifer James - Home-based Programme - Vanuatu ECCE Coordinator
- Mrs Bernadine Haamori - Field Based Training - Solomon Islands ECCE Coordinator.
- Mrs Unaisi Tuivaga – Fiji Early Childhood Association/Pacific Preschool Council - USP ECCE lecturer
- Mrs Teimana Avaniatele – Tuvalu ECCE Coordinator
- Adi Davila Toganivalu - Pacific ECCE Consultant
- PREL representative.
- PNG ECCE Association representative
- Mrs Sarina Tamakin - Nauru ECE Coordinator
- Dr Yvonne Winer – publications specialist

Reporting Team

- Representatives from the partners to co-write and vet the report
- Representatives of governments and NGOs for ownership of report
- Workshop secretariat.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

CONVENOR: UNESCO

DAY ONE: IMPORTANCE AND COST EFFECTIVENESS OF 0 – 8 YEAR OLDS' EDUCATION		
Time	Activity	Responsibility/Comments
8.00 – 8.45	Registration	Workshop Secretariat
9.00 – 10.30	Official Opening	MEHRD Solomon Islands
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote Address – Global Perspective (45mins) - Ms Maki Hayashikawa - UNESCO • Group discussions on Keynote Address (15mins) • Keynote Address – Brain Wiring (30mins) – Katherine Gilbert, PO, Solomon UNICEF 	<i>[Discussions groups (15 minutes) to draw out parallels and differences between the presentation and the Pacific Context. Outcome: With the presentation of keynote speaker as a backdrop discuss application of concepts, ideas and mixing of ideas to for implementation in the Pacific for achieving EFA goal 1]</i>
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch	
1.30 – 3.00	Presenting the Government's position on 0 – 8 year olds care and education.	SPBEA. <i>[Country presentations on 0 – 8 care and education to be summarized in a matrix to involve issues on both ECCE and ECD.]</i>
3.00 – 3.20	Afternoon Tea	
3.20 – 5.00	Presenting the NGOs position on 0 - 8 year olds care and education.	UNICEF <i>[Country presentations on 0 - 8 education to be summarized in a matrix discussion to involve issues on both ECCE and ECD.]</i> Day's Outcome: ReCommitment to 0 – 8 year olds care and education. <i>[link to EFA and policy, planning and curriculum development]</i>

CONVENOR: SPBEA

DAY TWO: COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP VISION, POLICY AND CURRICULUM FOR 0 – 8 YEAR OLDS		
Time	Activity	Responsibility/Comments
8.30 – 8.45	Critical Friend – Mrs Ufemia Camaitoga	Review of Day 1
8.45 – 10.30	Keynote Address – Local Perspective – Adi Davila Toganivalu (45mins)	This paper is intended to set the tone for the workshop. It will present local ways of child rearing and link these with global perspectives with a pragmatic bias.
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00 – 12.30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PRIDE's operations (30mins) 2. Small groups – developing action research proposals for funding from PRIDE (45mins) 3. Sharing of research ideas (15mins) 	<i>[Presentation from PRIDE on its operations and how these can be used to support 0 – 8 activities via subprojects or regional initiatives. National Strategic Plans and the place of ECCE in them. Discussions in small groups. Plenary on the way forward for strategic plans, policy and curriculum development for 0 - 8 year olds.]</i>
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch	
1.30 – 3.00	Cooperation between Governments & NGOs to pave the way forward for 0 – 8 activities.	UNESCO to coordinate
3.00 – 3.20	Afternoon Tea	
3.20 – 5.00	The Way forward: Panel discussions ((Vasu Tuivaga, Jennifer James, Bernadine Ha'amori, Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands representatives))	<i>[To take the discussions from the earlier session and look for solutions. Is there a need to reactivate the Pacific Preschool Council? Outcome: To agree on a regional strategy for networking to strengthen the 0 – 8 education in the Pacific.]</i> Day's Outcome: Commitment to the development of vision, policy and curriculum development for 0 – 8 year olds. <i>[link to EFA and policy, planning and curriculum development]</i>

CONVENOR: PRIDE

DAY THREE: ASSESSMENT FOR 0 – 8 YEAR OLDS		
Time	Activity	Responsibility/Comments
8.30 – 8.45	Critical Friend – Mrs Ufemia Camaitoga	Review of Day 2
8.45-10.30	Current Assessment for 0 – 8 year olds. Country presentations in groups – summarized by Mrs Tuivaga	[Country Groups discussions with a plenary bringing together key points on assessment techniques used in schools. How did we know that what we are doing for the children and with them are helping them develop?]
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00 – 12.30	Keynote: Early learning development standards – the foundation of policy, curriculum development, operation and assessment of ECCE in Fiji.	Dr Glen Palmer
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch	
1.30 – 3.00	1. Assessment and the link with regional standards. A 10 minute presentation 2. Structured Group discussions on suggestions for assessment tools to be used for 0 – 8 year olds.	SPBEA [Linking assessment with curriculum and vice versa.] Mrs Tuivaga and group leaders.
3.00 – 3.20	Afternoon Tea	
3.20 – 5.00	Identifying the issues for each country. Country groups to meet and discuss assessment issues presented and decide on their country commitments to assessment of 0 – 8 year olds. The aim is for each country to take away a list of issues and possible strategies to be address ed nationally.	Each country will provide a list issues and corresponding strategies which will be pinned to the walls and groups will move from list to list to view them. Day’s Outcome: A statement on the issues of assessment for 0 – 8 year olds linking with ELDS, regional benchmarks, assessment for learning [link to EFA and policy, planning and curriculum development]

CONVENOR: PIFS/PREL

DAY FOUR: CULTURE AND LANGUAGE FOR 0 – 8 YEAR OLDS		
Time	Activity	Responsibility/Comments
8.30 – 8.45	Critical Friend – Mrs Ufemia Camaitoga	Review of Day 3
8.45 – 10.30	Keynote: Culture for 0 – 8 year olds. PREL speaker. (45mins) Keynote: Languages for 0 -8 year olds in formal settings. Case of PNG. PNG Representative. (45mins)	[Presentation from the North – Headstart – using your own culture, language and ways of doing etc.] [Presentation on how PNG addresses language issues for 0 – 8 year olds]
10.30 – 11.00	Morning Tea	
11.00 – 12.30	Developing resources which are culturally and linguistically relevant to help 0 -8 teachers. Panel: Dr Yvonne Winer, Mrs Jennifer James, PNG representative	[Each panelist will make a brief comment of not more than five minutes then take questions/comments from the floor. Outcome: A list of practical strategies to develop sustainable resources for 0 – 8 year olds)]
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch	
1.30 – 3.00	Discussions on Language development for 0 – 8 year olds of the Pacific.	Day’s Outcome: A statement on the issues of culture and language for 0 – 8 year olds to be included in PICs strategic plans [link to EFA and policy, planning and curriculum development]
3.00 – 3.20	Afternoon Tea	
3.20 – 5.00	Workshop summary and commitments of country representatives and development partners	Critical Friend (Mrs Ufemia Camaitoga) Sums up and responses from development partners.

CONVENOR: Solomon Islands Government

DAY FIVE: FIELD VISIT TO VARIOUS SIGNIFICANT 0 – 8 ACTIVITES IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Groups will meet together in the afternoon for exchanging of experiences of the fieldtrips.