

# Innovative Pedagogical Approaches in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in the Asia-Pacific region: A Resource Pack



## Innovative Pedagogical Approaches and Tools in Early Childhood Care and Education in the Asia-Pacific Region

- A joint initiative of UNESCO Bangkok and the ARNEC in collaboration with UNICEF and the OMEP with financial support from the MEXT, Japan.
- The project aimed at contributing to improved equity and quality of ECCE provision in Asia and the Pacific.

# Project Background

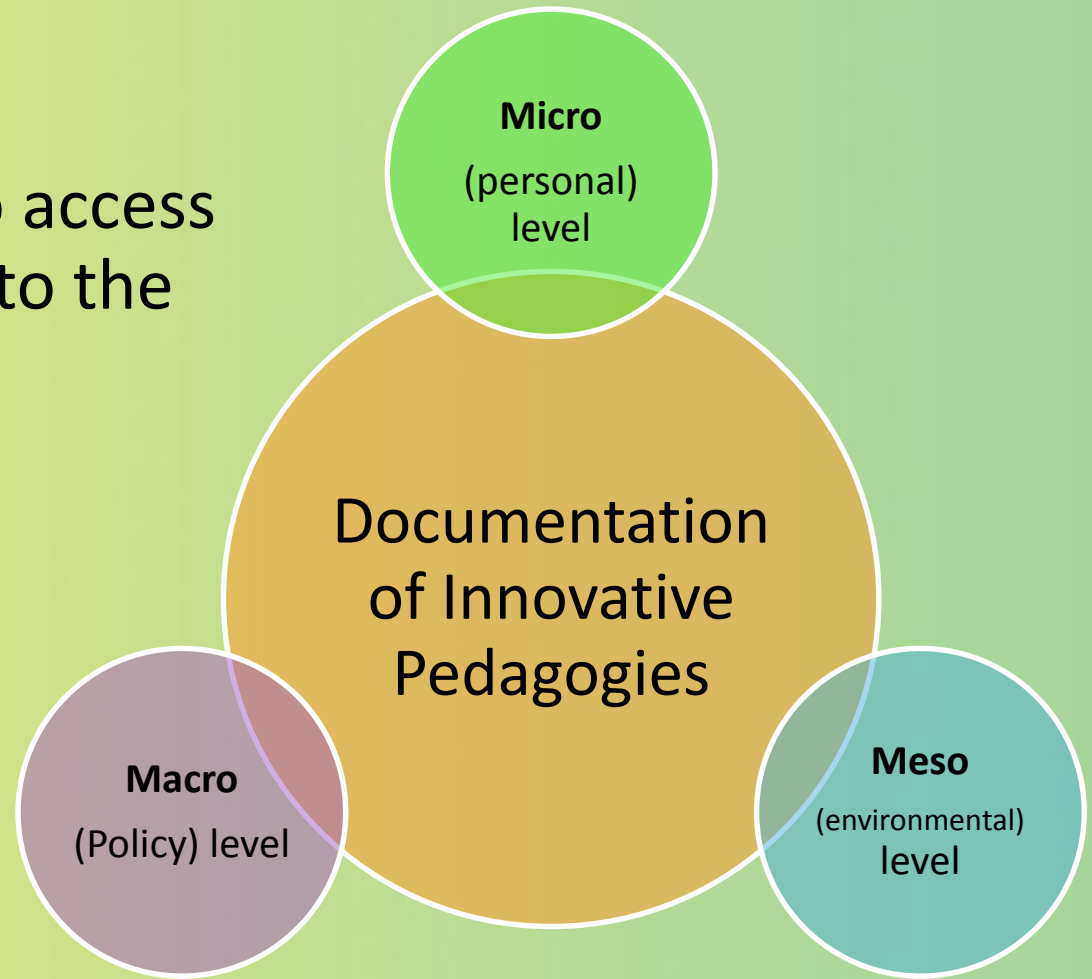
- ECCE is chronically underfunded
  - Despite the research evidence that quality ECCE interventions is one of the best cost-effective investments
  - Public education spending on pre-primary as % of the total public education spending
    - Less than 2% in most APA countries
    - More than 4% in many OECD countries
    - Internationally recommended benchmark is 10%
  - Further advocacy for countries' commitment and knowledge sharing is needed
- Participation in ECCE far from universal but expanding ☐ Quality imperative
  - Comprehensive/integrated ECCE is most effective (care, early stimulation and learning, health and nutrition, protection) against “schoolification” or custodian approaches
  - Children learn best when ECCE is child-centred, play-based and collaborative
  - Many practitioners and teachers are not equipped with the necessary skills and tools to integrate such pedagogies
- Dearth of easily accessible, culturally relevant knowledge on innovative and effective pedagogical approaches grounded in the diverse settings across the Asia Pacific region

# Conceptual Framework

- What is ‘innovative pedagogical approaches’?
  - An interactive approach to facilitating and extending children’s learning in a specific social, cultural or physical context;
  - An approach whose implementation can strengthen the capacity of teachers, practitioners and/or caregivers;
  - An approach whose process of implementation can be documented in order to inform others about how to incorporate/adapt such innovative approaches in their own contexts.

