

2008 Annual Joint Review Way Forward

Much progress has been made in 2008 till date. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development was encouraged to continue with the reform and implementation process of the National Education Action Plan, 2007 – 2009. However, the Annual Joint Review is also meant for review of the existing education planning. Based on the discussions and the new data from the Performance Assessment Framework for the Education Sector, the Annual Joint Review (AJR) on the 24th and 25th of July 2008 recommended the following Way Forward in relation to the three main expected outcomes of the National Education Action Plan, 2007 -2009:

Access

- There is still no complete gender balance in access to schools; the Ministry might need a special programme to get more/all girls to schools. The specific technical and financial support could come from UNICEF, Save the Children or UNFPA, which are all interested in supporting the education sector in this specific area.
- The Net Enrolment Rate for Primary Education seems to stabilise at 91% and for Secondary Junior school level at 30%. The Ministry in particular at secondary junior level needs extra investment in financial and human resources and also in the supply of sufficient curriculum materials and school infrastructure.
- At the moment the Ministry has very few or no facilities for students with disabilities. The Education Sector Investment and Reform Programme phase III and *National Education Action Plan, 2010-2012*, should capture inclusive education and education for students with disabilities. In 2009 the Ministry will start to review its medium term planning till 2012.
- Drop out rates increases at higher levels in the education system. The Ministry will support the development of an assessment policy and the regular use of ARTTLe (Assessment Resource Tool for Teachers and Learners) at all levels in the system. The Ministry will also plan for more intensive and regular in-service training for teachers at the school level.
- In the Central Province there is a relatively high drop out rate at secondary schools (both at junior and senior level). The Central Province will be urged to organise an assessment and formulate a specific action plan for 2009. The Central Provincial Work Programme 2009 needs to capture the improvement of quality of teaching and learning.
- Access for all children and students to schools is important, but regular attendance even more. The Ministry in collaboration with the Education Authorities will (re)introduce the daily use of the attendance register, not only for students but also for teachers.

- There is no gender balance in the teacher profession. We have much more male than female teachers, with the exception for Early Childhood Education. The Ministry in collaboration with the School of Education will produce a media campaign to attract more females to the teacher profession.

Infrastructure

- The population is growing and therefore we will always need more classrooms. The current urbanisation will put a lot of pressure on the construction and maintenance of classrooms in Honiara). But apart from classrooms, there is a need for more tailor made provincial infrastructure programmes focussing on their specific infrastructure needs. The Ministry for instance need to invest more in the area of water and sanitation, storage, libraries and teacher houses. The Infrastructure Co-ordination Unit will produce a National Infrastructure Action plan, which will capture specific provincial needs. The current national assessment of school infrastructure will produce the necessary data.
- The Ministry has signed a contract with Pearson in Australia for new book production; storage of books becomes now very important.
- Schools should be responsible for book control and storage. The Ministry will develop a policy for procurement, distribution and storage of curriculum materials before the end of this year. The policy will integrate measures to boost the ownership of schools for curriculum materials.

Quality

- The education sector has a high percentage of unqualified teachers, in particular at primary education level. The Ministry will invest this year and in 2009 in the transfer of the existing University of Waikato/School of Education-materials for the introduction of Distance Flexible Learning and mentoring teams in the provinces in order to increase access to the national Teacher In Training-course.
- Promotion and establishment of libraries is urgent. One of the targets for 2015 must be that every school/centre has a functioning library.
- The Ministry realises that not everybody is at school at the moment (see NER PE 91% in 2007). It is therefore important to identify the causes and to implement the Barriers to Education-Study (in collaboration with UNICEF and other NGO's such as Save the Children).
- The newly introduced whole school development planning is considered a good initiative. It is important to annually review the planning and to continue with capacity building to school committees/boards in the next years.
- The Ministry aims to increase the participation of civil society and get more NGO's or CBO's involved in the implementation of the NEAP.

Management

Policies

- Forward ECE, TTD-policies and scholarship arrangements to Cabinet for approval.
- Finalise Grants policies in the third quarter and forward these to the National Education Board (NEB) for its approval
- Finalise the Basic Education, Tertiary Education policy before end of the year, forward to the NEB and Cabinet for approval.
- Finalise National Curriculum Statement before end of this year and forward this to the National Curriculum Committee, NEB and Cabinet.

Planning

- The Ministry will make an extra effort to get access to the funds for the approved development projects.
- The Ministry, EU-delegation and SU jointly prepare the Global Programme Estimates 3, for the period January till December 2009.
- Implementation of PER in second part of this year
- Develop the *National Education Action Plan II, 2010-2012* in the year 2009.

Monitoring

- The Ministry will develop and complete the PAF and integrate data of 2008.

HR-management

- The Ministry must fill all vacancies in this year's planned establishment.
- The stakeholders support the inspectorate's new idea to involve the local school management and EA's more intensively in assessment/coaching of teachers and also change the focus to the learning process of students. Continue to implement the 'mainstreaming'-strategy of Ministry and SU (skills transfer to permanent staff)
- Organise a fair distribution of qualified teachers over all islands. The Education Authorities are requested to be more pro-activeness and to create stronger pull-factors. The Ministry will implement a study on demand, supply and deployment of teachers (with support from PRIDE).
- Implementation of HRD-plan 2008
- Development of HRD-plan 2009
- Increased number of MEHRD-staff trained through DFL and not through face-to-face training abroad.

Communication

- More attention at ESCC/AJR for the auditing process and reports.
- The outcomes from the 'quick' survey by NZAID on communication mechanisms in the SWAp will be utilised in the organisation of the next ESCC- and AJR- meetings or other ways of communication.