

2023 NEQMAP ANNUAL MEETING

7-8 December 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid Modality)



CONCEPT NOTE

CONTEXT

The Network for Education Quality Monitoring in the Asia-Pacific (NEQMAP) is a regional network bringing together experts, government agencies, research institutions and CSOs to exchange knowledge, experience and expertise on the monitoring of educational quality in countries and jurisdictions of the Asia-Pacific region. The network focuses on student learning assessment as a key tool for monitoring education quality and learning, while acknowledging the importance of maintaining strong linkages with other enablers of learning in classrooms including curriculum and pedagogy.

On December 7-8, 2023, NEQMAP will host its Annual Meeting to take stock of the year's activities from members and plan activities for 2024. The Annual Meeting is a unique opportunity for NEQMAP members to share, discuss and learn from each other's research, practices and experiences to advance the quality of learning assessment in the Asia-Pacific.

This year's annual meeting edition is also a celebration of NEQMAP's 10-year anniversary, and the accomplishments made by the members over the past decade to advance the quality of education in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting will thus include a retrospective and revisiting of past themes and work done by the Network.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The NEQMAP 2023 annual meeting has four main objectives:



To promote knowledge sharing between NEQMAP members on learning assessment



To further strengthen NEQMAP's capacity in knowledge-sharing, capacity building and research around the key themes of learning assessment



To promote knowledge sharing between NEQMAP members on learning assessment



To celebrate a decade of work of the Network

SESSIONS' CONTENT

KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSIONS

In keeping with the tradition of NEQMAP's Annual Meetings being a central platform for the exchange of experiences and research between members and partners, the NEQMAP 2023 Annual Meeting will organize several knowledge-sharing sessions. For each session, the Secretariat and the Steering Group identified emerging topics that members expressed interest in and that are relevant for learning assessment in Asia-Pacific countries. NEQMAP members are invited to sign-up to share relevant research or policy experiences on the identified topics (see Box 1 for further details). A maximum of 3 presentations per topic will be selected (10 min per presentation).

The tentative themes are:

- Assessment for learning in a post-covid 19 era
- Effective use of learning assessment to inform monitoring and evaluation of education policies and practices
- Leveraging the power of AI to improve learning assessment practices
- Assessing transversal competencies
- Equity and inclusion in assessment

If you are interested in presenting your work related to these themes, please fill in the short form provided in Box 1 **by September 30th**.

BOX 1: CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO PRESENT AT THE KNOWLEDGE-SHARING SESSIONS

NEQMAP members are invited to express their interest in presenting at the knowledge-sharing sessions. Presentations need to highlight relevant practices and research for NEQMAP. The length of the presentation is at maximum 10 min. The presentation shall be done in English, with the possibility to use PowerPoints and/or other visualizations.

If you are interested in presenting, please fill in the short form ([link](#)) by October 30th 2023 at the latest. Presenters will be selected based on the relevance of the presentation to NEQMAP's priorities.

PLANNING THE WORK FOR 2024

Building on the knowledge sharing and the discussion during the Annual Meeting, the NEQMAP 2023 Annual Meeting will define the 2024 plan of activities for the Network. Members will be invited to decide and agree on cross-cutting priority areas of work under NEQMAP's three pillars (knowledge-sharing, capacity building and research), which will be aligned with the 2020-2024 Strategy. This decision-making process will take place during moderated break-out discussions and plenaries. The Secretariat and the Steering Group will present proposals to guide the discussion. These proposals will be shared with the members ahead of the meeting.

At the end of the Annual Meeting, NEQMAP members are invited to:

- **Adopt** the work plan for the year 2024.

SIDE EVENTS

NEQMAP members are invited to suggest and sponsor or co-sponsor side events (in person, digital or hybrid) to be held during the Annual meeting. Side events provide an opportunity for members to showcase their work and further connect with colleagues. Side events can be organised in person, online or in a hybrid format. If you are interested in hosting a side event, please contact the NEQMAP Secretariat (neqmap@unesco.org).

