

Asian Pacific Federation of UNESCO Centers & Associations (AFUCA)

19th session of Executive Board

21st August 2009, Penglai, China

"Summary Report of the Conference"

Inaugural Ceremony:

Chair: Mr. Tao Xiping, Honorary President of AFUCA.

Chief Guest: Mr. Zhang Dialing, Mayor of Penglai

Moderator: Mr. Du Yue, Deputy Secretary General of National Commission of UNESCO, China

Participants: Delegation Heads and Members of UNESCO Federation of Clubs, Centers and Associations of 7 member nations: China, Japan, Thailand, India, Mongolia, South Korea & Nepal.

Reporters: Ms. Siriporn Nuanyong, Thailand & Mr. B. N. Sharma, Nepal.

All the delegates remarked by praising the 'Ode to Peace' Penglai, China Inaugural Ceremony that commenced on 20th Aug. 2009 evening.

Presentation I:

Chair: Mr. Noboru Noguchi,

Presentation by Mr. Lee, Pyungwou, President of KNFUCA, South Korea. He has been working as a UNESCO Lead Person in South Korea for over a period of two decades.

Mr. Lee began by his overwhelming remarks as a recipient of the Penglai Peace Award 2009. "The Penglai Peace Award inspired me highly to work with my colleagues. The Penglai Festival was a gorgeous cultural event presented by the children."

Mr. Lee highlighted some activities of his Federation such as 'UNESCO International Family Friendship Festival' in Kwangju city and 'Shoes of Hope' for the needy. He talked about the multi-cultural problems in the Korean Community related to inter-marriage. KNFUCA has counseling programmes to help the couples with marriage problems.

Presentation II:

Presentation Mr. Noboru Noguchi. He has been working as a UNESCO Lead Person in Japan for over a period of four decades.

Mr. Noguchi presented a report – with an opening statement on UNESCO movement in Japan and the celebration of the 60th Anniversary. He highlighted Terakoya (Community Learning Centre) that celebrated 20th Anniversary and is in effect in 5 countries: Afghanistan, Nepal, Laos, India & Cambodia. This involves literacy activity since the 1990 as UN year of literacy. He mentioned about the World Heritage preservation activities. Cultural Heritage Restoration Center in Bamyan in Afghanistan was established. In Cambodia – Public awareness program in Angkor was started. Preservation of cultural and natural heritages for the future: 'Mirai Isan' – preserves the local treasures.

He said they are celebrating the 65th National Convention in Yokohama.

'Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festais an drawing contest in 24 Asian countries. CUCAI, India has been the organizer for 3 consecutive years. The support of the Private Companies has helped the UNESCO movement in Japan.

Plenary:

Presentation III:

Chair: Mr. Noboru Noguchi,

Presentation by Associate Prof. Dambar Bir Thapa. President of National Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers & Associations in Nepal. He has been working as a Pioneer UNESCO leader in Nepal for over three decades.

Mr. Thapa presented a Report on Nepal with a chronological order of events that the Federation conducted in the past year. Mr. Thapa remarked about the Regional Training to the UNESCO Leaders in the five developmental regions of the nation on their 'Capacity Building on their leadership skills.' NAFUCAN has organized Seminars for Teachers and Students and has conducted Trainings in empowering students on networking skills. Mr. Thapa highlighted that the ideals of UNESCO have been a part of the National Curriculum and Peace, Human Rights and Civic Education have now been in the school syllabus. The Federation has been working in close association with the National Commission for UNESCO in Nepal.

Presentation IV:

Chair: Mr. Noboru Noguchi,

Presented by: Lan H. Seng, President of Chinese National Federation for UNESCO Clubs and Associations:

Mr. Seng reported that the Federation participated in the '2008 East Asia Children's Art Festival' in South Korea. This event empowered the international exchanges and updated communication. Mr. Seng highlighted the Practicum Group from Wollongong University, Australia. Primary and Secondary Students participated in the "Protect the Environment and Preserve our Earth" program. And he said 8 students were awarded by the Enniki Festa. Beijing Municipal UNESCO Clubs 2008 Annual Conference and Provincial Reform Programs are the highlights of the year. The 2008 Annual Conference had important delegates from the government and INGOs. There were delegates from Hong Kong and neighboring countries. Provincial representatives took part in many events.

Activities of the Federation:

There has been active participation in UNESCO themes every year. Important programs: Chinese language festivals, TESL association programs, Museum construction for students, culture protection of ethnic groups have been the chief achievements.

UNESCO Club activities: summer camp for visually impaired students, inclusive education conference, aid and assistance in reconstruction in quake hit areas: Building up of destroyed schools are some of the activities of the Federation.

Plenary:

1. Mr. Lee from Korea pointed on the Confucius philosophy and the importance of Chinese characters. Mr. Lee remarked on the Korean culture are based on the Chinese characters (alphabets). These days the Chinese characters are getting lost in Korea as people don't give importance to it these days. UNESCO Club schools are promoting Confucianism. Building the Chinese culture is gradually growing as UNESCO mission of cultural protection.
2. Mr. Thapa, Nepal asked about the use of the ASPnet in Chinese schools. Lan replied that - The Beijing Association is the umbrella of ASPnet activities. Students are sent to UK to study the UNESCO activities there. Mr. Tao remarked – there is considerable amount of overlapping in UNESCO activities so, schools can be working with Clubs and they connect their works with the UNESCO Association. Mr. Tao further added that there are 20,000 UNESCO Clubs members in different schools in China. There is no individual membership. Schools can become corporate

members. Other Institution can become members. There are very less ASPnet members in China. Principal.

