



BỘ LAO ĐỘNG – THƯƠNG BINH VÀ XÃ HỘI
MINISTRY OF LABOUR-INVALIDS AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS – MOLISA



Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development (ECD)

HỘI NGHỊ PHÁT TRIỂN TOÀN DIỆN TRẺ THƠ KHU VỰC CHÂU Á – THÁI BÌNH DƯƠNG NĂM 2019

Working across sectors to promote nurturing and sustainable environments for young children



Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 4-6 December 2019



2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD

Ha Noi, Viet Nam, 4-6 December 2019

at a glance ● ● ●

600 participants who are ECD professionals, policy makers, experts, advocates, and partners

27 countries represented in the 2019 Regional ECD Conference

4 subthemes focusing on the policy environment, physical environment, community environment, and home environment

3 keynote speakers with expertise on climate change, resilience, and early childhood development, namely, Dr. Carlos Dora of Columbia University, Dr. Aisha Yousafzai of Harvard T.H. Chan, and Dang Hoa Nam of the Viet Nam Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA)

3 subtheme speakers with expertise on the environment, public health, resilience, and young children, namely Dr. Kidong Park of WHO, Dr. Mazrura Sahani of the National University of Malaysia, and Dr. Ana Maria Nieto of The LEGO Foundation

6 panel discussions

40 concurrent paper presentations from authors all over the Asia-Pacific region



Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Vu Duc Dam of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam opens the 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD in Ha Noi, 4 December 2019.

Ha Noi conference bolsters sustainable environment, nurturing care for young children

Ha Noi hosted 600 guests from around the world for the 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development (ECD), December 4-6, 2019, focusing on the need for nurturing, sustainable environments for young children. Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam opened the regional conference citing the importance of ECD to Vietnam and the rest of the world.

The 2019 regional conference challenged all to work across sectors to promote nurturing and sustainable environments

for young children. The Ha Noi conference gathered members of parliament and ministers, government officials, experts, practitioners, academics, and advocates to raise awareness of the threats young children face and how these should be addressed.

Co-sponsored by ARNEC and Vietnam's MOLISA, the regional ECD conference highlights the role of the physical and built environment in the protection and development of young children.



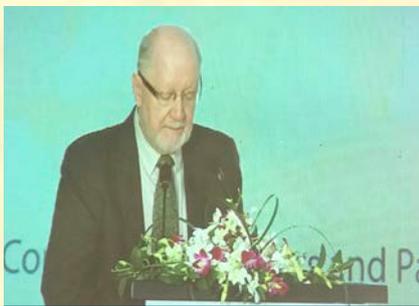
conference
highlights

Young Vietnamese children

perform a traditional dance for the participants of the 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD in Ha Noi during the opening programme on 4 December 2019.



H.E. Vu Duc Dam, Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, welcomed all guests to Ha Noi for the 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD. He inspired the participants with the policies and programmes of the Government of Viet Nam for young children age 0-8 years stressing the importance of ECD in the socio-economic development of the country.



Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Chair of the ARNEC Board of Directors, thanked the Government of Viet Nam for hosting this year's Regional Conference. Dr. Shaeffer cited the importance of policies, the physical environment, communities, and homes for young children, which are the conference subthemes this year.



Karin Hulshof, Regional Director of the UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), stressed the need to invest in children and outlined the gains and challenges promoting ECD in the Asia-Pacific region.



Shigeru Aoyagi, Regional Director of the UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau of Education, articulated the links between ECD and the environment, and their implications for sustainable development across countries in the region.

opening
programme



high-level meeting

between members of parliament and government officials on ECD in Ha Noi, 4 December 2019

ECD discussed, key points agreed

1

Need for increased human capital investments, especially for young children, recognised

4

ECD partnerships within the country, in the region, and across regions important

2

Collaboration between parliaments and ministries important in mobilising budget support for ECD

5

ECD constituency and capacity to exact accountability raised

3

Current ECD programmes need to be efficient and effective, especially if public resources are constrained

Objectives and history

The meeting between members of parliament and government officials was one of the innovative practices that emerged from the 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, stressing the importance of collaboration between the government and the parliament in promoting ECD.

Environmental risks affect young children, nurturing care essential

How the Physical Environment is central to Early Child Development



Impact of Climate Change on Children

- Children are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, especially those living in already disadvantaged contexts.
- The developing child is more susceptible than an adult to the effects of environmental stressors.
- Urgent action is needed on mitigating climate change and adapting to its impacts.



 **HARVARD**
T.H. CHAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

According to . . .



