OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

IN THE 21ST CENTURY

19-30 NOVEMBER 2018

Conducted by
SUAN DUSIT UNIVERSITY

In cooperation with
THAILAND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (TICA)
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THAILAND
ISRAEL’S AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION (MASHAV), MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ISRAEL
INTRODUCTION

It is widely accepted that early childhood is the most formative period in a person’s life. The early years influence and determine the ability to function as a mature, secure, independent and creative adult and lay the foundation for studies in school. It is, therefore, very important to have well trained professionals working in early childhood education and care.

Early childhood education and care has different needs than that of primary education. The child between three and six learns through his senses. He must have the opportunity to play, solve problems, make decisions, and ask questions through experiencing his environment together with his peers. The role of the educator and child care provider is to encourage and mediate a child as he explores and learns from his environment.

In order to meet the challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and more specifically Goal 4, on ensuring quality education in preschool and primary education, MASHAV is engaged in training programs in early childhood education and development for trainers – training the trainer. Through its practical and hands on approach, MASHAV experts provide tools for teacher trainers on how to build a holistic program in early childhood education which encompasses the cognitive, emotional, physical and social development of children.

During the training program, participants will be provided with knowledge and skills needed to build both a stimulating and supportive educational environment, and an integrative study program. The main concepts, values, skills and activities to meet the developmental needs of children are included. The program is planned to provide in-depth exposure to innovative, holistic and integrative programs and knowledge of early childhood development.

OBJECTIVES

MASHAV, in partnership with the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), will implement a two week training program that consists of knowledge and experience accumulated in Israel and Thailand, with the goal to share the knowledge and experience with ASEAN countries.

Through lectures and workshops, participants of the two week course will be exposed to the following topics:

• Innovative theories in education
• Promoting skills in early childhood for the 21st century (such as collaboration and teamwork, creativity and imagination, critical thinking.)
• Innovative teaching and learning methodologies such as project based learning, multiple intelligences theories and self-management learning
• Developmental needs of children in early childhood education programs
• Building a supportive and stimulating learning environment
• Early childhood educators’ roles
• Professional trainers’ empowering strategies
• Evaluation programs of children’s progress and needs
COURSE CONTENTS

**MODULE 1**
Policy and ECE Provision of Participating Countries (3-hour theory). The policies comprise:
1. Thailand’s ECE administration;
2. Thailand’s policy and planning on early childhood development; and
3. Early childhood education (ECE) in all participating countries.

Supporting early childhood potential development (18-hour theory, and 12-hour school visit).
The topics are as follows:
1. Developmental needs of children in ECE programs;
2. Early childhood skills for the 21st century, focusing on brain executive function (EF);
3. Early childhood educators’ roles;
4. Professional trainers’ empowering strategies;
5. Building a supportive and stimulating learning environment; and

**MODULE 2**
The provision on early childhood children with special needs. (6-hour theory). The topics are as follows:
1. Developmental screening process; and
2. Exploring the research titled “The Developmental Model of Administrative Education for Children with Special Needs in Early Childhood Development Center”.

**MODULE 3**
ECE innovations (6-hour session of discussion on theories, and 6-hour session of school visit).
The topics are as follows:
1. Innovative teaching and learning methodologies in general; and
2. Innovative teaching and learning methodologies in Thailand’s context.

**MODULE 4**
The seminar will be conducted at the Graduate School, Suan Dusit University. For more information, please contact the Early Childhood Education Program, Faculty of Education, Suan Dusit University, 295 Nakhon Ratchasima Road, Dusit District, Bangkok 10300. Tel. (66 2) 244 5521 Website: http://child.dusit.ac.th

**Venue**

The course will be conducted in English.

**Application Procedures**

- Applicants who are interested in participating in this training must be nominated by their governments and must submit three (3) completed nomination forms to the Royal Thai Embassy or Israeli diplomatic missions. Completed application form shall be sent directly to the Royal Thai Embassy or Israeli diplomatic mission in the applicant’s country by 12 October 2018.

- In general, each country nominates up to three (3) nominees for the training: one from the tertiary level, the other two from the early childhood level.

- The Royal Thai Government will inform the nominating governments about the applicants accepted to the training and will issue the invitation letters to the accepted applications before the training commencement.

**Language of Training**

The course will be conducted in English.

Participants who successfully complete at least 80 percent attendance of the seminar will receive a certificate awarded by TICA, MASHAV and Suan Dusit University.

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**Funding**

TICA and MASHAV will award full support fellowship to all participants.

