



2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development

*Advancing Equitable and Inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD)
Services: The Critical Role of Effective Local Governance*

June 30 - July 3, 2025 | Manila Philippines

In partnership with:



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Summary
Report

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“The future of our country is not decades away. It is in our classrooms, daycare centers, and homes today. When we nurture our youngest now, we are shaping the workforce, leadership, and innovation of tomorrow.”



ROGER B. MASAPOL

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Overview of the Conference

The 2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development convened at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel in Manila, Philippines from June 30 to July 3, 2025, with the theme “Advancing Equitable and Inclusive Early Childhood Development (ECD) Services: The Critical Role of Effective Local Governance.”

Organised by the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC), the Conference was supported by Plan International, Save the Children, Tanoto Foundation, Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund, UNICEF, and UNESCO. In this year’s edition, the ECCD Council of the Philippines hosted the Conference with the support of the Philippine Normal University and REX Education.

The 2025 ARNEC Conference delved into the reasons why access to inclusive and equitable ECD services continues to pose challenges for numerous vulnerable young children, particularly those with disabilities or living in remote areas. The Conference explored strategies for addressing this issue focusing on the role of local governments and collaboration with other stakeholders. The absence of accessible and high-quality ECD services not only perpetuates cycles of inequality, but also hinders efforts to achieve broader social and economic equality.

Furthermore, the Conference emphasised the development of resilient systems that can sustain the delivery of ECD services even during unforeseen events such as climate disasters, health crises, and other emergencies.

This year's Conference was also held amidst decline in public financing for ECD organisations and programs at country levels and reduced overseas development assistance, particularly due to policy shifts in the United States.

In a world facing multiple crises, the ARNEC Conference aimed to restore focus on vulnerable children and their critical needs, safeguard ECD progress, and address shortfalls through collaboration with stakeholders. ARNEC convened ECD champions and partners, including traditional and non-traditional stakeholders and advocates, to discuss emerging challenges and explore innovative solutions to advance the agenda for early childhood.

Photo: Learning materials on display at the Cambodia exhibition booth.



Conference at a glance

476 PARTICIPANTS

from 32 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

20 PLENARY SPEAKERS

ranging from government representatives, academe, experts, ECD practitioners, educators, and researchers.

13 PANEL DISCUSSIONS

including 4 pre-conference workshops to help deep-dive into critical ECD issues.

31 PAPER PRESENTATIONS

in addition to two workshops, and multiple other learning opportunities.

4 SITE VISITS

to model ECD centres located in Manila that showcased inclusive and equitable systems.

Photo: In the 2024 Conference in Penang, Malaysia, each participant wrote down his or her name and home country on ribbons and at the end of the Conference, those ribbons were tied together and passed on to the next 2025 ARNEC Conference country host, the Philippines. This year, those very ribbons were placed as centerpieces on the tables. It symbolised the bond that could not be easily broken, and a reminder that our work continues for young children.



Top Left: Evelyn Santiago, Executive Director, ARNEC; Soohyun Kim, Regional Director, UNESCO Bangkok; Roger Masapol, Assistant Secretary DepEd, Philippines; June Kunugi, Regional Director, UNICEF EAPRO; and Dr. Teresita Inciong, Vice Chair & Executive Director, ECCD Council of the Philippines

Top Right: Hon. Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah, Minister of Women, Early Childhood and Community Wellbeing Development, Sarawak, Malaysia

Centre: Hon. Congressman Roman Romulo, House of Representatives, Republic of the Philippines

Bottom: Cambodian delegation with Her Excellency Kim Sethany (seated fifth from left), Vice Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports



“While participation rates in ECD programmes have increased in the Asia-Pacific region, these rates vary across countries due to serious disparities...in 40% of nations, 1 out of 2 children does not receive any type of ECCE.”



DR. SHELDON SHAEFFER
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ARNEC

Opening Plenary: It's time for local action

Highlighting the urgency to reach ECD goals and how local governments can help realise them faster and better, the opening plenary session included high-level speakers from the government and international development community who explored challenges facing ECD, and offered inspiration to start looking within own countries and communities for long-lasting local solutions.

The session's speakers included: Roger B. Masapol, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, Government of the Philippines; Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Chair of the Board of Directors, ARNEC; June Kunugi, Regional Director, UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Office; and Soohyun Kim, Regional Director, UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok.