Presentation V:

Chair: Mr. Noboru Noguchi,

Presented by: Mr. Dharendra Bhatnagar, Secretary general of National Confederation for UNESCO Clubs and Associations of India (CUCAI):

Mr. Bhatnagar presented a report on the activities conducted in India:

The Confederation has attended various cultural exchange programs in places of the world. The Confederation coordinates Trainings in Peace Education with the NCERT. Interaction programs for Teachers and Students are held all over India. UNESCO National Commission acts as the nodal point of activities. WUFUCA has been represented by Mr. Bhatnagar for India. With Mr. Tao's help, a Friendship School has been twinned in China and students have been corresponding for exchange of their culture. Friendship visits to China and India are growing. Participation in 'Ode to Peace' has been growing popular day by day so, special selection process has to be devised.

India has been the Organizer of the Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa since three consecutive years. This program is very popular and has an overwhelming participation every year.

UN Theme days are being celebrated throughout the year.

Mr. Bhatnagar presented a list of activities conducted in 2008/9.

A book on the World Heritage Sites in India has been recently published. This documentation is valuable for the knowledge on these sites. There are altogether 1000 UNESCO clubs in different states. 50% of these clubs are very active. Publication of a calendar of UN Theme days has been done for all the UNESCO schools. A Peace March Program is being organized by India for AFUCA.

Presentation VI:

Chair: Mr. Noboru Noguchi,

Presented by Ms. Prayad Sriboonchoo, Advisor of the Centre for International Understanding (CIU), Thailand:

There are 400 ASPnet members in Thailand and the UNESCO Activities are conducted by the Centre for International Understanding (CIU) is the member association of the WFUCA and AFUCA and so has represented in all International Seminars Organized by UNESCO Federations of different nations. CIU, though has a different name, works as an Association for the UNESCO and ASPnet schools in Thailand. The President of the Association is Ms. Ekjittra Choosakulchart and Ms. Siriporn Nuanyong, Secretary of CIU have both been active UNESCO activists in Thailand for more than two decades.

Culture of Peace Festival and Exchange Programs with Japan, India, Thai and Chinese are regular activities that CIU is conducting. 200 Chinese teachers teach the Chinese language in Thai Schools. Intl. School twining Program with Korea began in 2007. Ms. Prayad remarked that CIU has plans of conducting EFA and ESD Projects and Programs in the coming year. In Thailand it is believed that 'teaching students with cultured habits for better life' is the main task of the ASPnet schools. There is a strong Twining Program with the schools of the remote rural schools. This domestic outreach programs helps the rural schools to have exchange programs with the urban schools and they learn lot of skills from the UNESCO activities. Slides of the school programs and twinning program with the overseas schools were shown.

Presentation VII:

Chair: Mr. Noboru Noguchi,

Presented by National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations in Mongolia by: Mr. Samdan Tsedevsuren:

UNESCO activities in Mongolia are in practice since last two years. Though it was initially established in 1997, the Federation cooperates with schools and clubs. ASPnet brings teachers and students UNESCO events and activities. Capacity building in qualitative teaching for the youth is being promoted by the Federation.

The Federation has been carrying out activities to support disadvantaged and vulnerable youth and children. Textbooks for visually impaired children and with mental disabilities and the training programs were conducted.

Since 2006, Mongolian students have been involved Ode to Peace International Youth Culture and Art Festival. They also participated in the Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enikki Festa. Mongolia is a new member of AFUCA and is wishing to have new networks with schools of the other member nations. Mr. Samden showed the commitments of the Federation and strengthening of the UNESCSCO Clubs for ESD and EFA in the coming days with the close cooperation of the National Commission of UNESCO in Mongolia.

PLENARY:

1. Mr. Lee to Thailand – why not national association in your country? Mam Prayad answered saying we are not yet ready for the national wide Federation. CIU itself is an association of ASPs net and UNESCO corporate members. Mr. Thapa asked - How do you twin schools without a Federation? She replied that the network is working on mutual cooperation. Centre is a preferred term in Thailand. Funding is the main problem for Federation Programs.

Mr. Bhatnagar tole about the passive situation of ASPnet in India. He said that formal registration of ASP was a problem and some encouragement from existing Associated School will be required. Bridging the National Commission and the ASPnet Association has been difficult to promote. Mr. Thapa said the National Commission of Nepal is cooperative with the ASP network. Mr. Du remarked that UNESCO Club Association and ASPnet are different in nature. ASPnet is limited to school and they can operate in freedom. But the National Commission deals with the clubs on the national basis for the UNESCO as UN Agency.

Mr. Bhatnagar remarked that since 35 years the names of the ASPnet schools is still the same and the activity in continuity is un-understood.

2. Mr. Noboru Noguchi mentioned about financial status of AFUCA. The total amount of the contribution is \$2400 plus 22000 Japanese Yen. The Constitution on the AFUCA article 8 (?) Paragraph 4 payment every two years for membership renewal. Membership fee must be paid from 2007 and not before.

3. The AFUCA secretariat (i.e. is in Japan) can be activated by all the participants present this day. Setting up a website for AFUCA. The Chair proposed Forming and designing a project that can be a stepping stone for AFUCA reactivation. The conference concluded by deciding the Next Meeting of AFUCA on 25/26, 2010 Sat./Sun. Nara, Japan.

Mr. Bhatnagar thanked the Organizers for both the Penglai Festival 'Ode to Peace' and AFUCA meeting.

Mr. Tao, Mr.Zang Dailing, Mayor of Penglai: remarked for the pleasure for hosting two valuable programs here in Penglai.

He thanked all the participants and the delegates from the various 7 nations. The Chair thanked the participants and invited all to Nara, Japan for the next meeting.