



**Building Equitable and Sustainable Societies in Asia and the Pacific: the Challenge to Adult Learning**

**CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference for Asia and the Pacific  
Seoul, the Republic of Korea  
6 – 8 October 2008**

## **INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS**

### **1. Introduction and background**

The **Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI)** will be hosted by Brazil in Belém from 19 to 22 May 2009. The previous five CONFINTEA conferences took place in Elsinore, Denmark in 1949, Montreal, Canada in 1960, Tokyo, Japan in 1972, Paris, France in 1985 and in Hamburg, Germany in 1997. The main objectives of CONFINTEA VI are:

- To push forward the recognition of adult learning and education as an important element of and factor conducive to lifelong learning, of which literacy is the foundation;
- To highlight the crucial role of adult learning and education for the realization of current international education and development agendas (EFA, MDGs, UNLD, LIFE, and DESD); and
- To renew political momentum and commitment and to develop tools for implementation in order to move from rhetoric to action.

A final forward-looking document, *Framework for Action*, will be the central outcome of CONFINTEA VI. It will incorporate strategies, recommendations and tools relating to the increased relevance of adult learning and education and its further development from a global perspective.

Each region will organize a preparatory conference in 2008-09 as groundwork for the global conference in Brazil in 2009. As one of the five regional UNESCO conferences, the CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference in Asia and the Pacific, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, will take place in Seoul from 6 to 8 October 2008 and will be organized in cooperation with the National Institute of Lifelong Education (NILE).

For CONFINTEA VI, UNESCO Member States have already prepared national reports on the state of the art and development of adult learning and education, and the regional synthesis report will be prepared based on the national reports. During the Preparatory Conference in Seoul, Korea, the draft regional synthesis covering the Asian and Pacific countries will be presented, discussed and validated in the Regional Conference and will subsequently, together with the regional strategies and recommendations, constitute the Asian and Pacific standpoint in preparation of CONFINTEA VI. Simultaneously, UNESCO is preparing an evidence and thematic-based Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE) which will serve as a working document in the CONFINTEA VI Global Conference, embedding key recommendations for the future action framework.

## **2. Focus and objectives of the CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference in Asia and the Pacific**

The CONFINTEA VI Preparatory Conference in Asia and the Pacific, with the theme “Building Equitable and Sustainable Societies in Asia and the Pacific: the Challenge to Adult Learning”, will focus on current trends in adult education and learning that feed into a new vision for a holistic, diversified and integrated education system for lifelong learning. The conference will also discuss key challenges and cross-cutting issues related to adult learning and education. Since the region is highly diverse, the conference will emphasize adult learning and education for promoting equitable and sustainable societies in Asia and the Pacific region.

The overall goal of the conference is to carry out an international dialogue on Asian and Pacific perspectives on key issues, challenges and forward-looking strategies to renew policies and action in adult learning and education in preparation for CONFINTEA VI.

Basic and continuous learning for adults is a resource and a service that should enable people to participate fully in their societies and take responsibility for their lives. Trends and practices in the field, focusing on participation and inclusion, and improving quality, literacy and key competencies as well as delivery mechanisms, assessment and accreditation, will be shared during the conference.

Specifically, the regional conference for Asia and the Pacific aims to:

- Discuss relevant key issues in adult learning and education in the region (emerging from national reports, research studies and other sources, including ongoing cross-national debates);
- Present, discuss and disseminate effective practices and innovations in adult learning and education (as, for instance, derived from national reports);
- Amend and validate the regional synthesis report (prepared on the basis of national reports) for a consolidated perspective in Asia and the Pacific;
- Develop recommendations for relevant strategies that are forward-looking

Expected outcomes of the conference are:

- Three to five recommendations on policies and action in adult learning and education in Asia and the Pacific as contributions to the international outcome document;
- A consolidated Asian and Pacific Regional Synthesis Report on adult learning and education.

## **3. Participants**

Each Member State in the Asia and Pacific Region is invited to send a delegation of at least three persons. Considering the wide-ranging nature of learning and education for adults, the composition of the delegation should, if possible:

- be multi-sectoral (encompassing representatives of education, rural development, health, agriculture and labour, among other); and
- represent different categories of partners: government agencies, non-government and civil society organizations, research communities, and the corporate sector.

Representatives of the following organizations will be invited as observers:

- United Nations (UN) organizations and specialized agencies;

- Intergovernmental organisations for Asia and the Pacific;
- Development banks;
- Foundations, bilateral development partners and other similar institutions;
- International non-governmental organizations and networks operating at regional and sub-regional levels in Asia and Pacific;
- Stakeholders from the private and corporate sectors;
- Selected individual experts and resource persons.

The conference is a UNESCO intergovernmental meeting (Category II) and no registration fee is charged to participants. The Republic of Korea, in its capacity as the Host Country, has kindly agreed to cover lodging for three members of each delegation from the Member States, as well as lunches and one reception dinner for all participants during the conference. In the case of delegations from the least developed countries (LDC) there is the possibility that UNESCO will sponsor some participants.

#### **4. Dates and venue of the conference**

The conference will be held from 6 to 8 October 2008 in Seoul at:

Sheraton Grande Walkerhill, Seoul, Korea  
21 Gwangjang-dong, Gwangjin-gu, Seoul 135-010

It will normally take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with lunch provided from 12:30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

#### **5. Fair of experiences / exhibition**

A limited amount of space and display facilities will be available for the exhibition of materials during the conference. The UNESCO Secretariat, national delegations, and relevant organizations are expected to bring materials in the field of adult learning and education for exhibition as well as distribution.

#### **6. Conference documents**

A draft of the *Asia and the Pacific Regional Synthesis Report for CONFINTEA VI* and a provisional programme for the conference will be distributed to participants by e-mail beforehand. These documents, as well as information notes on all presentations given during the conference, will be in the document package for all registered participants.

Documents and presentation files will also be available at the CONFINTEA website: [www.unesco.org/confintea6](http://www.unesco.org/confintea6).

#### **7. Working language**

The working language of the conference will be English.

## 8. Organisers and key partners

- UNESCO Headquarters (Paris), the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), UNESCO Bangkok (Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education), the UNESCO Beijing Office, and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (KNCU);
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea, Seoul Metropolitan Office of Education, National Institute for Lifelong Education (NILE), Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET), Korean National Open University (KNOU);
- Asia South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE).

## 9. Contacts

### Programme

#### **UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)**

Feldbrunnenstrasse 58, 20148 Hamburg, GERMANY

Tel: +49 40 4480410, Fax: +49 40 4107723

E-mail: confintea.korea@unesco.org

#### **UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Asia and Pacific (UNESCOBKK)**

920 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10110, THAILAND

Tel: +66 2 3910879, Fax: +66 2 3910866

E-mail: r.bajracharya@unescoykk.org

### Local arrangements (i.e. hotel booking)

#### **National Institute for Lifelong Education (NILE)**

14-34 Yeoido-dong, Youngdeungpo-gu, Seoul 150-871, Korea

Tel: +82 2 37809807, Fax: +82 2 20703142

E-mail: christlike@nile.or.kr