

NEWS FLASH

Penang, May 2024

ARNEC Conference calls for investment for young children for climate resilience, sustainable development

Penang opened its doors to more than 500 participants from 48 countries for the 2024 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development (ECD), May 28-30, focusing on investing in ECD to build resilience and boost sustainable development.

YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Binti Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development of Malaysia, opened the Penang Conference.

This year's regional conference emphasised the urgency of investing in ECD as a powerful tool for nurturing resilience among young children. Click here for more information: <https://arnecc.net/news/arnecc-conference-calls-investment-young-children-climate->



YB Data Sri Hajah Nancy Binti Shukri, Minister of Women, Family, and Community Development of Malaysia, with Dr. Sheldon Shaffer of ARNEC and Datin Prof. Dr. Professor Mariani Binti Md Nor of the ECCD Council of Malaysia, during the opening program.



ARNEC recognises the valuable participation of Honourable Ministers and Members of the Parliament from Bangladesh, Kingdom of Bhutan, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Samoa, as well as the support of Conference sponsors UNESCO, UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children, and Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund.

Working together for early childhood

ARNEC thanks ministers, senior government officials, partners, participants

ARNEC would like to thank all of you for supporting the 2024 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development. Click here for the full statement of ARNEC: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1R1rkk7Lo05b0ooOnyRmAw4yy8OcpINW-/view?usp=share_link



Two high level discussions held on ECD gains, climate change actions for young children

ARNEC held a roundtable discussion (RTD) on ECD progress, gains, and challenges in the region during the 2024 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Penang, Malaysia, May 28, 2024.

YB Madam Syerleena binti Abdul Rashid, Member of Parliament, Malaysia chaired the RTD with Myo-Zin Nyunt, Interim Regional Director, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office as co-chair.

Both steered the discussion towards reviewing progress on ECD in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on the importance of policy makers in advancing the ECD agenda, and sharing country experiences and noteworthy ECD practices.

Another RTD was held with Ministers, senior government officials, and other partners on addressing impacts of climate change on young children in the Asia-Pacific region during the Penang Conference.

Minister of Culture and Internal Affairs Jess Gasper of the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) chaired the RTD with ARNEC Chair of the Board of Directors Sheldon Shaeffer as co-chair, focusing on the urgent need for



Minister Jess Gasper of the Republic of Marshall Islands chair the high-level discussion

RMI leads the high-level discussions on young children amidst climate change risks focusing on regional and country-level calls to action. Click here for more information on the two RTDs during the ARNEC Conference: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1L3C6YbyoBKjKx9pdYUZczG1qH4A92ttx?usp=sharing>

coordinated regional and national efforts to address the profound impacts of climate change on young children in the region.

The RTD advocated the need to integrate child-focused climate policies into early childhood development programs.

ARNEC, UNICEF, MoESD hold climate 101 workshop for early childhood, climate stakeholders in Bhutan



A transformative 2-day workshop entitled "Climate 101 Workshop and Consultation," hosted by ARNEC in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) and UNICEF, concluded in Paro, Bhutan on August 22, 2024.

The workshop, attended by 36 senior government leaders, ECCD facilitators, development partners, and civil society representatives, focused on integrating Early Childhood Development (ECD) and climate change initiatives in Bhutan.

The workshop, which is part of a broader initiative supported by the Bainum Foundation, was aimed at enhancing the knowledge and capacity among stakeholders on climate change's impact on young children. It also sought to explore ECD as a tool for building climate resilience and sustainable development.

Through the workshop, participants gained a deeper appreciation of the intersection between ECD and climate change and helped in identifying opportunities and challenges for ECD and undertaking climate initiatives in Bhutan.

For more information, click here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/19JA9bRNufI9OD_JmXSnQuzooycph8kqS/view?usp=sharing



Did you miss the keynote presentations at the ARNEC Conference in Penang, Malaysia in May 2024?

Good news! We have videos and slides of our keynote speakers, namely, Dr. Joan Lombardi, Bhavreen Kandhari, Srihari Govindra, Datuk Dr. Chiam Heng Keng, Professor Yoichi Sakakihara, and Dr. Frances Aboud.

Click here: <https://mailchi.mp/arnec/2024-regional-conference-for-early-childhood-development-news-and-updates-13867925?e=902b7bdcba>



Did you also miss the highlights of the 2024 ARNEC Conference?