“Early Childhood is our greatest opportunity and greatest responsibility. Nearly 38 million children under the age of 5 years are still out of school...We cannot continue like this any longer. We need models that engage the private sector, achieve more collaboration, and generate cutting-edge evidence.”

JUNE KUNUGI
UNICEF EAPRO

“When local governments work effectively, communities come together, education is prioritised and young lives can truly change. Trusted, well-resourced, and empowered local actors are essential to ensuring that every child, everywhere, can live, learn and thrive.”

SOOHYUN KIM
UNESCO BANGKOK



Photo: ARNEC organised a special session to recognise its Board of Directors, Steering Committee Members, Core Team, National Representatives, Institutional Members, and National ECD Networks.

Keynote Address: Focus on 'switch points'

Diane Whitehead, President and CEO of Childhood Education International, delivered a practical yet profound keynote address inspired by the 2002 UN document “A World Fit for Children” and Pema Chödrön’s bestseller “When Things Fall Apart.” Using the metaphor of “switch points,” Ms. Whitehead revisited long-standing commitments to children’s rights, safety, education, and participation, many of which remain unmet or at risk of reversal. She set the stage for the Conference acknowledging the fragility of current systems and the collective responsibility for shaping a world for young children.

Key Takeaways

1. Ms. Whitehead identified three key areas or switch points requiring bold intervention: creating cultural change, elevating local governance, and building business partnerships. These were framed as crucial levers for building a society that truly prioritises young children’s well-being, learning, and development.
2. Against the backdrop of compounding global crises – pandemic, conflict, climate shocks, and shrinking international financial support for early childhood – the keynote called for urgent renewed investment in ECD and stronger systems that can withstand future shocks. She cited the importance of a critical “switch point” of leveraging local governance, which remains under-focused in many global frameworks yet plays a decisive role in delivering meaningful support to children and families.



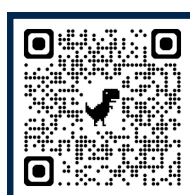
3. Ms. Whitehead analysed the current ECD funding landscape, including the ripple effects of recent US foreign aid reductions and broader trend of declining donor support. She argued that meeting the needs of young children requires more than public funding alone: it demands collaborative leadership across governments, foundations, and the private sector. Highlighting innovative models and the untapped potential of the business sector, the keynote called for a reimagined approach to resourcing and partnership.

4. The session also drew on the insights of author Pema Chödrön, encouraging participants to see discomfort as a teacher, rather than something to avoid. “Nothing ever goes away until it has taught us what we need to know,” she quoted.

“As global funding for early childhood development declines, the impact is being felt at the local level, where services are delivered and where children live, learn and grow. However, we have an opportunity to rethink our resourcing not just for the financing of services, but for building better and more lasting partnerships and to increase our shared responsibility.

We must shift towards more distributed and diversified support as this will build resilient, responsive ecosystems for young children grounded not in dependency but in local strength and local collaboration.”

Diane Whitehead
President and CEO, CEI



Scan this QR code to view her full video remarks. To access her presentation, [click here](#).



Top: Bhutan delegation.

Middle Left: Dr. Karol Mark Yee, Executive Director, EDCOM II – The Second Congressional Commission on Education, Philippines

Middle Right: Hon. Raissa H. Jajurie, Minister of Social Services and Development, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Philippines

This year's Conference saw huge delegations from Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines.



Government reps hold dialogue on ECD gains

Senior government officials from Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka along with representatives from civil society organisations and development partners such as UNESCO and UNICEF convened for a dialogue on early childhood programs and outcomes responsive to young children, their families and communities.

Co-chaired by Education Assistant Secretary Roger Masapol of the Philippines and ARNEC Board of Directors Member Cliff Meyers, the roundtable focused on country-level initiatives and challenges after the Act for Early Years Campaign presentation by Michael Simpsons, Theirworld.



Country presentations addressed the state of young children and ECD systems to meet country-level needs. Financing issues and collaboration between national, sub-national, and local governments were highlighted as primary challenges.

Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines presented their legal and policy frameworks for ECD under various governance arrangements and priority reforms. Similar to the Philippines, Cambodia is piloting ECCD Centers in public schools. Cambodia and the Philippines have national governance bodies and networks for ECD and work closely with local governments.



