

## EFA FOLLOW-UP: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Sub-regional fora as follow-up mechanisms, coordinated by UNESCO cluster offices:**

- **Formal and functioning in Southeast/East Asia (Bangkok)**
- **Planned but not yet functioning in South Asia (Islamabad)**
- **More informal mechanisms functioning in Central Asia (Almaty) and the Pacific (Apia)**
- **Not functioning in West Asia**

## SOUTH ASIA

- **Sub-regional forum mandated at a Ministerial meeting in April**
- **Pakistan to host Secretariat, technical working group meeting (2002), and the next Ministerial meeting (2003)**
- **Sub-regional activities being developed in curriculum development and learning achievement, monitoring of EFA progress, and non-formal education**
- **Draft National Plans of Action produced in most countries but often with inadequate NGO involvement or active participation of EFA partners**

## CENTRAL ASIA/CAUCASUS

- **National EFA roundtables held in most countries**
- **Revolving EFA Forum of five countries to be established in October**
- **Sub-regional/national meetings organised on teaching and learning, monitoring of learning achievement, EMIS, reaching the unreached, ECCE, non-formal education, and AIDS**
- **Close collaboration with UNICEF and national/international NGOs**

## THE PACIFIC

- **National action plans completed in 13 countries, facilitated by strong sense of regional identity and cooperation**
- **Inadequate involvement of full range of EFA partners**
- **Governments now awaiting the support promised in the Dakar Framework for Action**

## SOUTHEAST/EAST ASIA

- **Sub-regional forum of many bilateral and multi-lateral EFA partners, with annual meetings of national EFA coordinators and collaboration with an ESCAP Technical Working Group on EFA**
- **Most countries refining existing basic education plans, with some ensuring strong linkages with sector-wide plans**
- **Comprehensive planning mechanisms and procedures in place in most countries but often without national fora or widespread involvement of civil society**

## GENERAL COMMENTS

- **Increased desire of NGOs and civil society organisations to become involved in EFA – not always met by government encouragement**
- **Some evidence of attention being paid to sub-national planning and to more than primary education (e.g., working groups or sub-sectoral plans for each EFA dimension)**
- **Genuine engagement in EFA planning dependent on strong donor commitment (including UNICEF, ADB, the World Bank, JICA, AusAID, et al)**

- **But no objectives mechanisms or criteria in place – nationally or regionally -- for assessing the credibility of National Action Plans leading to increased financial resources**