



Regional Cooperation in Education: Benefits and Recent Developments

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Developments (1)

2005: East Asia Summit (EAS) initiated

- then 16 countries (now 18)
- policy dialogue & cooperation

2007: Country Leaders identified education as a priority area

Developments (2)

2008: ASEAN and Australia commissioned the *Harnessing Educational Cooperation in the EAS* report (ACER)

2010: EAS Education Cooperation Taskforce

- identified priority projects
- recommended Education Ministers meet

Developments (3)

July 2011: Education Ministers from the 18 EAS countries will meet in Bali, hosted by Indonesia

Theme:

*Improving Education Quality through
Regional Cooperation*

Context

- The EAS is a highly dynamic region
 - > half the world's population
 - rapid economic growth and social development
- Education is playing a vital role, but further progress depends on:
 - meeting the rising demand for education
 - reducing inequalities
 - lifting quality

Why regional cooperation?

- Cooperation = mutual benefit
- Creates a bigger, more diverse and dynamic education arena
- Provides opportunities for countries at different stages of development to *complement* each other and *share* successful approaches

Cooperation strengthens domestic policy

- Develops more open and flexible education systems
- Facilitates student and staff mobility, and broadens their learning
- Builds mutual understanding
- Marshals resources and evidence to promote investment in education

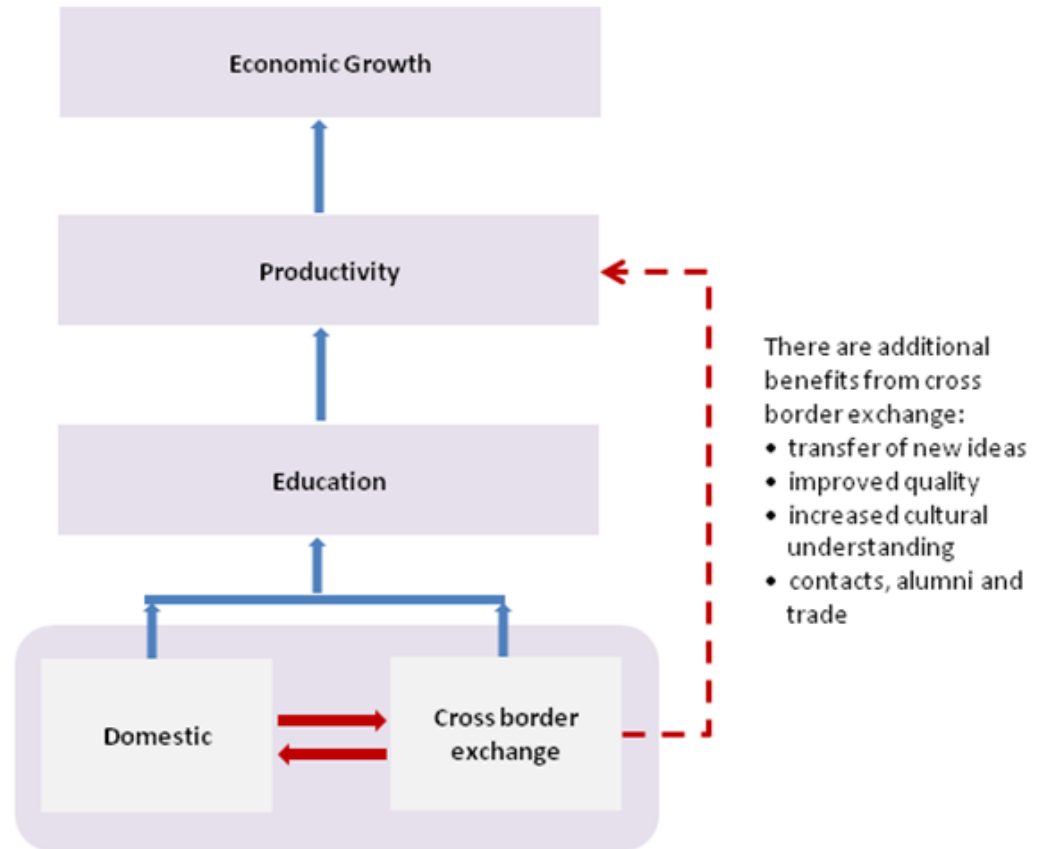


Economic growth is necessary to reduce poverty and improve wellbeing...

... this requires improved productivity.

Education is a crucial driver of productivity.

Education services can be supplied either domestically or through cross border exchange



Source: Centre for International Economics (2009), *APEC and International Education*

Role of governments

1. Develop policy frameworks that facilitate, stimulate and support educational cooperation between individuals and institutions
2. Ensure that cooperative activities are complementary and self-sustaining
3. Collect data on cooperation and evaluate initiatives

Policies to facilitate cooperation

Form of cooperation	Policy requirements
1. International mobility of students & staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open & transparent visa arrangements• Qualifications recognition & quality assurance• Financing to assist low-income students & staff
2. Education supply across national borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction of barriers to investment and provision• Qualifications recognition & quality assurance



Policies to facilitate (cont'd)

Form of cooperation	Policy requirements
3. Joint participation in international projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual property & staff visa arrangements that facilitate sharing of resources & expertise • Support for capacity building
4. Knowledge networking & transfer of good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of high quality comparative data frameworks • Benchmarking domestic policy against international best practice • Dissemination and clearinghouses

Policies to facilitate (cont'd)

Form of cooperation	Policy requirements
5. Partnerships for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreement between donor and recipient countries on development priorities• Pooling of resources to bring critical mass to aid programs• Independent evaluations of implementation & impact• Building capacity to improve education quality

Criteria to assess proposals

1. *Benefit and effectiveness*: the project is mutually beneficial and cost-effective
2. *Feasibility*: the project is likely to attract funding and its goals are achievable
3. *Measurability*: the project's outcomes can be measured and disseminated

Criteria (cont'd)

4. *Regionality*: the project focuses on issues that are regional in nature
5. *Uniqueness*: the project avoids duplication of other multilateral initiatives

Highest ranked proposals by the 2010 EAS Taskforce

1. Regional TVET Quality Assurance Framework
2. Regional Interoperability of National Qualifications Frameworks
3. Development of a Network of TVET Providers

Highest rankings

4. Regional Credit Transfer System Harmonisation
5. Teaching Standards Framework for Schools
6. Capacity Building for Ratification of the UNESCO Convention on Qualifications Recognition in Asia and the Pacific

Next steps

Countries taking lead on individual projects (e.g. Australia has signalled funding for two projects: *TVET QA Framework* and *UNESCO Convention on Qualifications Recognition*)

Meeting of EAS Education Ministers in July 2011

On-going mechanisms for cooperation??



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