Photo: Roundtable with representatives from governments, civil society organisations, and ECD partners.

Bhutan emphasised gains despite public financing shortfalls. Engaging district-level mechanisms for ECD under decentralisation is crucial to address distance and isolation issues due to the country's terrain.

Sri Lanka discussed ECD programs under different national government agencies and emphasised the need for central and district-level coordination for coherent multisectoral support. Sri Lanka also highlighted the necessity for central coordination mechanisms like the national ECD networks established by Bhutan, Cambodia, and the Philippines.

Moreover, Tanoto Foundation and Plan International supported the need for greater investments for early childhood. UNICEF EAPRO and UNESCO Bangkok called for partnership-building, especially to draw on capacities from the private sector and foundations to support ECD given the financing squeeze from public sources. In addition, Childhood Education International participated in the roundtable discussion.

Theirworld is advancing global financing support through the Act for Early Years Campaign. It will soon convene government and non-government leaders to generate commitments for the campaign.

A night immersed in culture, conversations

The ECCD Council of the Philippines, host of the 2025 Regional Conference, organised a Welcome Dinner for the delegates and participants. Philippine Normal University helped assemble the cultural performances for the night.



Plenary Speakers: Local governance essential to advancing inclusion

Congressman Romulo: Policy reform key to advancing child development, workforce conditions

Congressman Roman Romulo, representing Pasig's lone Congressional District in the Philippines, provided a comprehensive overview of the current state and future direction of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).

Key issues included insufficient trained personnel, regional and local disparities in service delivery, and fragmented coordination among government agencies. Romulo emphasised the urgency of addressing early childhood needs, citing evidence on malnutrition and limited access to quality services.

The session highlighted major policy advancements, such as the recently signed ECCD System Act, which promotes a whole-of-nation, multi-agency approach and strengthens accountability of Local Government Units (LGUs).

Romulo also emphasised professionalising Child Development Workers, enhancing inclusivity through the Inclusive Learning Education Act, and empowering LGUs under the Lifelong Learning Act. Innovative approaches like community-based play and the "go to the parents" model were introduced to address barriers to access, especially in isolated and disadvantaged communities.

Dr. Shaeffer: Local governments have a critical role in promoting mother tongue-based education

Dr. Shaeffer's presentation reinforced how early education, delivered in the child's mother tongue, builds stronger academic foundations, preserves cultural identity, and fosters lifelong learning.

He stressed that exclusion from education is often caused by language mismatches, cultural disconnects, and systemic push-out factors. To overcome this, central governments must support policy, but local governments are crucial in mapping community languages, engaging stakeholders, and funding grassroots initiatives.

He presented good practices of mother tongue-based education from Cambodia, India, Nepal, Thailand, and the Philippines.

A powerful message underscored the session: education delivered in unfamiliar languages cannot meet learners' needs, just as “food cooked in borrowed pots never kills hunger.”

Dr. Krishnamurthy: Policy support, practice required to address needs of children with disability

Dr. Krishnamurthy, founder of Ummeed Child Development Center in India and a Senior Developmental Pediatrician, discussed disability inclusion. She explained that child development is a spectrum, ranging from thriving children to those at risk of developmental delays due to biological or psychosocial risks, to those with evident disabilities.

ECD workers often fear providing disability-related interventions, but policy and practice examples suggest it is feasible and beneficial for all children to include children with disabilities in ECD services.

Ummeed's Early Childhood Development and Disability (ECDD) team caters to children with disabilities in all its child development programs. Ummeed's statewide program in Meghalaya and district-wide program in Maharashtra demonstrate how advocacy and political leadership have allowed them to use existing policy frameworks to build skills of community workers to support families of children at risk and those with disabilities.



Prof. Alan Stein: Good data, evidence vital for creating climate-resilient ECD systems



Prof. Stein, Emeritus Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Oxford, emphasised that while over 70% of the global disease burden from climate change affects children under five, trajectories can still be changed even after a difficult start. “A good start is a great equaliser,” he stated.

He spoke about the importance of pre-primary education, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, and the need for comprehensive data—ranging from growth and cognition to mental health and domestic violence.

