



# 2023 NEQMAP ANNUAL MEETING

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

## SUMMARY 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 hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> 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

### NETWORK UPDATES AND UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

This session presented some key updates of NEQMAP activities and its individual members.

#### NEQMAP Updates

- Launch of two policy briefs in the series *“Equity and equality in learning in Asia-Pacific: What do results from large-scale assessments tell us?”*. The briefs are *“Gender in focus”* and *“Socio-economic background in focus”*. The briefs can be accessed [here](#).
- Organization on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, of an expert meeting on the theme of *“Measuring and analyzing economic, cultural, and social status in large-scale assessment to inform policies in Asia-Pacific”*. Outcome document and resource materials to be uploaded soon on the Knowledge Portal.
- Launch of the topical case studies *“Supporting schools’ and teachers’ use of assessment to inform learning of all students”* co-published by UNESCO and ACER.
- Launch of the NEQMAP Asia-Pacific Assessment Database which is available on the Knowledge Portal [here](#).

#### Members’ updates

- SEA-PLM Secretariat at SEAMEO: SEA-PLM is starting the implementation of the new cycle. A technical workshop is taking place in Seoul, Korea on 11-15 December 2023. The workshop aims to finalize the regional instruments and tools to be utilized during the Main Survey in 2024; establish standardized procedures and quality standards for the assessment process; facilitate close coordination among countries; and enable the SEA-PLM Regional Secretariat to align national and regional work plans, ensuring seamless implementation of program activities.
- The Institute for Informatics and Development (IID) celebrates this year its 10-year anniversary. IID as a member of the PAL network is actively involved in the measurement of SDG 4.1.1.
- UNESCO is launching a new guide for teachers on Diagnostic Assessment entitled *“Addressing learning needs in Asia-Pacific: A teacher’s guide on diagnostic assessment”*. Accessible [here](#).

### 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 included several knowledge-sharing sessions. During these sessions, members shared about new research, publications and findings. The themes of the knowledge sharing sessions were:

- **Curriculum and assessment alignment and coherence to promote quality learning for all.**
- **Assessing transversal competencies**
- **Improving assessment tools to inform teaching and learning.**
- **Foundational learning in Asia-Pacific**

All presentations’ recording and slide decks will be included on the knowledge portal in early January.

#### Launch of the PISA 2022 data: Key findings for Asia-Pacific

A special session was dedicated to the launch of the PISA 2022 data by the OECD. The session included a presentation by Miyako Ikeda, Senior Analyst from the OECD of the key findings of the two first volumes

of PISA 2022 with a focus on the NEQMAP participating countries. This presentation was then followed by presentations from Mongolia and Uzbekistan about the results of PISA for their countries and their participation to the Lead Analyst Program of the OECD. A program targeting building national capacity for analyzing and utilizing the PISA data.

### ***Policy dialogue: Using assessment to inform teaching and learning in schools: policies and practices from Asia-Pacific.***

NEQMAP convened a policy dialogue session entitled “Using assessment to inform teaching and learning in schools: Policies and practices from Asia-Pacific”. Two new publications on the theme of assessment for learning were launched during this event followed by panel discussions highlighting promising practices from across the region.

This session highlighted promising and effective policies, practices, and lessons learned on how policymakers and education leaders can best support teachers and schools in effectively integrating assessment practices in the teaching and learning process. In particular, panellists looked at how policymakers and education leaders help promote and reinforce the diagnostic and formative use of assessment to inform teaching and learning practices within a learner-centred and differentiated approach to learning. The session built upon the findings of two newly launched reports:

- UNESCO’s Addressing learning needs in the Asia-Pacific region: Teachers’ guide on diagnostic assessment ([link](#))
- NEQMAP’s Topical case studies on “Supporting schools’ and teachers’ use of assessment to inform learning of all students” ([link](#))

## **Towards NEQMAP’s planning of activities 2024**

NEQMAP members discuss and agree annually on the priority areas for the network during the NEQMAP Annual Meeting. These priority areas help inform the work of members and the NEQMAP Secretariat. In 2023, the priority areas for NEQMAP were “Learning assessments’ role in promoting equity and inclusion” and “Assessing 21st century skills at system and individual levels”.

In Day 2 of the NEQMAP Annual meeting 2023, NEQMAP Members were invited to discuss and agree on the priority areas for 2024 and identify possible activities to be carried out related to these priorities. The following table summarizes priority areas, sub-topics and examples of the activities suggested by the members.

<b>Priority areas</b>	<b>Sub-topics</b>	<b>Examples of activities</b>
Effective use of learning assessment data to inform policy and planning	Ensuring coherence of learning assessment systems and aligning with policy intent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need assessment analysis of policymakers’ capacity needs.</li> <li>- Policy dialogue on the topic of coherence and aligned.</li> <li>- Policy linking workshops for National Large-scale Assessments</li> <li>- Case studies on best practices</li> </ul>
	Building capacity at all levels to use the data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity building workshop for policymakers</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data interpretation workshops for schools</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
	Improving communication and promote open and transparent access for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting a “learning collaborative” on effective data communication</li> <li>- Policy advocacy piece on open access to assessment data</li> </ul>
Assessing 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills at system and individual levels	Developing teachers and schools’ capacity to assess 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing a training manual</li> </ul>
	Embedding 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills in curriculum and assessment frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Case studies on best practices</li> <li>- Mapping and review of curricula from the region</li> <li>- Exchange programme across members</li> </ul>
	Embedding 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills in large-scale assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge sharing about the development of assessment tools</li> <li>- Case study about the use of AI to assess 21<sup>st</sup> century skills</li> </ul>
Equity and equality in learning	Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of case studies on how to mitigate the effect of gender on learning outcomes</li> </ul>
	Access accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Case studies of best practices on assessment accommodations for students with disabilities</li> </ul>
	Multilingual learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Piloting of the UNESCO MLE formative assessment guidelines</li> <li>- Form a joint sub-group under NEQMAP and the MLE WG to explore further this theme and monitor progress</li> </ul>
	Use of technology and equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thematic review on the considerations on the impact of technology on equity and inclusion in assessment.</li> </ul>

In addition to the three priority areas, members also discussed an exploratory theme on the use of AI and machine learning to enhance assessment in Asia-Pacific. This builds on the successful knowledge sharing

webinar organised on September 26th, 2023, on “The state of AI in differentiated learning and assessment in Asia-Pacific and beyond”. Some of the sub-topics proposed by members included:

- The use of AI to enhance classroom level assessment practices: towards more personalised assessment and learning
- The use of AI and machine learning to improve the efficiency of (large scale) assessment
- Equity and ethical concerns of the use of AI in assessment.

**As a next steps, the NEQMAP Secretariat and the Steering Group will reflect on these proposals and draft a preliminary plan of activity 2024 for discussion with members in January 2024.**

## **10 YEAR CELEBRATION**

To end a year of celebration for the 10-year anniversary, IID and UNESCO convened a dinner reception. Dr Kraiyos Patrawat, Managing Director of the Equitable Education Fund (EEF), a member of NEQMAP from Thailand shared a keynote speech highlighting the importance ensuring equitable access to quality learning for all and the work of EEF in doing so.