

26 October 2022 KIX EAP Webinar 15: Learning assessments and education reform in the EAP region

Speakers and moderators' biographical notes



Speaker: Jeaniene Spink is the Research Director of the Education and Development Program at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). She brings more than 20 years of experience in the international development sector where she has helped to design, implement, monitor and evaluate large scale education sector reform programs for organisations including UNICEF, the World Bank, USAID, UNHCR and DFAT. Most of her work has focused on upstream education sector planning, inclusive education, and education quality across the Indo-Pacific, including designing and implementing student assessment programs in fluid and transitional environments.



Speaker: Michelle Belisle Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP), formerly the South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment or SPBEA, was established in 1980 with a mandate to assist in regional and national educational assessment needs of its Pacific country members. Michelle Belisle joined EQAP in April 2015, after serving as the Director of Assessment in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education in Canada. Michelle has been a lecturer in the undergraduate and graduate programs at the University of Regina in the areas of classroom assessment and leadership and assessment. She holds PhD in Education from the University of Regina in Canada, a MAEd in Curriculum and Technology from the University of Phoenix and a BEd in Secondary Mathematics from the University of Regina. Michelle is currently leading the EQAP team that works with SPC member countries to support their efforts to build a robust education system through providing support in curriculum and assessment, education statistics and analysis, policy development, and technical qualifications.



Speaker: Ethel Agnes Pascua Dr Ethel is the first female director since the establishment of SEAMEO in 1965. She is a member of the UNESCO SDG High Level Global Steering Committee and co-chair of ICT and Distance Education of the UNESCO International Teacher Task Force. She serves as a co-chair of the SEA PLM Secretariat, a Technical Advisory Board member of the UNESCO Institute of Lifelong Learning and a governing board member of UIS. Dr Valenzuela lead the SEA PLM 2019 with UNICEF EAPRO and is a Steering Committee Co-chair of the SEA-PLM Secretariat and ASEAN Korea Project Management Team.



Speaker: Alejandro Sinon Ibanez is the Project Manager and Policy and Programme Specialist at the SEA-PLM Secretariat, Bangkok. Aside from managing the day-to-day operations of the Secretariat, he is focused on strengthening collaboration and exchanges between participating countries to improve system and school level policy and practice in basic education through the SEA-PLM surveys and other studies. Prior to his current role, he has worked in the assessment and evaluation field in the Philippines for more than a decade. Currently, he sits as the Executive Secretary of the Philippine Educational Measurement and Evaluation Association, Inc (PEMEA).



Speaker: Baela Raza Jamil is the CEO of Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA) centre for education and consciousness. She leads the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) Pakistan since 2009. Baela spearheads nationwide social movements for education and learning reforms, foundational learning, research and innovations in Early Years, Girls Education 2nd Chance Programs for education life skills and Livelihoods and learning recovery in emergencies. She serves on government federal and provincial boards and is a sub-convenor of the Steering Committee on Education, at the Federal Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives /Planning Commission.

Baela is a Commissioner, Education Commission and is a member of the UNESCO IBE Council. She has served as vice-chair UNESCO GEM Report; UIS GAML Task force on SDG 4.2.1 Currently she is a member of the Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE), Delivery Board, Yidan Prize Foundation Advisory Committee and Director People's Action for Learning (PAL) Network Board



Speaker: Ketan Varma is currently associated with the Center for Educational Assessment at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he works on technology-based assessment projects for adult learners. In his previous roles, Ketan led large-scale assessment initiatives at ASER Centre, Pratham Education Foundation, and the People's Action for Learning (PAL) Network. He conceptualized the International Common Assessment of Numeracy (ICAN) and the Early Language, Literacy, and Numeracy Assessment (ELANA) which are currently being implemented in over 10 countries across Africa, Asia, and the Americas.



Moderator: José Luís Canêlhas joined NORRAG as KIX EAP Hub Manager in July 2020. José Luis has significant experience in management consulting and international development roles. José Luis worked in the financial services private sector before his career evolved to international consultancy at school and systems-level education planning and M&E roles in Africa and Southeast Asia. He also served on the Global Partnership for Education committee on Governance, Ethics, Risk and Finance.



Moderator: Marina Dreux Frotté is Programme coordinator at NORRAG, and the KIX EAP Hub Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Focal Point. Marina Dreux Frotté has extensive expertise in conducting research and applied policy research on the topic of innovative financing for education (IFE). She has recently coauthored a comprehensive literature review on the IFE sector and a case study on the Educate Girls Development Impact Bond.