

Joint Statement of the Second Meeting of the UNESCO Education Sector Category II Centres Seoul, Republic of Korea, 1 June 2011

We, representatives from six UNESCO Education Sector Category II Centres, namely the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), the International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (CIEFFA), the Guidance, Counselling and Youth Development Centre for Africa (GCYDCA), the International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED), the Regional Centre for Educational Planning (RCEP), and the Southeast Asian Centre for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development (SEA-CLLSD), gathered for the Second Meeting of the UNESCO Education Sector Category II Centres from 30 May to 1 June 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

We hereby issue this joint statement to:

1. Welcome the participation of UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education, the Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, as well as the Deputy-Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL);
2. Express sincere appreciation to UNESCO for its support to our network, and to the Government of the Republic of Korea and APCEIU for their gracious hospitality, effective organization, and excellent arrangements made in hosting this event;
3. Commit to fully comply with our responsibilities, such as aligning our Strategies, Programmes and Activities with those of UNESCO;
4. Affirm this meeting as the most appropriate platform to promote awareness, strengthen solidarity, and build partnerships between UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices, Category I Institutes and Category II Centres;
5. Commit to further strengthen the network of the UNESCO Education Sector Category II Centres which was established during our First Meeting in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, in 2009 and affirm the value of enhanced cooperation within the extended UNESCO Network for our efficient functioning and increased visibility;
6. Recall the recommendations from the First Meeting, acknowledge the partnerships that have been forged between ourselves since; and recognize the developments and achievements made by all Centres such as the development of a platform for communication, circulation of e-newsletters, and new initiatives for joint cooperation including that between INRULED and CIEFFA;

7. Agree to continue exploring potential joint projects and capacity building opportunities, including fellowships and exchange programs, and greater participation in UNESCO meetings;
8. Express appreciation and strongly encourage side discussions amongst participants for the formulation of joint projects such as those which were concluded during this meeting between APCEIU and INRULED, RCEP and UIL, and APCEIU and the UNESCO Regional Bureau in Bangkok;
9. Recognize the challenges which we confront in our efforts to increase visibility, and in establishing and maintaining official relationships with host authorities;
10. Highlight the importance of Education for All and Education for Culture of Peace as priority areas, and strongly support the joint proposal by APCEIU and INRULED to host an international forum within 2012-2013;
11. Support RCEP's proposal to become the 2013-2015 Focal Point of the Network, and welcome its offer to host our Third Meeting in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates in 2013.

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