# Conceptual Framework

Efforts were made to access information relating to the following aspects:



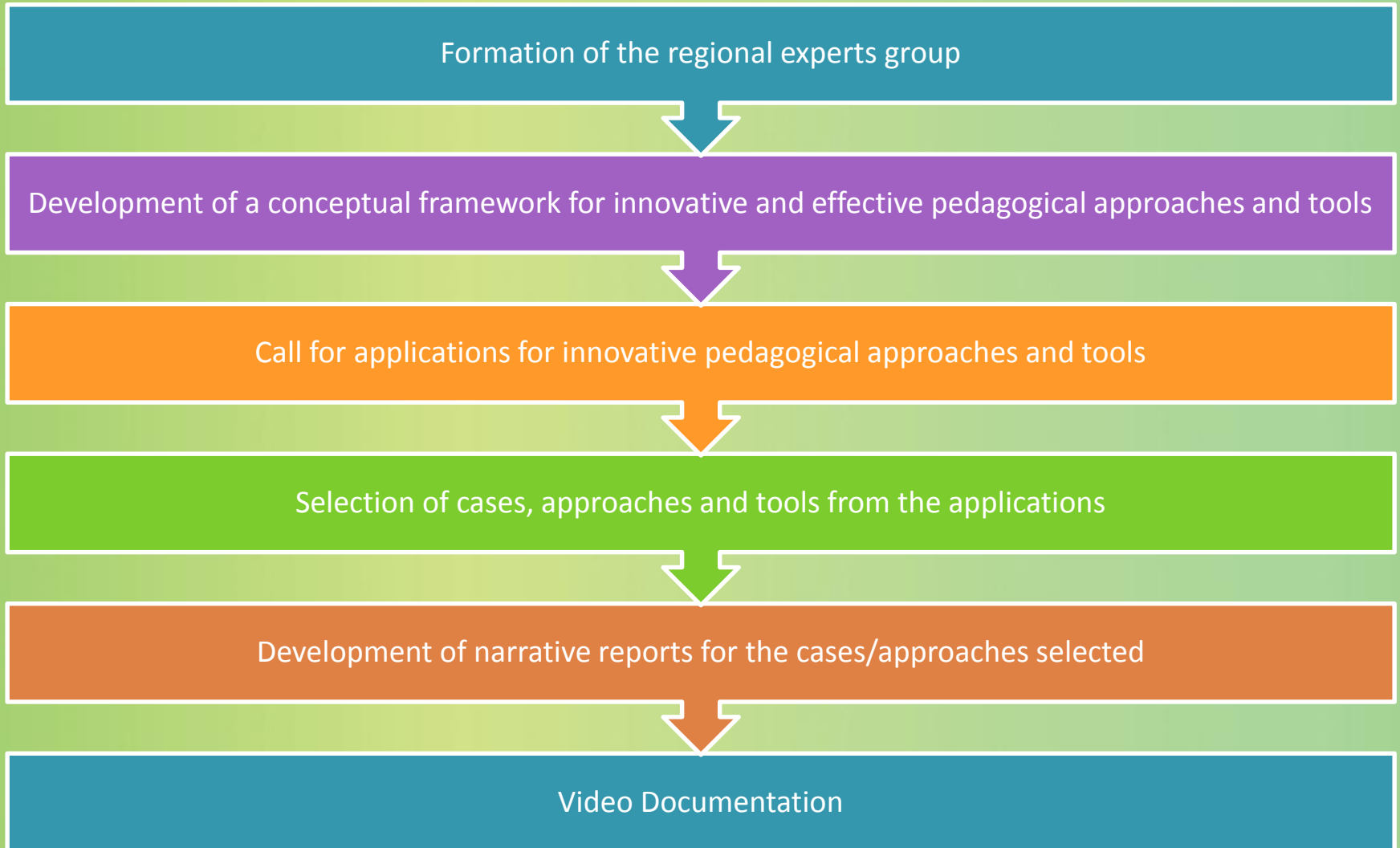
# Six principles

The cases being documented demonstrate one or more of the following principles:



- **Child-centred:** (child as a competent, active learner): Learning involves culturally-relevant, negotiated, respectful interactions between children and teachers / practitioners / caregivers;
- **Holistic development:** Learning incorporates a focus on linkages between socio-emotional; physical; cognitive; linguistic; spiritual development;
- **Equity:** Quality learning opportunities are available to all children without discrimination, especially those from marginalized groups;
- **Inclusiveness:** Learning responds to the diversity of needs among all learners;
- **Sustainability:** (i) The innovation presented is coherent with other activities of the programme and has potential for continued utilisation, and (ii) builds children's skills to affect social change for now and in the future;
- **Cultural reflection/relevance:** Learning is rooted in the learners' socio-cultural context and reflects traditional/indigenous knowledge that supports children's development and learning.