Prof. Stein also discussed innovative tools, such as use of satellite data to monitor disaster impacts on schools and health facilities during the 2022 South Asia floods. The presentation called for evidence-based policymaking, local partnerships, and the inclusion of children's and caregivers' voices in climate responses. Education, empowerment, and storytelling were also identified as powerful tools for engagement.

Prof. Vina Adriany: Rethink ECE as a place to transform gender inequalities

Prof. Adriany, Director at SEAMEO-CECCEP (Center for Early Childhood Care Education and Parenting), drew attention towards gender issues in Early Childhood Education (ECE) settings and revealed how traditional gender ideologies continue to be perpetuated in this “innocent space.”



She discussed two gender issues in ECE: the first one dealt with the micro-level on the extent to which teaching in ECE is gendered, and the second one covered the macro-level focusing on the feminisation of ECE, affecting the wages, professional status, and other adverse conditions of the female teachers.

She called on the participants to rethink ECE as a place to disrupt gender inequalities by incorporating gender flexible pedagogy; stress on the need to diversify, such as having more male teachers; challenge patriarchal structures, and lay out intersectional approaches to better support the diverse needs of all children.

She also called for governments to ensure that gender mainstreaming policy is adopted at the ECE level.

Vibhu Sharma: Disability inclusion in ECD now



Vibhu Sharma, Disability Inclusion Advisor at the UK-based charity Theirworld, focused on the critical issue of inclusion in ECE particularly the invisibility of children with disabilities in global education goals and data.

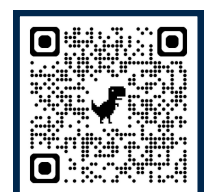
She emphasised that while Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.2 aims to provide access to quality ECE for all boys and girls, it often omits explicit mention of children with disabilities, leading to their exclusion. “Inclusion is not just about access; it’s about ensuring every child is seen, supported, and given a fair chance to thrive,” she stated.

Participants were reminded that inclusion benefits all children by fostering empathy, cooperation, and diversity. She challenged the idea that inclusion is expensive; reframing it as a necessary and beneficial investment, while calling for strong action in making inclusion visible, measurable, and central to all ECE efforts.

“Inclusive education must be intentional, and failure to include children with disabilities today will result in greater costs for society tomorrow,” she said.

To view full video remarks of all speakers, [click here](#).

Alternatively, you can also scan the QR on the right to view their presentations.





Top & Centre: *Our tribe!*

Bottom Left: *Mary Grace Torres, a parent to a daughter with disability, advocates for inclusion in the Philippines. She is a Project and Parent Coordinator for the Asia Pacific Region at the Perkins School for the Blind*

Bottom Right: *Dr. Clifford Meyers, Member, ARNEC Board of Directors*



2 global initiatives launched for children

ARNEC was proud to share the platform with Theirworld and Van Leer Foundation to launch their new initiatives: Act for Early Years and the Good Start Challenge, respectively.

Act for Early Years

Act For Early Years is a global campaign dedicated to ensuring that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preschool education – vital for school readiness and lifelong well-being. It calls on governments and international donors to commit at least \$1 billion in new funding for childcare and pre-primary education.

Act For Early Years is powered by a High-Level Advisory Group made up of leading early childhood organisations and networks from around the world, including ARNEC, Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN), Arab Network for Early Childhood Development (ANECD), and International Step by Step Association (ISSA).

To know more about this campaign, [click here](#).

The Good Start Challenge

The Good Start Challenge is a €2.6 million global challenge, in partnership with Challenge Works, to advance innovative solutions that improve the wellbeing of parents and caregivers of young children in disadvantaged circumstances in Indonesia, the Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Senegal, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil.

The Challenge offers an opportunity for innovators to take their solutions to the next level with the support of local and international partners. With an initial grant of €50,000 and access to a portfolio of capacity building support, innovators will develop, test and refine their innovation, and progress to the chance to win a final award of €200,000.

To know more about this Challenge, [click here](#).



Photo: Michael Simpson, Senior Policy and Research Manager, Theirworld. To access his presentation, [click here](#).

Panel Discussions

The 2025 Conference featured 13 panel discussions on wide-ranging topics such as disability inclusion, gender equity, cultural and linguistic inclusivity, geographic and urban-rural disparities, and crisis-responsive ECD systems. ARNEC's National Representatives and Institutional Members moderated the discussions.

There were 11 paper presentations and workshops held as parallel sessions. In addition, there were two main panel discussions held in plenary, focusing on effective local governance and climate resilience.

