Asian Declaration on School Health and Nutrition

* [to add some data]
* We, the participants of the ASIA School Health and Nutrition Network Meetings, held during the *3rd and 4rd Annual Course on School Health and Nutrition Programmes in Asia,*
* a diverse group of governments, United Nations agencies, bilaterals, academic institutions, and civil society organisations have come together to form the *Asian School Health & Nutrition (SHN) Network* and make this declaration to address the following key issues:
* Health and education are fundamental human rights of school-aged children and their family members.
* The known beneficial impact of SHN programmes on the well-being and educational achievement of children and their future productivity as adults;
* The growing risks to children of both communicable, non-communicable diseases, including the double burden of under and over-nutrition;
* The importance of inclusive school health programming to ensure that all children have equity and equality of access to the education system;
* The importance of the eco-health approach to make SHN programmes more sustainable by educating children on the health effects of ecosystem and climate change around them;
* The increasing frequency of natural disasters that negatively impact on the health and education of children;
* The importance of mainstreaming comprehensive school health services including parasite control, school feeding, and WASH into the educational system.

Now we call upon governments

1. To actively address the gap between SHN policy and implementation; involving all relevant stakeholders especially the school communities.
2. To institutionalize SHN actions by establishing, or strengthening, multisectoral collaboration on SHN at different levels of governance.
3. To strengthen the capacity and clarify the role of school health management and improve the synchronization of SHN activities at school, country and regional level.
4. To promote inclusive SHN programmes such as oral health, food safety, prevention of non-communicable diseases and emerging diseases, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.
5. To ensure inclusive programming for children with both physical and mental disabilities, by promoting collaboration between SHN and inclusive education units.
6. In particular, to the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with health and other ministries, to institutionalize school health unit and SHN education curriculum to improve health, nutrition, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and literacy of school children.
7. All countriesto work collectively to learn from best practices and models in this region and to address current and future threats to the health and nutrition of school children.
8. Local academic institutions to strengthen evidence-base for better SHN policies, practices, and develop practical and user-friendly guidelines and manuals.
9. To provide sustainable training (including pre- and in-service) and funding to strengthen the capacity of each country for SHN programmes.
10. To institutionalize and support the monitoring and evaluation of SHN programs, to actively inform and guide long term plans.