POSTER EXHIBITION

The NEQMAP Annual Meeting's poster exhibition will highlight our unwavering commitment to education and celebrate our members' milestones over the past 10 years. As esteemed policymakers, researchers, educators, and experts convene in Bangkok, Thailand, this 7-8 December 2023, these posters not only document the innovations, challenges overcome, and triumphs celebrated but also stress the significance of our shared experiences. These creative posters will serve as inspiration, encouraging others to emulate these achievements or providing a foundation for new initiatives and research.

To participate in this poster exhibition, please email the NEQMAP Secretariat. We'll promptly send you a curated pack with the design template and content instructions. The posters will be printed in A0 size and/or displayed on a TV screen during the NEQMAP Annual Meeting. Furthermore, other stakeholders may also access these posters on our NEQMAP Knowledge Portal, allowing for both online and offline appreciation of our members' dedication and innovations.

Please submit your entry to the NEQMAP Secretariat (neqmap@unesco.org) by **30 October 2023**.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- The meeting will be held in a hybrid format both in-person in Bangkok, Thailand and online through the platform Zoom.
- Members of NEQMAP are invited to participate. Guest participants and partner organizations may also be invited to attend sessions based on relevance and interest.
- Members participating in person will need to cover their airfare and stay in Bangkok. The Secretariat will help facilitate visas by issuing an invitation letter. Please inform the Secretariat as soon as you can of your intent to attend the Annual Meeting in person.
- The working language of the meeting is English.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN PERSON?

We highly recommend attending in person to fully immerse yourself in the experience. Those present can partake in **exclusive capacity-building workshops, networking events, and onsite visits**. Additionally, attending in person provides a unique chance to **interact with the Steering Group members, the NEQMAP Secretariat from UNESCO Bangkok Education team and representatives from prominent international and regional organizations based in Bangkok**.

Provisional program

Bangkok Time (GMT+7)	Day 1 (7 December 2023)
9:00-09:30	Opening session
09:30-10:15	Session 1: Overview of NEQMAP's activities in 2023 and members' updates
10:15-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-12:30	Session 2: Aligning assessment systems with education goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderator: Amit Kaushik, CEO, Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) India
10:35-11:20	Session 2.1: Curriculum and assessment alignment and coherence to promote quality learning for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: "Examining Student Assessment Policy Guidelines and their Alignment with K-12 Curriculum Law of the Philippines: Inputs to Quality Reform Initiatives," Mr. Richard Gonzales, Inno-Change International Consultants, Inc, Philippines (10 min, in person) Presentation: "Revamping Assessment Strategies through the National Curriculum of Pakistan", Mr. Suhail Bin Aziz, National Curriculum Council Secretariat, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Pakistan (10 min, online) Presentation: "Test accommodation for Indigenous pupils to "level the playing field" in mathematics", Dr. S. Kanageswari Suppiah Shanmugam, Senior Lecturer, University Utara Malaysia (10 min, online) Q&A discussion (15 min)
11:20-11:40	The NEQMAP exhibition
11:40-12:10	Session 2.2: Assessing transversal competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: "Empowering school practitioners: Project based learning approach for assessing 21st Century Skills in the context of Pakistan," Mr. Ali Bijani Manager for Teacher Training, Aga Khan University Board of Examination (10 min, in person) Presentation: "Assessing transversal competencies through classroom assessment issues and challenges in context of Nepal," Mr. Devi Ram Acharya, Section Officer, Ministry of Education Science & Technology, Nepal (10 min, online) Q&A discussion (10 min)
12:10-12:30	Session 2.3: Improving assessment tools to inform teaching and learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: "Developing Large-scale Cognitively Diagnostic Assessments to determine Grade 6 Learner Needs: Experience from the Philippines," Dr. Kevin Carl Santos, Senior Research Fellow, Assessment, Curriculum, and Technology Research Centre, Philippines (10 min, in person) Q&A discussion (10 min)
12:30-14:00	Lunch break