Panel Discussion on Local Governance: Central-local governance mechanisms essential to ECD service delivery, workforce development

ARNEC invited two LGU representatives: Pedro M. Matinong Jr., Mayor of Surallah, South Cotabato, Philippines; and Dr. Agustina Wilujeng Pramestuti, Mayor of Semarang City, Central Java Province, Indonesia. Both mayors have made commendable efforts to improve ECD outcomes, but challenges persist.



Key Takeaways:

1. LGUs lead ECCD services at the community level, but some mandates remain at the national level causing confusion and delays.
2. Many daycare workers receive low or no pay due to budget constraints and lack of clear standards.
3. Existing coordination structures are inadequate, requiring a permanent and active mechanism to align efforts between national, regional, and local agencies.

4. Efforts to reach children with disabilities and those in remote or conflict-affected areas are limited.

5. LGUs need technical and financial assistance to effectively carry out their ECCD roles.

6. Achieving quality ECCD for all children requires better cooperation among government agencies, partners, and communities.



Scan this QR code to view their full video remarks. To access their presentations, [click here](#).



Panel Discussion on ECD and Climate Change: Local practices, tools, approaches shared to advance ECD and climate resilience

ARNEC, World Bank, HI ECD Coalition of Indonesia, Aga Khan Foundation, and Masayang Pamilya (MaPa) Organization, Inc. Philippines, shared innovative regional, national, and local climate adaptation efforts that integrate ECD.

ARNEC's ECD and Climate Change Toolkit ready for public release

ARNEC unveiled a preview of its forthcoming ECD and Climate Change Toolkit, a comprehensive resource book designed to empower stakeholders with evidence, tools, and pivotal messages to advocate for child-centered climate initiatives. The toolkit will be available on ARNEC's ECD & Climate Change Knowledge Hub.



Diego Ambasz from the World Bank presented insights into the design and construction of environmentally sustainable, play-based early learning environments that are readily replicable across communities, particularly those vulnerable to climate and disaster risks.

“By employing simplicity in design, even community leaders with limited training can effectively implement these strategies, ensuring inclusivity and long-term use,” he said.

Ambasz emphasised that isolated pilot projects alone are insufficient; comprehensive strategies must be integrated into policy frameworks and community systems. Inclusion of children must become an integral aspect of national and global climate discourse, and collaborative efforts across sectors such as education, environment, and health are crucial for this integration. This systemic approach ensures that children not only benefit from these initiatives but also assume central roles in fostering climate resilience.

Syifa Andina from HI ECD Coalition shared about their programme ECO RISE, which successfully integrates climate resilience into early childhood systems at local levels in Indonesia. With ARNEC as a knowledge partner, ECO RISE led stakeholder mapping, webinars, social media campaigns, training, factsheets, and a climate change and ECD module.

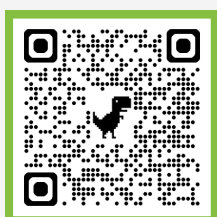
Andina highlighted two successful village-level actions, emphasising that ECO RISE is a movement sustained by strong partnerships and high commitment from the communities even though there is minimal funding involved. ECO RISE, a joint advocacy campaign of ARNEC and HI ECD Coalition, has received support from Bainum Foundation.

Beverly Bicaldo of the Aga Khan Foundation shared good practices from the project “Greening Early Learning” in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, which integrates climate resilience into early childhood education and making climate concepts relevant and age-appropriate.

The project assesses climate change’s impact on children’s well-being and helps educators recognise and address stress. Preschool teachers learn to translate climate risks into child-friendly learning through simplified language, local context, and interactive methods.

Educators and children co-create climate-resilient school visions and learning spaces, leading to tailored curricula, climate-sensitive activities, and preparedness systems. The initiative has reached over 666 kindergarten centers and 63,000 children, demonstrating that community-based, climate-resilient education can be scaled and adapted to various countries and contexts.

Andie Casas from MaPa shared that the organisation equips parents and caregivers in disaster-affected areas with practical psychosocial tools to support ECD. She highlighted MaPa's effort to develop 13 evidence-based parenting messages focused on caregiver self-care, emotional support for children, resilience, positive communication, and child protection. These messages are shared through animated videos, social media, radio, and in-person training with community volunteers and disaster response partners. So far, 57 Philippine Red Cross volunteers have been trained and are helping local communities support children in crises.



