ICT to Facilitate SDG4 in Asia and the Pacific: A UNESCO’s Perspective

Ministerial Forum on Global Dialogue on ICT and Education Innovation
19 April 2018
Jonghwi Park
ICT in Education, UNESCO Bangkok
UNESCO Bangkok:
Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
SDG4 (Education 2030)

“Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all”
Have we been embracing the full potential of ICT to extend quality learning opportunities for all?
ICT Disparity in the Asia Pacific

Chart 2.7: IDI values, Asia and Pacific region, 2016

Source: ITU.
Thailand OTPC Initiative procured 1.7 M tablets (120M USD)
• Internet connectivity in many schools is not intended for teaching and learning and is instead used primarily for administration.
Research that helps make informed decision in education policy development

- Is ICT the best option to solve the concerned issue? (e.g. access, equality, literacy, teacher shortage, etc.)

- What are the indicators/evidences that we can say ICT played a major role in improving the holistic quality of learning?

- FAQ from emerging countries:
  “what would be the minimum ICT requirement for schools to prepare our students for future?”
  “how can we know the tablets that we distributed to a small district are worth mainstreaming across the country?”
Key lessons and UNESCO’s responses

- Comprehensive ICT policy that complements and facilitates the national education goals towards SDG4
- Phased approaches to simultaneous and strategic implementation of infrastructure, teacher development, digital resources and education management information system (EMIS)
- Planning that guides smart investment and inclusive ICT in education
- Teacher training reform based on national ICT competency standards
- South-north and south-south cooperation to (re)distribute knowledge and resources
Regional Strategy for Using ICT to Facilitate the Achievement of Education 2030
Thank You.

Jonghwi Park (j.park@unesco.org); ICT in Education (ict.bgk@unesco.org)

UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (www.unescobkk.org/ict)