Concept Note

Second Stakeholders Meeting on Indicators for Internationalization of Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific

9-10 November 2017

Sukosol hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Background

In the year 2015, the international community adopted a new ambitious and aspirational global education agenda officially referred to as Education 2030 or Sustainable Development Goal Four (SDG4). In Education 2030/SDG4, higher education was given a prominent role as the Education 2030 Framework for Action\(^1\) Target 4.3 clearly states: “By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university”.

In order to achieve this ambitious target, one of the indicative strategies is to promote internationalization of higher education through cross-border mobility programmes, institutional capacity building and quality-based qualification recognition to support increased access, and better quality. These efforts are especially critical in Asia-Pacific, which is the fastest-growing region in terms of the numbers of inbound and outbound international students.

Related trends in the Asia-Pacific region include increased mobility of students, the need for more international students to fill the intake gap due to the decreased number of domestic students in countries with the challenges of aging population, as well as regional and sub-regional efforts to harmonize higher education with convergent policies and practices. Each of these factors contribute to the importance of adopting more holistic approaches to internationalization policies and practices in higher education, both at system level and at institutional level. In this context, developing relevant indicators and effective monitoring mechanisms become important tasks to measure the internationalisation of higher education in the region.

Toward a mapping of indicators and their utilization

The development of indicators should be holistic, to reflect different domains of the internationalization of higher education, including, among other, external enabling factors, institutional governance and management, teaching and learning, curriculum development, international research cooperation, the appraisal of academic staff, international students and staff mobility, etc.

However, the current thematic indicators for higher education in the Education 2030 Framework for Action do not yet track the importance of internationalization and its impact. For example, in Table 1 (below), the Education 2030 thematic indicators framework focuses on three important themes across three SDG4 target areas: participation, skills and number of scholarships. These target areas are primarily inputs and process oriented (e.g. volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships), rather than outcomes of quality education, which is fundamental to SDG4.

### Table 1. Thematic indicator framework for SDGs

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<th>SDG Target 4.3</th>
<th>By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university</th>
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<td>13. Gross enrolment ratio for tertiary education</td>
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<td>14. Participation rate in technical-vocational education programmes (15 to 24-year-olds)</td>
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<td>15. Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<th>SDG Target 4.4</th>
<th>By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship</th>
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<td>16.1 Percentage of youth/adults who have achieved at least a minimum level of proficiency in digital literacy skills</td>
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<td>16.2 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill</td>
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<td>17. Youth/adult educational attainment rates by age group, economic activity status, levels of education and programme orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
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<th>SDG Target 4.b</th>
<th>By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries</th>
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With the support of the University of Tokyo, UNESCO’s Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education organized the **First Expert Meeting on Indicators for Internationalization of Higher Education** on 3-4 November 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, to take stock of existing research and innovative practices in the area of internationalization of higher education. Experts from the Asia-Pacific region provided rich inputs and inspiring ideas to pave the way for future collaboration in this thematic area. As a result of the meeting, the working paper entitled ‘**Internationalization of Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific: Toward a Mapping of Indicators and their Utilization**’ was developed, to provide an overview of existing indicators that are used for measuring internationalization of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region.

Building on the outputs achieved since the first expert meeting and again in close collaboration with the University of Tokyo, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education will organize the Second Stakeholders Meeting on Indicators for Internationalization of Higher Education on **9-10 November 2017, in Bangkok, Thailand**. Through this discussion, the aim is to develop a common set of comparable indicators for the internationalization of higher education that can be tested at system and institutional levels in the years to come. Specific objectives for the meeting are outlined in the following section.

**Objectives**

- Share innovative policies and practices at system and institutional levels with regard to the development and utilization of indicators for internationalization of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region
- With a focus on developing countries, identify and fill in the gaps of understanding based on the current state of indicators for internationalization of higher education in Asia-Pacific
- List the key domains and sub-domains of higher education internationalization and draft commonly agreed purposes for the use of indicators at system and institutional levels
- Promote a thematic regional network among key stakeholders in order to build a platform for continuous collaboration on the topic in Asia and the Pacific

**Expected outputs**

- Country case study reports on indicators and their utilization to promote the internationalization of higher education in Asia-Pacific
- Inputs and comments collected on the revision of the working paper
- Draft common indicators for internationalization of higher education in Asia and the Pacific
- A working group on indicators for internationalization of higher education
Co-organisers

- UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok, Thailand
- The University of Tokyo, Japan

Participants and resource persons

Approximately 20 key stakeholders from Asia-Pacific countries, including government officials, researchers and practitioners as well as resource persons will be invited to attend the meeting.

Dates

9-10 November 2017

Venue

Sukosol hotel, 477 Si Ayuthaya Road, Thanon Phayathai, Bangkok, Thailand

Language

English will be the working language
Tentative programme

Day 1: Thursday, 9 November

- Opening remarks
- Meeting objectives
- Sharing country case studies on collection and utilization of indicators
- Review of the working paper: internationalization of Higher education in the Asia-Pacific: Toward a Mapping of Indicators and their Utilization
- Evening reception and dinner

Day 2: Friday, 10 November

- Reflection of the first day
- Panel discussion: what should be the key factors of internationalization?
- Brainstorming on a common set of indicators in AP region
- Next steps for the continuous collaboration: building a N/W
- Closing remarks
- Afternoon departures

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