

**2008 Joint Capacity Building Workshop for Literacy Resource Centres
for Girls and Women in Asia and the Pacific**
(3 – 7 June 2008, Kathmandu, Nepal)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) and the Literacy Resource Centre in Nepal (LRC Nepal) under the National Resource Centre for Non-Formal Education (NRC-NFE) will jointly organise the **2008 Joint Capacity Building Workshop for Literacy Resource Centres for Girls and Women in Asia and the Pacific** from 3 to 7 June 2008 in Lalitpur, Nepal. The Workshop will be organised in cooperation with the Non-Formal Education Centre, Ministry of Education and Sports, Government of Nepal, UNESCO Kathmandu, UNESCO Bangkok and the National Commissions for UNESCO in Nepal and Japan.

The Workshop is supported by the “ACCU International Exchange Programme under the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Promotion of International Cooperation and Mutual Understanding.”

1. Background

The Literacy Resource Centres for Girls and Women (LRC) Programme was launched in 1994 by ACCU in cooperation with UNESCO and its Member States in Asia and the Pacific region, in order to meet the needs for literacy education, especially for girls and women, and to contribute to the achievement of “Education for All (EFA)” in Asia and the Pacific. At present, 18 organisations in 17 countries are members of the ACCU-LRC Network.

The LRCs, established and managed by the member organisations of the ACCU-LRC Network, are promoting literacy and non-formal education (NFE) through various activities such as materials and curriculum development, training, networking, information sharing and advocacy. While each LRC conducts different activities responding to the local needs, it is expected that the ACCU-LRC Network will contribute to achieving the goals of EFA, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the United Nations Literacy Decade 2003-2012 (UNLD) in Asia and the Pacific region.

Since 2007, ACCU started a new model project called “Supporting Maternal and Child Health Improvement and Building Literate Environments (SMILE)” in collaboration with the LRCs. The SMILE project is particularly targeting illiterate and neo-literate mothers, with a focus on mothers’ influential roles in families and communities. It aims to contribute to acquisition and sustainability of women’s literacy skills, creation of literate environments, and improvement of health conditions of mothers and children, through basic/post-literacy education integrating maternal and child health education and promotion of reading activities at home and in communities. LRC Nepal and LRC Bangladesh are currently implementing the SMILE project targeting neo-literate women in a pilot scale at the community level.

During 1996-2007, ACCU organised 11 regional workshops for capacity building of the LRCs to facilitate the sharing of experiences and expertise among the LRCs and train personnel of the LRCs and their local partner organisations in various technical skills to improve their educational activities.

2. Objectives

The Workshop aims to enhance the capacity of LRCs for effectively implementing the SMILE project. The specific objectives are:

- (1) To share the experiences and initial findings from the SMILE pilot projects in Nepal and Bangladesh;
- (2) To improve the LRC personnel's capacity for promoting the creation of literate environments at home and in communities through the facilitation of family and intergenerational literacy and community libraries;
- (3) To strengthen the LRCs' capacity for needs assessment and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of their projects; and
- (4) To share the current situations and activities of the participating LRCs.

3. Expected Outcomes

At the end of the Workshop, the participants are expected:

- (1) To be able to make concrete plans for future activities of the SMILE project by each LRC;
- (2) To be equipped with increased knowledge and practical skills on the promotion of family and intergenerational literacy, particularly mother-child reading interactions;
- (3) To be able to effectively establish and manage community libraries or reading corners for promoting reading activities in communities;
- (4) To be able to plan and conduct the qualitative/quantitative needs assessment and M&E of the SMILE project with community participation; and
- (5) To have better understanding of other LRCs' activities and increase direct communication and cooperation among the LRCs.

