Free universal education and good governance – establishing the links

Side Event to the Second Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Replenishment Conference June, 2014 in Brussels

- Organizers: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark & GPE
- Participants: see below
- Date & Time: **June 25th 16:30-18.00**
- Venue: "The Egg" (http://www.eggbrussels.eu/en/about), Brussels.

Background

Following the first GPE replenishment conference for 2011-2014 in Copenhagen in 2011Denmark has been invited to host a side event as part of the opening of the GPE pledging conference in Brussels the 25 and 26 June 2014.

It is increasingly recognized that access to education has helped advance the development of nations. While the connections between education and health, for example, are well known, much less is understood about the relationship between education and good governance. Universal free and compulsory education has had a long history in some parts of the world, including in countries such as Denmark, while being a relatively recent phenomena in others. With the increased focus on universal basic education, starting in 1990 with the Education for All goals and later strongly taken up in the Millennium Development Goals, support for mass education gained momentum. The side event will look at the results of this increased commitment and examine the relationships between the introduction of free basic education and indicators of good governance in its broad sense.

In 2014 Denmark celebrates the 200-year anniversary of providing universal education. This will be used as a point of departure for the debate at the conference in order to highlight and discuss the importance of universal education in relation to development of societies globally.

Objective

The side event aims to contribute to a relatively new debate regarding the links between universal education on governance, arguing that universal education has a positive effect on the level of e.g. democratic development, stability, corruption and transparency and overall state building in a country. The side event will provide a forum for open discussion on the potential positive effects of education that goes beyond currently discussed issues, such as improvements in economic development, health issues etc. Focus is not on governance in the education sector but aims to take the debate to a higher level exploring the links between education and good governance.

The event should be seen as a kick-off of a continued debate that together with further research will hopefully lead to increased political and financial support for quality education post 2015.

Format

The side-event will take place at the same location as the GPE replenishment conference and will be inaugurated by the Danish Minister for Trade and Development followed by a brief presentation of key findings from a study exploring the links between education and good governance. A panel of key stakeholder both from government and civil society will be invited to give their views on the topic followed by a Q&A session. The moderator will sum up, draw out conclusions of the debate and present issues that will be relevant for continued discussion, studies and investigation.

The side event will be followed by a reception hosted by Denmark. The Minister for Trade and – development will hold the host-speech.

Participants

Moderator: Henry Bonsu, MC/Journalist

Inaugurator: Mogens Jensen, Danish Minister for Trade & Development

Researcher: Rebecca Winthrop, Director Center for Universal Education The Brookings Institution

Panellist: Andris Piebalgs, EU-commissioner development, Mogens Jensen Danish Minister for Development and trade, Camilla Croso, GCE president, Ghulam Parooq Wardagh , Minister of Education Afghanistan, Roberto Aguilar Gómez, Minister of Education Bolivia, Salathiel Ntakirutimana, GEFI Youth Advocate – Burundi.

Closer: Alice Albright, CEO Global Partnership for Education

Audience will include a broad range of ministers, senior officials from donor and developing countries, heads of UN agencies, CEOs from private companies and foundations, civil society organizations, teachers' unions and development banks.

An attendance of 350 or more is expected

Procedure of the event

16:30-16:33	Short intervention by H Bonsu and presentation of M Jensen
16:33-16:36	Short event inauguration speech by M Jensen
16:36-16:38	H Bonus introduces R Winthrop.
16:38-16:45	R Winthrop introduction of key findings on good governance and education.
16:45-17:05	H Bonsu introduces panelists and welcomes comments on the key findings. Speakers reflections and comments will be from diverse perspectives: a regional and donor perspective from the EC Commissioner, a government perspective on the role of education in helping move a country out of conflict from Afghan Minister of Education, a inclusion/indigenes people/

	Latin American perspective from the Minister from Bolivia and a civil society perspective from GCE Chair, a youth and African perspective from Burundian youth advocate working on educating young people to be civically engaged citizens.
17:05-17:25	H Bonsu begins short moderated discussion with panelists – ping-pongs between speakers based on their initial comments and questions.
17:25-17:50	H Bonsu opens up to audience Q&A and discussion with panelists.
17:50-17:55	H Bonsu provides closing remarks and presents the issues that will be relevant for continued discussion.
17:55-18:00	H Bonsu invites A Albright to give final remarks and close the event