**Application Requirements**

Applicants for this course should:

- Be nominated by their respective governments;
- Have carried out work related to early childhood education both from macro and micro levels such as early childhood educator, therapists, psychologists, supervisors, counselors etc with at least 5 years of experience;
- Have sufficient English skills: able to present information and exchange knowledge in English;
- Priority will be given to the candidates under the age of 50;
- Be in good health, both physically and mentally: each participant should have a health certificate provided by an authorized physician. This form must be also attached together with the Nomination Form.

**Contact Persons**

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ABOUT MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel’s Agency for International Development Cooperation is dedicated to providing developing countries with the best of Israel’s experience in development and planning. As a member of the family of nations, The State of Israel is committed to fulfilling its responsibility to contribute to the fight against poverty and to the global efforts to achieve sustainable development. MASHAV, representing Israel and its people, focuses its efforts on capacity building, sharing relevant expertise accumulated during Israel’s own development experience to empower governments, communities and individuals to improve their own lives.

MASHAV’s approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, and is taking active part in the international community’s process of shaping the Post-2015 Agenda, to define the new set of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MASHAV’s activities primarily focus on areas in which Israel has a competitive advantages, including agriculture and rural development; water resources management; entrepreneurship and innovation; community development; medicine and public health, empowerment of women and education. Professional programs are based on a “train the trainers” approach to institutional and human capacity building, and are conducted both in Israel and abroad. Project development is supported by the seconding of short and long-term experts, as well as on-site interventions. Since its establishment, MASHAV has promoted the centrality of human resource enrichment and institutional capacity building in the development process – an approach which has attained global consensus.
ABOUT TICA

Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, is the national focal agency in implementing international development cooperation between Thailand and other countries as well as international organisations in bilateral and other partnership programmes.

Over the years, TICA has accrued development expertise from our own experiences and those of our international development partners. Currently, we implement various development cooperation projects and provide a number of training courses, post-graduate scholarships, fellowships and study visits as well as programmes to dispatch experts and volunteers to our friends across the globe.

TICA is open to new ideas and initiatives from our development partners and stands ready to share Thailand’s best practices with countries from all parts of the world by placing the demands of our partners at the core and conducting projects and activities to ensure positive and productive outcomes in a sustainable manner.

Our development cooperation is in line with the United Nations’2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and focuses on sharing Thailand’s successes with our friends in various sustainable development sectors, ranging from agricultural and food security, education, public health to tourism and rural development.

TICA is also delighted to share the core of our development experience and best practices, known as the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy (SEP) which can be applied as a growth and development model to achieve the 17 SDGs because of its universality and inclusiveness, using a people-centred approach, based on reasonableness, moderation, prudence together with the two underlying conditions of knowledge and virtues.
Suan Dusit University (SDU) is the first higher education institute in Thailand that offers a bachelor degree in Early Childhood Education. In 1934, the university was originally established as the first official home science school in Thailand, with the sole purpose to instruct women at that time about home science with the four year curriculum. Later on, the Ministry of Education has set up “La-or Utis Demonstration School" in the university area as the first public kindergarten school in Thailand, of which is the root of our expertise in early childhood education.

At La-or Utis School, kindergarten teachers have been extensively practicing and developing their knowledge and skills in early childhood teaching and learning arrangements. Eventually in the year 1975, the Faculty of Education at SDU started offering a four year degree, Bachelor of Education program (B.Ed.) in Early Childhood Education. Later on, according to Thailand education reform in 2009, all bachelor degree programs in education today are extended into five year program, an extra year is wholly devoted to student teaching practicum. Apart from the degree programs, the Faculty of Education at SDU also provides professional training courses and advanced training certificates for all levels of teaching professionals from school teachers to university faculties. The university has long been producing qualified early childhood teachers to the society and our alumni network continuously creates a wider learning community for early childhood teachers and professionals in the country.

This training course will be jointly organized by The Ministry of Education, Office of the Education Council, and Suan Dusit University, Thailand.
The Golda Meir Mashav “Carmel” International Training Center (MCTC) was founded by Golda Meir in Haifa in 1961. MCTC was the first of its kind in the domain of women’s empowerment and since its inception has had a profound influence on both individuals and the policy arena. MCTC endeavors to provide professional women and men from developing countries and transitional societies with the necessary tools for women’s empowerment. It aims to enable women to contribute to the socio-economic development processes of their communities and consequently advance their status. To this end, MCTC conducts training activities, both in Israel and overseas, to advance women’s participation in public life.

To date, over the 54 years of MCTC’s existence, almost 23,000 women and men from over 140 countries have benefited from hundreds of training activities. Today, many of them hold key positions at the local or national level, or within United Nations development agencies.