

## **Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) 2024**

### **Asia Pacific Regional Dialogue on Public Financing of Free Education Technology: Ensuring Equity, Inclusion, and Quality Education for the Most Marginalised**

In the last few years, the Asia Pacific region experienced rapid growth in digital technology with the potential to transform education. Yet, access is unequal, failing to reach a third of learners worldwide and 72% of the poorest. In the Asia Pacific, about 1.88 billion people lack access to the Internet or nearly half of the population (SES, 2020). The region is also considered the most digitally divided (UNESCAP, 2022). The digital divide is most apparent in rural areas and marginalised communities, and among poor families, where access to digital technologies is often limited due to a lack of resources and infrastructure.

The growing commercial influence and corporate capture of education technology is a cause for concern. Financing digital technology is a major challenge for countries with limited resources and are weighed down by financial imbalances. It is estimated that connecting every school and learner in low and lower-middle-income countries will add another 50% to the existing financing gap in education to meet all SDG 4 targets.

The challenge is ensuring free, meaningful and quality connectivity for all using appropriate technology suited to the local context. Harnessing education technology is not simply a matter of providing devices and digital infrastructure. It will entail a comprehensive set of policies, appropriate regulations, quality training for teachers, learners and parents/caregivers, sustained maintenance, and regular monitoring and impact evaluation.

For all these, the state has the responsibility to ensure free, public, safe and quality access to and use of education technology within a strengthened public education system, especially benefitting the most marginalised learners. Education technology must be publicly financed, regulated and managed, to ensure equity and inclusion and, thus, promote the right of all to quality education.

It is against this backdrop that ASPBAE will organise the Asia Pacific Regional Dialogue on Public Financing of Education Technology, as part of the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) 2024. It will aim to provide a platform for a robust discussion and debate on how to harness education technology, particularly for the marginalised learners and tackle digital divides. ASPBAE, in cooperation with the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), invites its member organisations, partners, and other education stakeholders to discuss the ways

forward to transform education, using digital technology as one of the pillars to achieve this transformation.

**Objectives:**

- To discuss how education technology can be harnessed to support the right of all to quality education and transform education systems that will ensure equitable access for the most marginalised learners.
- To facilitate the sharing of good practices on context-based and learner-centred approaches in integrating education technology into formal and non-formal education settings.
- To recommend strategies in addressing the digital divide, ensuring public financing, management and regulation of digital technology and preventing private control and corporate capture of data and education technology.

**Agenda:**

As part of the GAWE 2024 celebration, ASPBAE will hold a 2-hour webinar on April 30, 2024, at 2:00 - 4:00 pm Philippine Standard Time (GMT + 08:00). This event will feature presentations, discussions, and interactive sessions focusing on the intersection of education technology linking with GAWE thematic priorities, with an emphasis on transforming education to benefit all learners, particularly the most marginalised.

Click here to register for this event: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcld-GrqzkuHdHNNH7AnU3O4zFkzWO5nVXvB>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Resource persons</b>
2:00 to 2:15	<b>Opening Session (15 minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome remarks from ASPBAE</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Robbie Guevara, ASPBAE Representative to the Board of Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and President of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE).</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of GAWE 2024 theme and objectives, with an emphasis on equitable access for marginalised learners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Grant Kasowanjete, Global Campaign for Education (GCE) Global Coordinator</li> </ul>
2:15 to 2:45	<p><b>Sharing of the Regional Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Regional Context</li> <li>• Keynote Address (20 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Technology evolves quicker than legislation, which raises profound concerns in terms of education equity, inclusion, access, and quality. How can governments ensure that education technologies are regulated and governed, and at the same time, do not exclude the marginalised learners?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Rene Raya, ASPBAE Regional Policy Advocacy Coordinator and Lead Policy Analyst</li> <li>• Mr Mark West, Education Specialist, UNESCO</li> </ul>
2:45 to 3:30	<p><b>Talkshow on the Opportunities and Challenges for Ensuring Equity in Education Technology (45 minutes)</b></p> <p>Specific guide questions on financing, including public funding and regulation; ensuring equity and inclusion, and addressing the digital divide will be raised to the panelists.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can governments mobilise resources to publicly finance education technology and ensure</li> </ol>	<p>Moderator: Maya Cortina, EOL Regional Coordinator, ASPBAE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Oyuna Purevdorj, Head of the Integrated Education Policy and Planning Department of the Ministry of Education and Science in Mongolia</li> </ul>

	<p>equity, inclusion, and access to these, catering to the needs of the most marginalised groups?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. How can education technology be mainstreamed, ethically and responsibly, into educational settings, not only in formal education but also nonformal education, all while ensuring public financing, management, and regulation?</li> <li>3. What are some of the good practices on context-based and learner-centred approaches, practices and case studies on integrating education technology for achieving SDG 4 with a focus on ensuring equitable access for marginalised learners?</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Ram Gaire, National Coordinator, National Campaign for Education- Nepal (NCE Nepal)</li> <li>• Ms Zehra Arshad, National Coordinator, Pakistan Coalition for Education (PCE)</li> <li>• Ms Prudencia Sanoy, National Executive Board Member of E-Net Philippines</li> </ul>
3:30 to 3:50	<p><b>Open Discussions (20 minutes)</b></p> <p>Interventions from participants including, reflections, questions and sharing local or country level experiences along with forward-looking perspectives and directions.</p>	
3:50 to 4:00	<p><b>Closing Session (10 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of key insights and recommendations from the consultation, with a specific focus on ensuring equitable access for the most marginalised.</li> <li>• Vote of Thanks and Closing of the session</li> </ul>	<p>Mr Enamul Hoque, Capacity Support and Advocacy Adviser (CSAA), ASPBAE</p> <p>Ms Maya Cortina, EOL Regional Coordinator, ASPBAE</p>