



Big Data for Small Children: Monitoring Holistic Early Childhood Development

The importance of data in early childhood will take centre stage at the Second international Biennial Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education to be held in Seychelles in February 2019.

Some 200 local and 60 international delegates, including experts from various disciplines in EECE are expected at the gathering at the International Conference Centre on 21st to 23rd February to discuss national progress and other initiatives in ECCE since the 1st biennial in 2017. They will also share experiences and practices on ECCE by partner countries implementing the General Education Quality Assessment Framework (GEQAF) developed by UNESCO and other international partners.

It is being organised by the government of Seychelles through a National Organising Committee headed by the Minister for Education, Mrs. Jeanne Simeon in partnership with UNESCO's International Bureau of education (IBE).

The conference itself is part of the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Seychelles and the IBE-UNESCO endorsed in February 2017, aiming for collaboration for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of the Seychelles through concentrated technical assistance and supporting the global visibility to serve as the IBE-UNESCO Best Practice Hub for ECCE.

The Chairperson of the organising Committee Minister Jeanne Simeon says the ***“the importance of quality data in early childhood care and education should not be underestimated. It is the basis for analysis and the development of quality programmes and actions for the holistic development of our children”***.

The international Biennial serves as a platform for sharing Seychelles achievements and progress and charting the way forward in making quality ECCE services accessible for all children aged 0-7 years. Seychelles is currently in the final stages of implementation of the third edition of the National Action Plan for ECCE (2017-2018) involving priority actions and strategies at the level of all main sectors. Seychelles has been recognised by UNESCO for the leading role it is playing among the “General Education Quality Assessment Framework” countries in developing relevant programmes and institutionalising the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards its goal of achieving quality ECCE for all.

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