4. Organisers

- Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
- National Resource Center for Non-Formal Education (LRC Nepal, NRC-NFE)

5. Co-operating Organisations (*to be confirmed*)

- Non-Formal Education Centre, Ministry of Education and Sports, Government of Nepal
- UNESCO Kathmandu
- UNESCO Bangkok
- Nepal National Commission for UNESCO
- Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

6. Date

Tuesday, 3 June – Saturday, 7 June 2008 (5 days)

7. Venue

Hotel Himalaya

P. O. Box 2141, Sahid Sukra Marg, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-1-5523900

Fax: 977-1-5523909

E-mail: reservation@hotelhimalaya.com.np

himalhot@mos.com.np

sm@hotelhimalaya.com.np

Website: www.himalayahotel.com.np

8. Participants [33 persons]

(1) LRC participants [18 persons]

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Bangladesh [3 persons]

Cambodian Women's Development Agency (CWDA), Cambodia [3 persons]

Non-Formal Education Development Centre (NFEDC), Lao PDR [3 persons]

National Resource Centre for Non-Formal Education (NRC-NFE), Nepal
[3 persons]

Pakistan Girl Guides Association Punjab Branch (PGGA), Pakistan [3 persons]

Notre Dame Foundation for Charitable Activities, Inc., Women in Enterprise
Development (NDFCAI-WED), Philippines [3 persons]

The participating LRCs were selected from the member organisations of ACCU-LRC Network who have submitted proposals for the SMILE project or expressed interest in the implementation of the SMILE project.

LRC participants should be staff members of an LRC and its network organisations, who have been or will be actively involved in the implementation of the SMILE project.

(2) Participants from LRC Nepal's local network organisations [10 persons]

(3) Resource persons [2 persons]

(4) ACCU staff [3 persons]

(5) Observers from UNESCO Kathmandu, UNESCO Bangkok, the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ), and other concerned bodies may participate in the Workshop.

9. Working Language

The working language of the Workshop will be English.

10. Financial Arrangement

ACCU will provide each international participant and resource person with round-trip air tickets (economy class) for the shortest route between the international airport nearest his/her residence and Kathmandu, Nepal and a DSA (daily subsistence allowance) based on the ACCU standard. Details of financial arrangement and preparation by participants will be informed separately in the Guide for Participants.

11. Tentative Programme Outline

Dates	Activities
DAY 1 3 June 2008, Tuesday	1. Inauguration of the Workshop 2. Orientation of the Workshop 3. ACCU-LRC Network and SMILE project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Introduction to ACCU-LRC Network and SMILE project by ACCU (2) Sharing of LRC activities and SMILE pilot projects by LRC Nepal and LRC Bangladesh (3) Sharing of LRC activities by LRC Cambodia, LRC Lao PDR, LRC Pakistan and LRC Philippines
DAY 2 4 June 2008, Wednesday	4. Field visits to the SMILE pilot project site and other educational activity sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Visit to Amarapur CLC in Bungamati, Lalitpur (2) Visit to the information centre (3) Visit to literacy classes (4) Visit to cultural sightseeing sites
DAY 3 5 June 2008, Thursday	5. Building literate environments through reading promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Importance of family literacy and mother-child reading interactions (2) Basic know-how on the promotion of mother-child storybook reading activities (3) Establishment and management of community libraries
DAY 4 6 June 2008, Friday	6. Participatory needs assessment and M&E of the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Sharing of experiences in needs assessment and M&E in SMILE pilot projects by LRC Nepal and LRC Bangladesh (2) Review of the means and measurement instruments currently used for needs assessment and M&E for each LRC's projects (3) Selection of core indicators and recommended methods for SMILE project.
DAY 5 7 June 2008, Saturday	7. Preparation of action plans for LRC activities with particular attention to SMILE project by LRCs 8. Closing of the Workshop

12. Correspondence

Mr. SATO Kunio
Director-General
Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

6 Fukuromachi, Shinjuku-ku,
Tokyo 162-8484, JAPAN
Tel: 81-3-3269-4559, 4435
Fax: 81-3-3269-4510
E-mail: education@accu.or.jp
Website: www.accu.or.jp

Mr. T. M. Sakya
President
National Resource Centre for Non-Formal Education (NRC-NFE)

Talchhikhel, Satdobato, Lalitpur 14,
P.O. Box 270, Patan, NEPAL
Tel: 977-1-5534416
Fax: 977-1-5541689
E-mail: nrc-nfe@acculrc.wlink.com.np
Website: www.nrc-nfe.org.np