

# Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Education, Language and the Human Rights of Minorities

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY, BANGKOK, THAILAND 20 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2019



## FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

### 08:30-09:10 Opening Remarks

*Room Location: Tawe Wattana I & II Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center, Mahidol University*

The session is chaired by **Anna-Mária Bíró**

1. **Fernand de Varennes**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
2. **Chirizzi Katia**, Deputy Regional Representative, OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia
3. **Maki Hayashikawa**, Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education, UNESCO Bangkok
4. Representative of **UNICEF** Office in South-East Asia (TBC)
5. **Representative of Mahidol University**

### 09:20 – 10:00 Presentation on OSCE's Education Programme in Central Asia by Mr. Michael Angermann

*Room Location: Tawe Wattana I & II Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center, Mahidol University*

The OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities has been promoting mother tongue based multilingual education for national minorities in Central Asia for more than 15 years. Project Officer of the HCNM Central Asia Education Programme, Michael Angermann, will focus in his presentation on the two country cases of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan as well as discuss the impact of the HCNM involvement. A number of conclusions will be formulated based on the countries' best practices and existing challenges.

### 10:00-12:30 Plenary: Experts present the 3 themes to be further discussed in working groups

*Room Location: Tawe Wattana I & II Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center, Mahidol University*

The panel discussion will be introduced by **Fernand de Varennes** and moderated by **Anna-Mária Bíró**

In this introductory panel, each of the 3 themes will be presented by experts in the issue area, outlining the issues to be discussed in the subsequent working groups in order to develop and draft recommendations. It is envisaged that each working group will draft minimum 5 recommendations on the topic.

There will be an opportunity during the session for participants to raise questions to the experts under each theme.

### **Introduction by Fernand de Varennes (15 minutes)**

Dr de Varennes will introduce the background and process of the regional forums, why the topic of education in and teaching of minority languages is the first topic to be covered by the regional forum format and also set-out the normative context, noting the strengths and weaknesses of the international normative framework

### **Expert introduces 1<sup>st</sup> Theme - Human Rights and minority language education (15 minutes presentation followed by 30 minutes Q & A)**

Is there a right to education in and teaching of a minority language, and if so how should the right be implemented? This is one of the central issues for many minority communities around the world. While some European instruments address the issue, these tend to still be fairly general, open to interpretation, or even misunderstood, particularly in relation to the relationship between human rights obligations and the use of (minority) languages in education.

This theme and working group will discuss the interaction between existing human rights standards and education in minority languages, considering the circumstances for such rights claims. It will also look at what minorities actually want when it comes to the teaching of and in their languages, as well as what States can provide when considering the principles of proportionality and reasonableness.

### **Question and Answer session**

### **Expert introduces 2<sup>nd</sup> Theme – Public policy objectives and practices for education in minority languages (15 minutes presentation followed by 30 minutes Q & A)**

The implementation of human rights resulting in education in and teaching of minority languages can take many forms.

This working group will consider how public policies should address the effective implementation of the human rights for minorities in the use of their languages in education. It will discuss minority language institutions including the various types of schooling (integrated, separated, bilingual, multilingual), as well as minority language education's relationship to economic and social development and the acquisition of the majority/official language.

### **Question and Answer session**

### **Expert Introduces 3<sup>rd</sup> Theme - Effective practices in education in and teaching of minority languages, including resources and management for the effective implementation (15 minutes presentation followed by 30 minutes Q & A)**

Beyond purely human rights or public policy considerations, it is essential to keep in mind the pedagogical value and significance of teaching in minority languages, and the impact this may have in learning outcomes for minority children, as well as on their interaction with other members of the society.

Furthermore, the right to education in a minority language requires that appropriate resources and effective approaches are put in place for its effective implementation. There can be a variety of obstacles of a practical nature for the implementation of human rights in education for minorities.

Widespread misunderstandings need to be dispelled, particularly on the cost-effectiveness, and the societal benefits of education in minority languages should be highlighted.

### Question and Answer session

**12:30-14:00 Lunch break**

**14:00-17:00 Working Groups**

Working Groups for each theme will be held to enable deeper discussion on the issues, with each working group developing and drafting minimum 5 recommendations, to be presented and summarised in the final session of the regional forum.

