

**Sub-Regional Workshop on
Capacity Building of NFE Managers for Effective Use of ICTs in Literacy and Skills Training
08 March – 12 March 2014**

General Information

Background

Information Communication Technology (ICT) is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, network, hardware and software, satellite system, various services and so on. The importance of ICT lies less in the technology itself rather ability of ICTs to create greater access to information and communication in underserved population. There is a strong conviction that potentials of ICT can be widely utilized to promote non-formal education (NFE) and vocational training activities. Although there is an increasing awareness of the potentials of ICT in the south Asian sub- regional countries and increasing access to ICTs as well, most of the CLCs/literacy centers are yet to benefit from the possibilities offered by ICT. On the other hand, as per increasing demand, coverage of NFE and skills training should be extended to socio-economically disadvantaged group who generally live in rural, remote and isolated areas of different countries. At present ICT mostly benefits urban educated and well off people. The divide in access to technologies between the poor and the rich poses new threats to level the existing educational and socio-economic disparities. It is, therefore, important to ensure that disadvantaged groups should benefit from the use of ICTs in an increasingly knowledge based society.

Traditional ICTs, such as radio and television is being used in many NFE programmes for a long time. Recently modern technologies such as computers and internet have created a new era in the delivery of NFE. The use of ICTs in NFE, especially in 'distance education' has increased tremendously. ICTs are increasingly being used to produce multi-media products with integration of animation, video clips, still photographs, audio, etc. Use of ICTs in materials development has immense potential to enlarge diversity and flexibility of material development. ICTs can play an important role in stimulating interest and engaging learners in the teaching learning process and thus enhance quality in non-formal education programmes. ICTs are very effective for mass literacy campaigns, functional content delivery and as a means of teaching learning process.

ICT can also be used as an effective tool in the professional development of NFE teachers and supervisors, especially those working in the remote areas. ICT can be used to facilitate the process of networking among organizations engaged in the design and delivery of NFE programmes. It is essential for the Government and other organizations to coordinate their NFE activities to maximize available resources and expertise, including ICT equipment. ICT tools can improve the overall effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation of NFE programmes. However, success of ICT-supported NFE programmes depends on people-driven approach rather than depending on technology only.

In the context of south Asian sub-region, it has achieved some commendable progress towards reducing illiteracy rate and expanding scope of receiving basic education, continuing education and skills training services. Effective use of ICTs in the sub-region can further boost up impact of NFE and help achieve the goals of Education for All (EFA). Focus of ICTs in south Asian sub-region should be on reducing digital divide between rural and urban areas and promote community development and empowerment. ICT tools are very powerful and can go a long way in addressing certain issues like

adult illiteracy, vocational skills development, education for school dropouts and women empowerment. The current emphasis on creating “knowledge-based” societies has made “learning” throughout life more important, which in turn requires an educational delivery system to have greater flexibility to address diverse learning styles and supply of contextually relevant learning contents. This has set the context to harness the power of ICTs in non-formal education.

An effort to develop capacity of NFE providers of south Asian countries through a sub-regional workshop will certainly help participating countries to maximize the use of ICTs for the qualitative improvement of NFE in the sub-region.

Objectives of the Workshop

This workshop is being organized under the UNESCO Participation Programme 2012-2013. At the end of the workshop the participants will be able to:

1. share experiences and good practices on development and use of ICT (policy, technology, approach and outcome) in NFE,
2. explain concept and scope of ICT in education,
3. describe ICT tools and their various applications in NFE and vocational skills training ;
4. explain process of development and use of digital contents in NFE and vocational skills training,
5. identify role of NFE managers in developing and using ICTs in NFE and vocational skills training ;
6. prepare workshop follow-up plan.

Contents of the Workshop

The sub-regional workshop will address key issues of development and application of ICTs in non-formal education and skills training. Following are indicative contents of the workshop:

- Analysis of present ICT policies and programmes of the participating countries;
- Sharing of experiences and good practices of development and use of ICT materials in NFE;
- Concept and scope of ICT in education,
- Various ICT tools and their application in NFE ,skills training and teachers development;
- Potentials of Community Radio for widening access to information and improvement of quality of life ,
- Development and use of ICT materials in NFE and skills training,
- Role of NFE managers in developing and using ICTs in NFE and skills training;
- Follow-up planning;
- Course evaluation;

Participants of the Workshop

Senior level NFE managers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Pakistan;

Organizers of the Sub-regional Workshop

1. Dhaka Ahsania Mission
2. UNESCO Dhaka

Qualifications of the Participants

Each of the participating countries in the workshop are expected to nominate Senior Management Level participants representing GO and NGOs, actively engaged in literacy and non-formal education programmes. The selected participants should have knowledge and experience in developing and using ICTs in education. In the workshop participants will need to present ICT policies and programmes of the participating countries and share experiences and good practices of development and use of ICT materials in NFE. The nominees should have enough competence in English language (both spoken and written). **Nomination of women participants will be highly encouraged.**

Working Language

English will be the working language during the workshop and all materials to be used in the workshop will be in English.

Date and Time

08 March – 12 March 2014

Travel Arrangements

1) Air-Ticket

Dhaka Ahsania Mission will send round-trip air ticket (economy class) to all nominated international participants. Participants of the workshop will arrive in Dhaka on 07 March 2014 and leave late evening of 12 March or 13 March 2014.

2) Transportation from the International Airport to the Hotel

Upon arrival at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka, participants will be met by a representative of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission who will take them to the hotel where accommodation will be arranged for all the international participants.

Daily Subsistence Allowance

Dhaka Ahsania Mission will provide the participants with a modest daily subsistence allowance (DSA) during the period of the workshop. Dhaka Ahsania Mission will not provide other expenses such as visa fee and local transportation between home and the airport etc.

Accommodation

A block reservation of single rooms will be made for the international participants. Participants will have to cover the cost of the hotel from their DSA. The hotel names and address will be informed later.

Workshop Venue

The Sub-Regional Training Workshop will be held in the conference room of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), House # 19, Road # 12 (New), Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka – 1209, Bangladesh.
Phone: (880-2) 8119521-22, 9123420, 9123402, 8115909;
Fax: 880-2-8113010, 8118522
URL: <http://www.ahsaniamission.org.bd>

Passports and Visa

International participants must be in possession of a valid passport and travel documents to travel in Bangladesh. **Nominated participants should send scan copy of their passport before 7th February 2014.** Dhaka Ahsania Mission will issue request letter to Bangladesh Embassy / High Commissions of the respective countries to facilitate processing of visa. Participants will contact the Bangladesh Embassy / High Commission in their respective countries to obtain entry visa to Bangladesh.

Correspondence

All correspondence concerning this workshop should be addressed to the following:

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