

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

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY, BANGKOK, THAILAND 20 – 21 SEPTEMBER 2019



IN COOPERATION WITH



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

08:30-09:05

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

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

### **Welcoming remarks**

1. **Eakpant Pindavanija**, Director of Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies (IHRP), Mahidol University (**5 minutes**)
2. **Jeffrey Senior**, Counsellor (Political/Economic) and Permanent Observer to ESCAP, Embassy of Canada (**5 minutes**)
3. **Nopraenu Sajjarax Dhirathiti**, Acting Vice President for International Relations and Corporate Communication, Mahidol University (**5 minutes**)

### **Opening remarks**

1. **Fernand de Varennes**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues (**7 minutes**)
2. **Chirizzi Katia**, Deputy Regional Representative, OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia (**7 minutes**)
3. **Maki Hayashikawa**, Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education, UNESCO Bangkok (**7 minutes**)

## 09:05-09:30 Introductions, Rules and Guide to Proceedings

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

**Anna-Mária Bíró**, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute, will set-out the process.

**Sriprapha Petcharamesree** will explain the rules of proceedings for the regional forum.

Sriprapha Petcharamesree will moderate the introduction of participants who, if they wish, very briefly introduce themselves to the regional forum.

**09:30-10:00 Presentation on OSCE's Education Programme in Central Asia by Mr. Michael Angermann**

*Room Location: Tawee 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.

**10:00-10:10 Coffee Break**

**10:15-12:30 Plenary: Experts present the 3 themes to be further discussed in working groups**

*Room Location: Tawee 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 25 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 25 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 25 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**

**(15:30-15:40 Coffee Break)**

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>
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<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="#">Marie LALL</a> (University College London, UK)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Joseph LO BIANCO</a>, (University of Melbourne, Australia)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Dilnur REYHAN</a> (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, France)</li> </ol> <p>Chair: 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="#">Hywel COLEMAN</a> (University of Leeds, UK)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Stephen MAY</a> (University of Auckland, New Zealand)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">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. Wooki PARK-KIM (Human Rights Association for Korean Residents in Japan)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Kirk PERSON</a> (Mahidol University, Thailand)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">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.

<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: MahaSwasdee I</i>	<i>Room Location: MahaSwasdee II</i>
<p><u>Experts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Marie LALL</a> (University College London, UK)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Joseph LO BIANCO</a>, (University of Melbourne, Australia)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Dilnur REYHAN</a> (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, France)</li> </ol> <p>Chair: 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="#">Hywel COLEMAN</a> (University of Leeds, UK)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Stephen MAY</a> (University of Auckland, New Zealand)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">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. Wooki PARK-KIM (Human Rights Association for Korean Residents in Japan)</li> <li>2. <a href="#">Kirk PERSON</a> (SIL International and Mahidol University, Thailand)</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Linda TSUNG</a> (The University of Sydney, Australia)</li> </ol> <p>Chair: Forum Asia - TBC</p>

**10:00-10:15 Coffee Break**

**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**

<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: MahaSwasdee I</i>	<i>Room Location: MahaSwasdee II</i>
<p><u>Experts</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <a href="#">Marie LALL</a> (University College London, UK)</li><li>2. <a href="#">Joseph LO BIANCO</a>, (University of Melbourne, Australia)</li><li>3. <a href="#">Dilnur REYHAN</a> (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, France)</li></ol> <p>Chair: 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="#">Hywel COLEMAN</a> (University of Leeds, UK)</li><li>2. <a href="#">Stephen MAY</a> (University of Auckland, New Zealand)</li><li>3. <a href="#">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. Wooki PARK-KIM (Human Rights Association for Korean Residents in Japan)</li><li>2. <a href="#">Kirk PERSON</a> (SIL International and Mahidol University, Thailand)</li><li>3. <a href="#">Linda TSUNG</a> (The University of Sydney, Australia)</li></ol> <p>Chair: Forum Asia – (TBC)</p>

**12:00-13:30 Lunch break**

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

**(15:00-15:15 Coffee Break)**

*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 Varennes** 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*

- **Marcus Oda**, Publication of forums documentation
- **Fernand de Varennes**, UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues

*Working languages: English*