Watch this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJ7to5PS-Qs&t=17s>



ARNEC, UBS Optimus Foundation launch responsive caregiving project with country-level support in Indonesia, Philippines

Investing in responsive caregiving and parenting practices is crucial for promoting healthy Early Childhood Development (ECD). Ensuring positive and playful parenting practices during the early years supports the holistic development of young children contributing significantly to children's cognitive, social and emotional development.

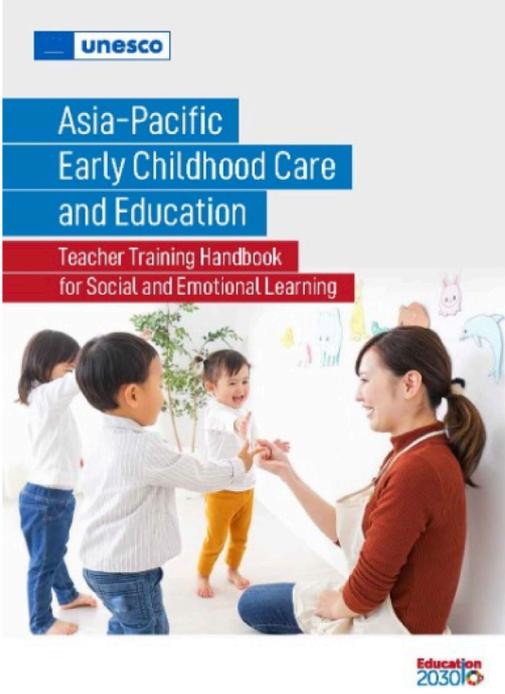
For adults, healthy relationships boost well-being by providing practical advice and emotional support. Responsive parenting helps in building a foundation for resilience across childhood and adulthood as it has been observed that the most common protective factor for children and teens who develop resilience is having at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other adult.

The foregoing premises motivated ARNEC to develop a proposal entitled 'Mainstreaming Opportunities for enhancing Responsive Caregiving for young children' or MORECare4YoungChildren in Indonesia and the Philippines and submit the same to UBS Optimus Foundation (UBS OF) last year. In May 2024 at the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD in Penang,

Fang Hui represented UBS OF during the project launch with the ARNEC Board of Directors, Steering Committee, Institutional Members, National ECD Networks, and National Representatives in attendance. Evelyn Santiago, Mega Indrawati, and Balagtas Himigbayan Santiago represented ARNEC, HI ECD Coalition Indonesia, and ECCD Council of the Philippines, respectively. For more information, click here: <https://arnec.net/node/467>.

Malaysia, the UBS OF-assisted MORECare4YoungChildren Project was launched in collaboration with ARNEC as lead coordinating organisation and the HI ECD Coalition Indonesia and ECCD Council of the Philippines as country-level partners.

HI ECD Coalition Indonesia and ECCD Council of the Philippines are both national ECD networks and also Institutional Members of ARNEC. The project will run for 18 months informed by baseline studies in both countries and an evaluation of results vis-à-vis the objectives of the MORECare4YoungChildren.



unesco

Asia-Pacific
Early Childhood Care
and Education

Teacher Training Handbook
for Social and Emotional Learning



Scan the QR code to access UNESCO's Teacher Training Handbook for Social and Emotional Learning, which was prepared in partnership with ARNEC.

Education 2030

ARNEC, UNESCO Bangkok launch Training of Trainers program on SEL

ARNEC, in collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok, has launched a Training of Trainers (ToT) Program aimed at enhancing Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in the Asia-Pacific region utilizing the Asia-Pacific ECCE Teacher Training Handbook for Social and Emotional Learning (APETT-SEL).

The APETT-SEL program focuses on equipping educators with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to promote emotional intelligence, resilience, and social skills in both children and teachers. SEL plays a crucial role in promoting well-being, positive relationships, and responsible decision-making, laying the foundation for lifelong learning and development.

The ToT program seeks to develop master trainers who can train others, ensuring that SEL principles are effectively implemented across diverse ECCE environments.