<b>Working Group 1 – Human Rights and minority language education</b>	<b>Working Group 2 – Public policy objectives and practices for education in minority languages</b>	<b>Working Group 3 – Effective practices in education in and teaching of minority languages, including resources and management for the effective implementation</b>
<i>Room Location: Tawee Wattana I</i>	<i>Room Location: Maha Swasdee I</i>	<i>Room Location: Maha Swasdee II</i>
<p><u>Experts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Professor Marie LALL</a> (University College London, UK)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Professor Joseph LO BIANCO</a>, (University of Melbourne, Australia)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Dr. Dilnur REYHAN</a> (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, France)</li> </ol> <p>Chair: Dr. Sriprapha PETCHARAMESREE (Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University, Thailand)</p>	<p><u>Experts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Mr Hywel COLEMAN</a> (University of Leeds, UK)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Professor Stephen MAY</a> (University of Auckland, New Zealand)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Dr. Shivani NAG</a> (Ambedkar University Delhi, India)</li> </ol> <p>Chair: Taisuke KOMATSU (IMADR)</p>	<p><u>Experts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Wooki PARK-KIM (Human Rights Association for Korean Residents in Japan)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Dr. Kirk PERSON</a> (Mahidol University, Thailand)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Dr. Linda TSUNG</a> (The University of Sydney, Australia)</li> </ol> <p>Chair: Forum Asia - TBC</p>

**SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**08:30-10:00 Working Groups**

Each working group will reconvene to continue their discussions and to prepare recommendations for presentation in the final session.

<p><b>Working Group 1 – Human Rights and minority language education</b></p>	<p><b>Working Group 2 – Public policy objectives and practices for education in minority languages</b></p>	<p><b>Working Group 3 – Effective practices in education in and teaching of minority languages, including resources and management for the effective implementation</b></p>
<p><i>Room Location: Tawee Wattana I</i></p>	<p><i>Room Location: MahaSwasdee I</i></p>	<p><i>Room Location: MahaSwasdee II</i></p>
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**10:15-10:45 Q & A with the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Dr Fernand de Varennes**

*Room Location: Tawee Wattana I & II Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center, Mahidol University*

**11:00 – 12:00 Working Groups**

<p><b>Working Group 1 – Human Rights and minority language education</b></p>	<p><b>Working Group 2 – Public policy objectives and practices for education in minority languages</b></p>	<p><b>Working Group 3 – Effective practices in education in and teaching of minority languages, including resources and management for the effective implementation</b></p>
<p><i>Room Location: Tawee Wattana I</i></p>	<p><i>Room Location: MahaSwasdee I</i></p>	<p><i>Room Location: MahaSwasdee II</i></p>
<p><u>Experts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Professor Marie LALL</a> (University College London, UK)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Professor Joseph LO BIANCO</a>, (University of Melbourne, Australia)</li> </ol>	<p><u>Experts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Mr Hywel COLEMAN</a> (University of Leeds, UK)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Professor Stephen MAY</a> (University of Auckland, New Zealand)</li> </ol>	<p><u>Experts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ms. Wooki PARK-KIM (Human Rights Association for Korean Residents in Japan)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Dr. Kirk PERSON</a> (SIL International and Mahidol University, Thailand)</li> </ol>

<p>3. <a href="#">Dr. Dilnur REYHAN</a> (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, France)</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Sriprapha PETCHARAMESREE (Human Rights and Peace Studies at Mahidol University, Thailand)</p>	<p>3. <a href="#">Dr. Shivani NAG</a> (Ambedkar University Delhi, India)</p> <p>Chair: Taisuke KOMATSU (IMADR)</p>	<p>3. <a href="#">Dr. Linda TSUNG</a> (The University of Sydney, Australia)</p> <p>Chair: Forum Asia - TBC)</p>
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**12:00-13:30 Lunch break**

**13:30-16:00 Plenary: Presentation of Recommendations**

*Room Location: Tawee Wattana I & II Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center, Mahidol University*

In this session, the lead expert from each Working Group will present the issues discussed and the draft recommendations proposed. After all recommendations are presented, there will be an opportunity for further questions and answers.

The panel discussion is chaired by **Fernand de Varennnes** and moderated by **Anna-Mária Bíró**

**16:15-17:00 Concluding remarks**

*Room Location: Tawee Wattana I & II Salaya Pavilion Hotel and Training Center, Mahidol University*

- **Fernand de Varennnes**, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

*Working languages: English*