



**Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education**  
Learning Beyond Boundaries

# **ASPBAE Regional CSO SDG4 Experiences**

**Bernie Lovegrove**

**Asia Pacific CSEF Regional Coordinator**

**ASPBAE**



Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
Learning Beyond Boundaries

## Regional Support to country coalitions & organisations to improve their effectiveness

- ASPBAE maximised its 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly consultation processes: 13 national-level consultations culminating in a regional strategic planning
- With support of the Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF) worked with partner coalitions to launch multi-stakeholder dialogues on SDG4 including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mongolia, Philippines, Timor Leste, Vietnam.
- In the South Pacific ASBAE organised two Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues on SDG4 in Fiji involving coalitions / networks from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa
- ASPBAE as resource persons, organisers or co-organisers







Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
Learning Beyond Boundaries

# ASPBAE Regional Advocacy on SDG4

- **Resource Pack** included a design template of the consultations, sample presentations on SDG 4 and follow up processes and relevant resource materials on SDG4-Education 2030
- ASPBAE is involved in the regional **Thematic Working Group on Education 2030** co-convened by UNESCO Bangkok and UNICEF.
- ASPBAE participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Asia Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 (APMED 2)** on Nov 16-18, 2016 in Bangkok – a UNESCO-led SDG 4-Education 2030 regional follow up process. ASPBAE lobbied for strong civil society participation and roles in the sessions and the Drafting Committee.
- ASPBAE also organised a **pre-APMED CSO advocacy strategizing meeting**, the day before the event.





Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
Learning Beyond Boundaries

# Engagement with Sub-Regional Intergovernmental bodies

- ASPBAE engagement with:
- the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), participating in the Sub-regional workshop on the SAARC Framework for Action for Education 2030 (31-31 March 2016, Katmandu)
- the South East Asia Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in their processes aligning their education priorities with SDG4, working with the SEAMEO Secretariat and ASEAN through the TWG Education 2030.
- The Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) working with the staff and involving them in multi-stakeholder dialogues







Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
Learning Beyond Boundaries

# Engaging wider SDG mechanisms & processes on behalf of SDG4

- ASPBAE joined the **Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCSEM)** – the UN ESCAP supported mechanism
- ASPBAE attended the **Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)** and the **Asia-Pacific Civil Society Forum on Sustainable Development** that preceded it in both 2016 & 2017. The APFSD is the regional preparatory meeting for the annual High level Political Forum (HLPF) – which is the main follow up mechanism for the SDGs.
- In the 2017 APFSD Civil Society Forum ASPBAE advocated for the inclusion of an Education and Academia constituency group in the APRCEM.





Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
Learning Beyond Boundaries

- Limited CSO advocacy access to key decision makers – need to find creative ways
- Shrinkage of CSO spaces – constant battle
- Some resistance to full SDG4 alignment and an extensive set of indicators
- Government officials daunted by the complexity of 17 SDGs and the challenge to integrate them into effective plans
- Lack of government and donor political will or sense of urgency for change
- Limited resources for CSOs to engage effectively at at the regional and sub-regional intergovernmental events level intergovernmental events and processes

# Regional Challenges







Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
Learning Beyond Boundaries

# Regional Opportunities

- Chance to mobilise more education CSOs into APRCEM membership so that education issues and concerns hold greater visibility and prominence in the joint advocacies and submissions of the APRCEM in the official regional SDG processes.
- Some regional forums provide better access for national CSO reps to their own senior government officials
- Sharing experiences from different regions
- Regional organisations as a bridge from national to global processes

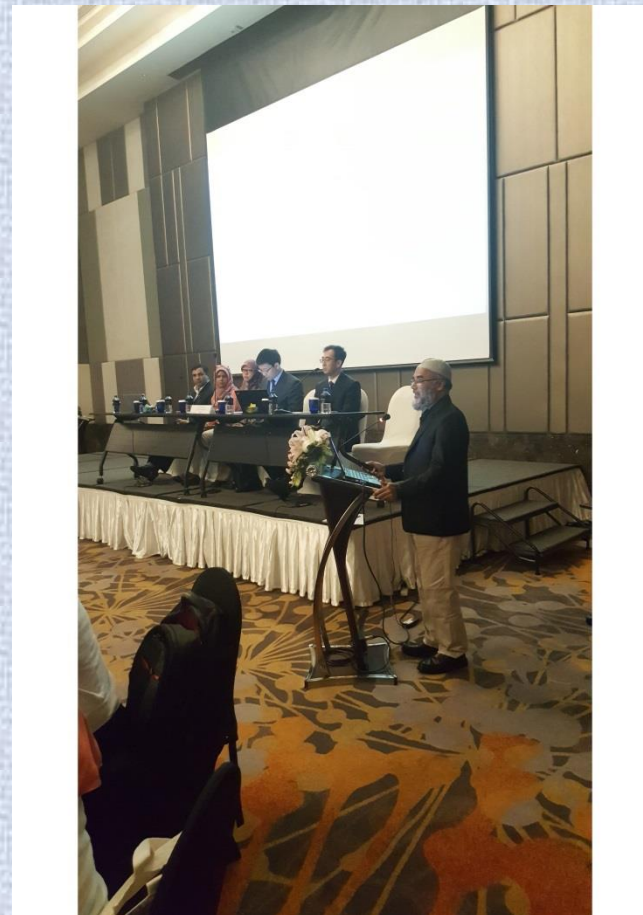




Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education  
Learning Beyond Boundaries

# Capacity Building Needs

1. Research
2. Policy Analysis
3. Identifying quality, achievable, accessible national level indicators, especially for neglected SDG4 targets
4. Mobilising resources for education CSO work and institutions
5. Forging new partnerships and alliances
6. How to ensure SDG4 is prominent in broader SDG processes and plans







**Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education**

---

Learning Beyond Boundaries