Dr. Carlos Dora, Columbia University

- Young children inhale air three times as much as adults, thereby exposing them to poor organ development due to air pollution
- Air pollution-induced emergencies on the rise, exacerbated by climate change



Dang Hoa Nam, MOLISA, Viet Nam

- Viet Nam is committed to ECD; constitutional provisions and laws focus on the protection and promotion of the wellbeing of young children
- First 1,000 days to 3 years old, an important investment; post-natal care key to nurturing healthy infants



Dr. Aisha Yousafzai, Harvard T.H. Chan

- Nurturing care services essential to help mitigate climate change risks
- Gender inequalities pervasive: girls affected more from climate-related disasters, e.g. 73% young females in Bangladesh between the ages of 10 and 19 have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Each year, air pollution causes

570,000 deaths

in children under 5. This includes indoor, outdoor and second-hand smoke.

In children, air pollution can:



Stunt brain development



Reduce lung function & trigger asthma



Cancers



Chronic respiratory illnesses



Cardiovascular disease



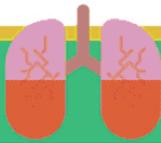
Stroke

It can also set the stage for problems later in life from:

Climate change has adverse

health impacts on young children, families, and communities.

Nearly a million children die from pneumonia each year. Half of those are linked to air pollution.



World Health Organization



Dr. Kidong Park, WHO Viet Nam Representative, spoke about the WHO framework on air pollution and health, and the impacts of air pollution on the health of young children.



Dr. Mazrura Sahani of the National University of Malaysia shared the health effects of transboundary air/haze pollution on young children in Malaysia.

... but the power of play is essential to building resilience among children and their families and communities



Dr. Ana Maria Nieto of The LEGO Foundation, presented the power of play in building resiliency among young children and their families and communities. Play, she stressed, is often presented as opposite to learning, rather than one of the most powerful ways for children to develop the skills necessary to thrive, encompassing creative, problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration skills.

Success is a future where **learning through play** empowers children to become **creative, engaged, life-long learners**



Knowledge on climate change, environmental risks, ECD shared; inter-linkages stressed



6 Panel Discussion Groups

organised focusing on (1) the policy environment moderated by Jessica Hampton of ChildFund Australia; (2) environmental pollution, climate change, and nurturing care by Sara Dang of Save the Children; (3) nurturing care in humanitarian settings by Nicole Rodger of Plan International Australia; (4) national, regional, and global initiatives for holistic ECD by Dr. Cliff Meyers of ARNEC; (5) playful parenting by Dr. Ana Maria Nieto of The LEGO Foundation; and (6) noteworthy practices on parenting and responsive caregiving by Sivaprasad Behera of ChildFund India.

40 Concurrent Paper Presentations

ARNEC received more than a hundred research abstracts, out of which 40 papers were chosen for presentation in the 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD in Ha Noi, Viet Nam.



All papers are in different stages of finalisation by their respective authors. ARNEC commits to coordinate with them to facilitate public sharing of final papers, as part of ARNEC's commitment to serve as a knowledge platform for ECD in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pre-conference activities offered to participants: workshop or site visit?



Site visits showcase ECD good practices in nearby Ha Noi



Participants visited the Social Work Center in Quang Ninh and the Community Library in Dong Anh on 3 December 2019, a day before the opening of the 2019 Regional ECD Conference.

Pre-conference workshops held

OneSky discusses the training of home-based care providers (photo 1). Participants share insights on the Nurturing Care Framework (photo 2). BRAC and The LEGO Foundation facilitate a play material workshop (photo 3). Save the Children shares ECCD programmes in the context of climate change (photo 4).





Vietnamese children receive a copy of the Ha Noi Call to Action from Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer of ARNEC.

600 participants craft Ha Noi Call to Action, a first in ARNEC history

All Conference participants joined the small group discussions to give inputs in crafting the Ha Noi Call to Action, consisting of key measures and advocacies in the policy environment, physical environment, community environment, and home environment promoting the wellbeing of young children in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in response to climate change and environmental risks.

This is the first time in the history of ARNEC that a consultative process was done to formulate an advocacy statement reflecting key measures to protect young children from environmental disasters and climate change, and make them, their families, and communities resilient at all times.



Download the 2019 Ha Noi Call to Action from the ARNEC website: <https://arnek.net/static/uploads/Final%20Call%20to%20Action%202023Dec2019.pdf>.



Thank you to everyone

who have helped ARNEC hold the 2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD in Ha Noi, Viet Nam on 4-6 December 2019.

ARNEC Secretariat

1 Commonwealth Lane
#03-27 Singapore 149544
Telephone (65) 6659 0227
secretariat@arnek.net

