

EIAP Regional Committee Chairperson, Mr. Nakamura's Address

6th EIAP Regional Conference

Bangkok, September 28 to 30, 2009

Good morning, brothers and sisters.

It is a pleasure for me, as the Chairperson, to open the EIAP Regional Conference 2009 here in Bangkok and to extend my warmest welcome to all the participants.

I am particularly grateful to Mr. Aloysius Mathews, Chief Coordinator and other EIAP Secretariat staff, who have worked hard to prepare this Conference.

The previous EIAP Regional Conference was held three years ago in Jakarta, Indonesia. Since then, some Central Asian countries have newly joined EIAP to this ever expanding area. I would like to express my great appreciation of the expansion of EIAP, which strengthens the ties of solidarity among teachers and school staff members in the Asia-Pacific region. In virtue of this, we can better support the children in this region. We can learn from, and communicate to each other in order to produce new wisdom which helps us overcome difficulties through our strengthened forces.

With "bread, freedom and peace", we can realize EI's target: "Quality Public Education for All". What can we say about economic justice today? Due to the fundamentalism of the global market, the distributive system of property has been distorted to produce a small number of rich and a large population of poor people. Recently, this problem has become even more serious.

What of political freedom? Is it guaranteed in each country and territory in accordance with the ILO standards? Is our political activity democratically guaranteed? I should say "No".

What of peace? Ethnic and religious conflicts and border disputes continue in various areas. The chain of poverty and violence is endless. Facing a harsh reality in which people cannot live together while hoping to do so, we can not stay there. Especially, with our educational profession, we are responsible first for considering children's happiness and also for giving them hope. Now, I would like to cite a poem from a book titled "Children Learn What They Live –

Parenting to Inspire Values” by Dr. Dorothy Law Nolte. She was born in America in 1924 and lived as one of the best consultants of family education and child-raising. This book has been published in 37 countries around the world. I regret to say that she passed away in 2005.

(Reading of the poem, which is printed on separate sheets and distributed to all the participants?)

Public education is a system to guarantee equal access to education for all children, in whichever country, area or family they were born. National and local governments should guarantee it financially. Education is an investment in the next generation and in the future. The next generation creates the future.

Our slogan is “Education for All”. In the EIAP region, however, the gap between the rich and the poor has widened to make it ever more difficult to realize our goal. Access to education and information literacy is guaranteed to the children from wealthy families. On the other hand, those from poor families are forced to work, without being given sufficient health care or even textbooks.

“Eliminate the Gap in Society”: This is the slogan of Japanese workers. Global recession required us to change our sense of values. We are standing at a crucial turning point of our era. This is the change from an era of competition, efficiency and speculation to one of peace, human rights, environment, coexistence, and mutual assistance. The social role of education has become more important. Let’s share this awareness in order to work together for the advancement of our campaign, and for the expansion and strengthening of our organization. We open this EIAP Regional Conference 2009 to confirm the above objectives.

Before closing my address, I would like to solicit your cooperation for the realization of the EI target, contained in the Declaration of our global campaign, “Quality Education for All”. Thank you very much.

Children Learn What They Live (1998)

by Dorothy Law Nolte ([1924 - 2005](#))

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.

If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.

If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.

If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.

If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.

If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.

If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.

If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.

If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.