14:00-15:15	<p>Session 3: Foundational learning in Asia-Pacific</p> <p>Moderator: Margarete Sachs Israel, UNESCO Bangkok</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: “Fixing the Foundations. Teachers and Basic Education in East Asia and Pacific”, Mr. Lars Sondergaard, Lead Economist, World Bank (12 min, in person) • Presentation: “Insights and Learnings from the National Student Assessment (NSA), 2022,” Dr. Priyanka Sharma, Director of Research, ACER India (10 min, in person) • Presentation: “Improving capacity of use of PILNA’s data, lessons from the PILNA’s data mining workshop” (TBC), presenter (TBC), EQAP (10 min, online) <p>Q&A discussion (15 min)</p>
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:55	<p>Session 4: PISA 2022: Key findings for Asia-Pacific and the experience of NEQMAP Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: TBC
15:35-16:10	<p>Session 4.1: What PISA data tells us about the state of learning opportunities in Asia-Pacific?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: “Key findings from the newly released PISA 2022 results,” Miyako Ikeda, Senior Analyst, OECD Directorate for Education and Skills, OECD (20 min, online) • Q&A discussion (15 min)
16:10-16:55	<p>Session 4.2: Analysing the PISA data at national level: experiences from Asia-Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: “Mongolia’s PISA 2022 national report, key findings and development process,” Ms. Tungalagtuul Khaltar, Specialist, Education evaluation Centre, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia (10 min, in person) • Presentation: “PISA 2022 results of Uzbekistan,” Dr. Ismailov Abduvali Abdumalikovich, Rector, The National Research Institute for Professional Development and Teaching in New Methods, Uzbekistan (10 min, online) • Q&A discussion (15 min)
16:55-17:00	Closing of Day 1
18:30-21:00	<p>Dinner reception: celebrating NEQMAP and IID 10 years anniversaries</p> <p>at Residence Lounge, Bangkok Marriot Hotel Sukhumvit</p>

Bangkok Time (GMT+7)	Day 2 (8 December 2023)
9:00-09:30	Opening of day 2
09:30-10:15	<p>Session 5: Global standards and tools to monitor learning outcomes: expanding the use in the Asia-Pacific region context</p> <p>Moderator: Margarete Sachs-Israel</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: “Global standards and tools: expanding use in the regional context,” Dr. Silvia Montoya, Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (25 min, online) • Q&A Discussion (15 min)
10:15-10:30	Coffee break
10:30-12:30	<p>Session 6: Policy dialogue session “Using assessment to inform teaching and learning in schools: Policies and practices from Asia-Pacific” – convened by UNESCO Bangkok, ACER and IID</p> <p>Moderator: Syeed Ahmed, CEO, IID</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>Session 6.1: Launch of the Teachers’ Guide on Diagnostic Assessment and the NEQMAP Topical Case Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks: Margarete Sachs-Israel, UNESCO Bangkok (5 min, in person) • Presentation: “The UNESCO Teachers’ guide to diagnostic assessment,” Soumaya Maghnouj, UNESCO Bangkok (10 min, in person) • Presentation: “The NEQMAP Topical Case studies report,” Ursula Schwantner, Head of GEM Center, ACER (10 min, online)
11:00- 12:00	<p>Session 6.2: National policies to support assessment for learning (60 min)</p> <p>Panel discussion (40 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist: Sangay Tshering, Curriculum Developer, School Curriculum division, Department of School Education, Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Bhutan (in person) • Panelist: Ms. Kitignavong Khampaseuth, Director General, Department of General Education, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR (in person) • Panelist: Md. Mahmudul Amin, Associate Professor of English, Specialist, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), Bangladesh (in person) • Panelist: Sar Sarin, Deputy Director, Education Quality Assurance Department, Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, Cambodia (in person) <p>Questions to the panelists (10 min)</p>
12:00-12:30	<p>Session 6.3: Supporting school level practices</p> <p>Panel discussion (20 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist: Munira Muhammad Rangwala, Lead Specialist and Ali Aslam Bijani, Manager, Aga Khan University Examination Board (in person) • Panelist: Pendem Rambabu, State Head Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Pratham Education Foundation (in person) • Panelist: Marc Kralj, Education Consultant- School and Early Childhood Education Services, ACER (online) • Panelist: Priyanka Sharma, Director of Research, ACER India (in person) <p>Questions to panelists (10 min)</p>
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-16:00	<p>Session 7: NEQMAP’s Priority Areas for work in 2024</p> <p>Members are invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IDENTIFY AND AGREE on the priority areas of work for 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- SUGGEST possible activities to be carried in relations to the priority areas- VOLUNTEER to lead on some of the activities and priority areas
16:00-16:30	Closing session