

A GLOBAL COMPACT FOR EARLY
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
(GCECD)



Global Compact for ECD

- An initiative launched by the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS) in partnership with global ECD experts, academe and non-profit sectors to support cities implement better ECD programs through innovations and adaption of science-based ECD research.
- The initiative will link mayors, city program leaders and ECD experts to promote an exchange of evidence-based ideas and solutions, empowering urban communities to transform their own ECD efforts, thereby fostering a shift toward more child-friendly services in these cities.
- NYAS formed a Leadership Council to help stir this initiative – ARNEC is part of the Council to ensure participation of cities in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Global Compact for ECD is then a global network of cities and experts promoting evidence-based ECD.

Why focus on cities?

- By 2050, 70 percent of the world's children will be living in cities.
- Cities play a major role in helping all children achieve their full potential.
- Poverty, poor nutrition, lack of stimulation, stress and other factors disrupt normal early childhood development (ECD) — putting children at a lifelong disadvantage.
- Some cities have ECD programs (maternal and child health, nutrition and parenting programs) and the desire is to transform these programs to be more effective for children.
- The Global Compact for ECD will serve as a platform to support civic leaders in this effort.



Goal

- To build a global collaborative network of cities committed to harnessing evidence, strengthening learning capacities through operational research, and sharing what works, so that cities can take the lead in helping all children reach their full potential
- The Global Compact was created to be a platform for information-sharing and collaboration, **to help cities compare best practices, test new approaches and find innovative solutions.**

How the initiative will support participating cities?

- **Early adopter cities initial convention late 2016)** – gathering of a select group of cities and engagement with ECD experts.
- The goal of this workshop is for the early adopter cities to compare best practices, identify their weaknesses, and build a strategic, multi-sector plan that they can consequently complete and implement
- **First Global Compact Convening in 2017** - international convening will follow the early adopter cities workshop.
- The goal of this international convening is to develop a prioritized agenda for ECD and catalyze ECD projects with measurable outcomes that participating cities can implement within the next 12-18 months.
- **Reconvening in late 2018/ early 2019** - reconvene representatives from the cities involved in the first global compact to assess and disseminate information about the success of their collective intervention projects.
- It will also add new ECD-committed cities to the compact. The focus would be to share best practices and lessons learned and to encourage other cities to join.

Progress so far....

- The first Workshop was held at the Academy in late 2016.
- Participants included delegations from 13 “early adopter cities” in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, along with over 25 internationally recognized ECD experts. These cities’ ECD programs reach over 200,000 children.
- This first “early adopter cities” workshop was organized to identify common challenges, spark new ideas, share lessons learned and explore opportunities for collective action and research.
- Brought civic leaders, practitioners, educators and researchers fostering an exchange of ideas and information among cities and across disciplines

Progress so far....

- The exchange of ideas has already led to the creation of new city programs, and agreement to focus on:
 - Growth: Invite additional cities and experts over next 3 years
 - Tools: Develop “Common Standards for ECD-friendly Cities”
 - Advocacy: Promote “ECD Cities Network” as a global movement
- **ASPIRATION:** By 2020, the Global Compact will include over 100 cities extending services to >25m children

Call for partnership

- Global Compact for ECD is a growing network of mayors and senior civic leaders around the world, guided by some of the world's leading ECD experts
- Long-term goal is to develop an extensive network of cities that are committed to testing and implementing the most effective ECD programs to improve the lives of children under 3 years old.
- GCECD is committed to sharing lessons learned, addressing common challenges and testing innovative solutions.
- Moving beyond the “why” – and beyond “what” elements ECD programs should contain – to focus on “how” cities can finance and deliver cost-effective services to improve the lives of very young children.
- Encourage cities around the world to join the movement now!

Thank you!