# Documentation Process





# A Resource Pack



Innovative Pedagogical Approaches  
in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)  
in the Asia-Pacific region

A resource pack



- This resource pack is meant to support:
  - Practitioners, educators and researchers;
  - International development partners; and
  - Policy development professionals



# A Resource Pack

## Table of contents

- Introduction
- Conceptual Framework
- Documentation Process
- Innovative Pedagogies
  - 9 documented cases: Innovative pedagogical approaches from Australia, China, India, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Solomon Islands and Thailand
- Synthesis of Insights and Findings
- Conclusion

# The Nine Documented Cases

Innovative Pedagogical Approaches in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in the Asia-Pacific region: A resource pack

## The Nine Documented Cases

Innovative Pedagogical Approaches from: Australia, China, India, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Solomon Islands and Thailand



Djarigarra Bush School:  
On-Country Learning (Australia)



Sihuan Playgroup (China)



Opportunity and Freedom  
to Learn (India)



Play Makes Us Human (Japan)



Educate the Future (Nepal)



Te Puna Reo o Nga Kakano  
(New Zealand)



Broadclass Listen to Learn  
(Pakistan)



A Play-based School Approach  
(Solomon Islands)



Our Language and Way of Life:  
How Young Children Learn at the  
Mae Tien ECD Centre (Thailand)

- On-Country Learning: Murdoch University, **Australia**
- Sihuan Playgroup, Beijing, China
- The Education for Children of Migrant Labour, Bengaluru, **India**
- Kaede Kindergarten, Hiroshima, Japan
- Educate the Future (EtF), Save the Children **Nepal**
- Te Puna Reo o Nga Kakano; Wellington, **New Zealand**
- Broadclass Listen to Learn: POWER99 Foundation, **Pakistan**
- Save the Children Early Child Development Centres, **Solomon Islands**
- Mother-tongue based Early Childhood Care and Education: Foundation for Applied linguistics, Chiang Mai, **Thailand**

# Each documented case contains following:



- Introduction
- Description of the approach
- What makes this approach innovative?
- Personal Story
- Conclusion
- Next Steps
- About the Video
- Discussion Points

# Synthesis of Insights and Findings

- Key features reflected across the nine cases:
  - Include innovative pedagogical approaches that

## Empowerment

- Teachers and ECCE Facilitators
- Children, parents, communities and elders

## Overcoming Challenge

- Overcoming significant challenges, related to availability of resources, social prejudices and marginalization

## Transforming

- Transforming communities and children's lives
- Powerful changes in both perceptions and practices

## Building and Sustaining

- Building on existing capacity and maximize sustainability

# Conclusion

- The nine cases incorporate:
  - Mobilisation of local communities to participate in supporting children's learning environments;
  - Adaptation of well-established systems and curricula to make space for localised learning and identity development;
  - Expression of unique cultural values and experiences in the planning and implementation of children's learning experiences;
  - Introduction of child-centred learning approaches through free play, child-initiated activities and the use of open-ended questions in engaging children;
  - Innovative use of radio to engage practitioners / facilitators in active learning with their children;
  - Provision of professional development opportunities to ECCE facilitators (including the skills of reflective practice and contributing to practitioner networks referred to earlier), even in the most resource-constrained environments, and
  - Use of culturally-responsive teaching and learning strategies, such as mother tongue learning and engagement with the natural environment, to value children's cultural heritage and identity.



# DVD



- This DVD contains video documentation of innovative pedagogical approaches taken from nine programme sites in Australia, China, India, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Solomon Islands and Thailand. It is envisioned that these videos together with the resource pack will support ECCE practitioners, researchers, international development partners, and policy development professionals as they work and advocate for inclusive quality early childhood care and education in various contexts.

# DVD



Australia



China



India



Japan



Nepal



New Zealand



Pakistan



Solomon Islands



Thailand



# Thank you

**A Resource Pack:** <http://www.unescobkk.org/resources/e-library/publications/article/innovative-pedagogical-approaches-in-early-childhood-care-and-education-ecce-a-resource-pack/>

**DVD:** [http://www.unescobkk.org/education/ecce/what-we-do/ecce-teacher-development/innovative-pedagogical-approaches-and-tools/?utm\\_medium=ema](http://www.unescobkk.org/education/ecce/what-we-do/ecce-teacher-development/innovative-pedagogical-approaches-and-tools/?utm_medium=ema)