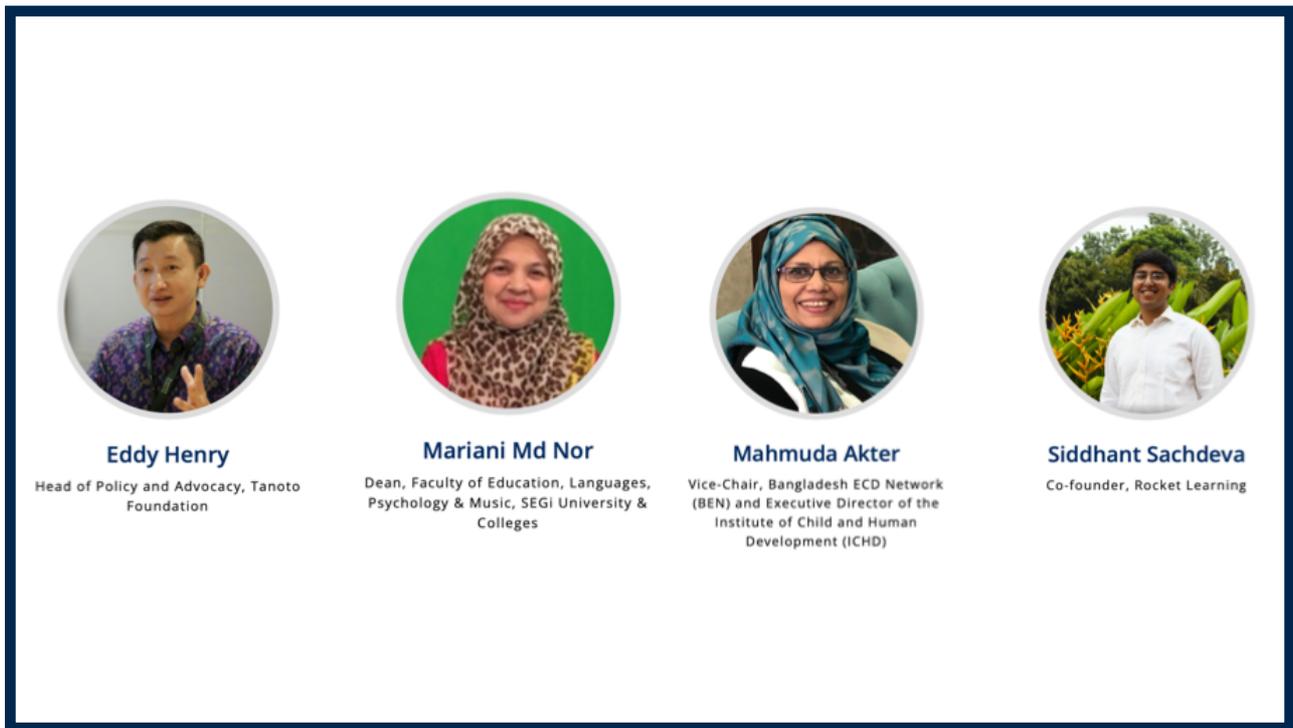
For more information, click here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1edhIQX5_nqMYEExVbyN31UAVg0_tV8TN/view?usp=sharing



ARNEC, Philippine Normal University work on SEL mainstreaming in pre-service teacher curriculum

ARNEC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Philippine Normal University (PNU) to integrate Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) into teacher professional development, under ARNEC's Early Childhood Workforce initiative (ECWI).

For more information, click here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iM6FzxJM3OIII-uHd5Di97MborVKx5Fi/view?usp=sharing>



ARNEC welcomes new members of the Steering Committee

ARNEC has selected new members of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee makes recommendations and advises on the network's strategic goals, directions, and work plans to achieve ARNEC's purpose, build partnership, and strengthen the network's reach and impact. The Steering Committee also provides strategic directions and technical guidance for ARNEC activities.

The new members are Eddy Henry, Tanoto Foundation, Indonesia and Datin Prof. Mariani Binti Md Nor, ECCE Council, Malaysia, both representing Southeast Asia. For South Asia, the new members are Mahmuda Akhter, Bangladesh ECD Network and Institute of Child and Human Development, Bangladesh and Siddhant Sachdeva, Rocket Learning, India.

The new members join ARNEC's current Steering Committee members, namely, Sara Dang, Save the Children, and Devina Silvia, Plan International, both representing the ARNEC Core Team; Margaret Sims, Macquarie University representing Oceania; Maggie Koong, Victoria Educational Organisation representing East Asia; and Widodo Suhartoyo representing the ARNEC National Representatives.

For more information about the Steering Committee, [click here](#).



What is a 2-generation approach to building resilience among young children and parents in times of crisis?

-Joan Lombardi

Click here to watch the keynote of Joan Lombardi during the ARNEC Conference in Penang, Malaysia in May 2024: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1UaG2_Xx4.