The panel discussion ended with the screening of an 8-minute film capturing the impact of climate change on early childhood. The visuals in the film were captured by seven youth advocates from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. Scan the QR Code to view the full video.

“This Conference has brought us together around a timely and important topic. What we witnessed here showcases the power of networks in advancing the agenda of ECD across countries in the Asia-Pacific region.”



EDDY HENRY

HEAD, POLICY AND ADVOCACY
TANOTO FOUNDATION, INDONESIA

Closing Plenary: Way forward is inclusion

ARNEC ended the 2025 Conference with an emphasis on inclusion and a commitment to leave no child behind. Participants heard closing remarks from Eddy Henry, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Tanoto Foundation, and member of ARNEC's Steering Committee; Evelyn D. Santiago, Executive Director, ARNEC; and Dr. Teresita Inciong, Vice Chair and Executive Director, ECCD Council of the Philippines.

Mr. Henry congratulated ARNEC for organising the Conference and for bringing everyone together around a timely topic. He said that ARNEC strongly demonstrates the power of networks in advancing the ECD agenda in the Asia-Pacific region and expressed belief that collective action can advance the agenda for early childhood across and beyond the region.

Evelyn Santiago and Dr. Teresita Inciong unveiled a canvas containing handprints of all 476 participants collected during the course of the three-day Conference. Ms. Santiago read a joint message from ARNEC and the ECCD Council of the Philippines emphasising the significance of the handprints as a symbol of everyone's presence and commitment to advancing equitable and inclusive early childhood development for all young children in the Asia-Pacific region.



“Let this wall of handprints be a visual reminder that our work does not end here. It begins with transformations and outcomes we would like to see and work for in our communities; government systems, policies, and investments; and in the lives of young children and families.”

[Excerpt from the joint message. To read the full message, click here.](#)

Acknowledgment

ARNEC would like to thank all of you for supporting the 2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development.

Conference host ECCD Council of the Philippines led by Dr. Teresita Inciong with the support of the Philippine Normal University and REX Education.

Conference partners Plan International, Save the Children, Tanoto Foundation, Early Childhood Regional Networks Fund, UNICEF, and UNESCO.

Conference supporters Early Opportunities and The Two Lilies Foundation.

Assistant Secretary Roger B. Masapol, Congressman Roman Romulo, Minister Raissa H. Jajurie, and Dr. Karol Mark Yee, Philippines; Minister Dato Sri Hajah Fatimah Abdullah, Malaysia; and Vice Minister Kim Sethany, Cambodia.

June Kunugi, UNICEF EAPRO; and Soohyun Kim, UNESCO Regional Office Bangkok.

Keynote and plenary speakers Diane Whitehead, Childhood Education International; Sheldon Shaeffer, Chair, ARNEC Board of Directors; Dr. Vibha Krishnamurthy, Ummeed Child Development Center India; Prof. Vina Adrinay, SEAMEO-CECCEP; and Prof. Alan Stein, Oxford University.

Pre-Conference speakers and organisers from ARNEC; Plan International; Save the Children; UNESCO Bangkok; Youth Advocates; Mobile Creches India; Sesame Workshop India; ITA Pakistan; Ministry of Education, Fiji; World Forum Foundation; and Ummeed Child Development Center.

ARNEC Board of Directors Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer (Chair), Dr. Cliff Meyers, Dr. Christine Chen, Dr. Venita Kaul, and Dr. Teresita Inciong.

Members of the ARNEC Steering Committee, Core Team, ARNEC Institutional Members, National ECD Networks, and National Representatives.

Speakers, presenters, moderators, and volunteers/documenters in all panel discussions and workshops, including the pre-conference workshops. Authors and presenters during paper presentations.

Philippine Normal University for providing us with student volunteers, and their Chorale and Dance Troupe for all the cultural performances.

Living Colors Event Management for their photo and video services.

Links to Resources

All Presentation Slides: [Click here](#)

9-minute Conference Highlights Video: [Click here](#)

Full Video Remarks of Key Speakers: [2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on ECD](#)

Conference Photos: [Click here](#)

Climate Change and its Impact on Early Childhood -
Full Video by Youth Advocates: [Click here](#)



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