

Equipping young people and adults to advance the new education agenda in the Asia Pacific

ASPBAE's Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC)

11-16 November, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



This year's Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC) focused on equipping participants to advance the new education agenda and to contribute towards strengthening civil society in the region.

ASPBAE organised its flagship training programme, the Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC), in Ulaanbaatar. The training was hosted by ASPBAE members - Mongolian Education Alliance and 'All for Education' (AFE) Mongolia.

This year's BLDC aimed to develop a critical understanding of the context of the Asia Pacific region that impacts on education, specifically of young people and adults. It also focused on equipping participants to advance the new education and development agenda as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Education 2030 Framework for Action; and, to contribute towards strengthening civil

society in the region to address the challenges to democracy, human rights, gender justice, global citizenship, sustainable development and a just peace.

The BLDC faculty consisted of a mix of experts from ASPBAE's Executive Council (EC) and staff. ASPBAE's EC members representing Southeast Asia, Nguyen Thi Kim Anh, and the South Pacific, Peter-Clinton Isaac Foase, were the Course Directors. Both Kim Anh and Peter brought with them expertise on adult learning processes, education frameworks, and advocacy. ASPBAE's Anita Borkar was the staff faculty and the main coordinator of the BLDC.

Forty-three adult education practitioners, as well as education policy advocates (mostly women and youth) representing 36 ASPBAE member organisations based in 17 countries of the region, participated in the hands-on training course. The training design allowed for the participants to hear and learn from other Mongolian organisations working on a variety of development and rights issues. The organisations were 'All for Education' (AFE) Mongolia – an education coalition working towards quality education in the country; Democracy Education Centre - dedicated to strengthen civil society through the education for democracy and support of active citizenship; Mongolian Education Alliance (MEA) - serving teachers and schools in promoting democratic values among the youth; Universal Progress – dedicated to creating conditions for people with severe disability to live independently; Women for Change - supporting, empowering, and advocating for women and young people in Mongolia. Participants had the opportunity to visit some of the organisations' offices and see first-hand the work they are involved in.



ASPBAE's Executive Council members representing Southeast Asia, Nguyen Thi Kim Anh (extreme right), and the South Pacific, Peter-Clinton Isaac Foase (extreme left), were the Course Directors for the BLDC.

Equipping young people and adults to advance the new education agenda in the Asia Pacific

ASPBAE's Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC)

11-16 November, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



Some sessions at the BLDC were dedicated to the SDGs, SDG 4, Education 2030 Framework for Action, and platforms for regional and global advocacy on SDG4.

Sessions at the BLDC were also dedicated to the SDGs, SDG4, Education 2030 Framework for Action, and platforms for regional and global advocacy on SDG4. Executive Director of the Mongolian Education Alliance (MEA) and ASPBAE EC member representing East Asia, Batjargal Batkhuyag, explained SDG and SDG4 processes and the role of different stakeholders in achieving the global goals. National Coordinator of 'All for Education' (AFE) Mongolia, Tungaalag Dondogdulam, spoke about the SDG4 indicators, highlighting the need for capacity enhancement on data management, and coordination and partnership with different stakeholders in data analysis.

ASPBAE's Anita Borkar led a session on Participatory Action Research (PAR) where she highlighted the elements, importance, and tools of PAR. She also presented the youth-led action research conducted by ASPBAE in India, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

A film festival was organised to demonstrate the importance of the work of educators, advocates, community builders, and change agents. Films screened at the festival provided examples of good practices and provoked participants to think critically and creatively to find solutions to bring about change. Twenty six short films related to climate change, poverty, and gender-based violence were screened, including success stories on livelihoods and savings. Peter Clinton spoke about the New Zealand context where, while there is progress on greater gender balance, there are challenges related to sustaining indigenous culture.

Participants developed a plan of action based on the learnings from the course. Youth-led action research and developing a score card of public services were some of the areas identified as future actions by the participants and their organisations.

The BLDC concluded with a valedictory function where participants were awarded certificates of participation. Participants expressed their thoughts about the training and about each other and shared



Adult education practitioners and education policy advocates representing 36 ASPBAE member organisations in 17 countries of the region participated in the BLDC.



Equipping young people and adults to advance the new education agenda in the Asia Pacific

ASPBAE's Basic Leadership Development Course (BLDC)

11-16 November, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

gifts amongst themselves. All the participants complimented and thanked the hosts of the BLDC, MEA and AFE Mongolia, for their excellent organizing of the event.