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Foreword

This is the 6th volume of CICE Series, a collection of papers that have been produced under the three-year research project conducted in the framework of the “Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Educational Development” (A-A Dialogue) Network Phase IV between July 2015 and June 2018.

The “A-A Dialogue” network is an international network of African and Asian universities, which has existed since 2004 when Phase I of the network project was started. Phase I (2004 - 2007) was carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations University (UNU), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with the Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education (CICE), Hiroshima University, Japan functioning as the secretariat. The nature of this initial stage (Phase I) was a joint research endeavor by researchers of African and Asian universities to contribute to achieving the international commitment of “Education for All” (EFA) particularly in Africa. Phase I was successfully completed with the fruit of more than fifteen research papers striving for possible solutions to various issues concerning, which was followed by another collaborative research activities in Phase II (2009 - 2011) and Phase III (2012 - 2014).

During Phase II, the participating universities officially agreed on the A-A Dialogue Network statutes and in May 2010, and the network was recognized as a UNESCO-UNU UNITWIN program. UNITWIN is an official UNESCO international program that intends to promote inter-university cooperation activities, and United Nations University joined in supporting our program. Additionally, the network universities decided to carry out comparative studies in three broad areas of educational development: namely, A) equity and gender; B) quality of education and educational policy; and C) teacher professional development. The products of the research projects in Phase II were presented in three volumes of the previous CICE series in 2011. These three themes had been selected by participating universities themselves considering their research interests, educational issues their countries were faced with, taking international concerns into account. Each member university created one or more study team(s) on a research theme selected from among the three above.

In Phase III, the A-A Dialogue Network expanded to 16 universities of 12 African countries and 14 universities of 8 Asian countries including Japan. In this phase, various research projects started utilizing the Network. The results of the research have been used to develop a system to improve learning in developing countries. Many other projects were also implemented, and exchanges among teaching staff became more active.

Phase IV started in July 2015 and the Network recognition by UNESCO as a UNITWIN Program was renewed. The Network activities were more actively implemented, and the number of participating countries also increased to the total 30 universities. Besides the international research projects, the participating universities agreed to conduct their own research and

exchanges related to the three research themes chosen during Phase III. All the member universities made efforts, despite various constraints they had, to advance joint research activities at different paces. Accordingly, some research activities are still on-going, while others have produced research papers. Among these research activities, the research group on the theme of teachers' professional development (Group C), launched by Universiti Sains Malaysia, undertook to use a common methodological framework and conducted a comparative study and generated a large number of research outputs contained in this volume. It is worth mentioning, however, that Phase IV also implemented several joint research projects outside the said groupings and their results are reported elsewhere.

The following is the list of Network Member universities as of the end of Phase IV and themes they have selected.

A-A Dialogue Participating Universities and Their Research Themes

Group A: Gender and Equity		
	Ethiopia	Bahir Dar University
	Kenya	Kenyatta University
	Nigeria	Bayero University Kano
	Niger	University of Abdou Moumouni
	Tanzania	Mzumbe University
	Zambia	University of Zambia
	Japan	Kobe University
	Japan	Waseda University
	Japan	Hiroshima University
Group B: Quality of Education and Educational Policy		
	Burkina Faso	University of Ouagadougou
	Ghana	University of Cape Coast
	Malawi	University of Malawi
	India	National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)
	Thailand	Chiang Mai University
	Vietnam	Vietnam National University Hanoi
	Japan	Osaka University
	Japan	Tokyo Gakugei University
	Japan	Nagoya University
	Japan	Hiroshima University
Group C: Teacher Professional Development		
	Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University
	Nigeria	University of Lagos
	Madagascar	Ecole Normale Supérieure d'Antananarivo
	South Africa	University of Pretoria
	Tanzania	University of Dar es Salaam
	Uganda	Makerere University
	Uganda	Kyambogo University
	Indonesia	Indonesia University of Education
	Malaysia	Universiti Sains Malaysia
	Bangladesh	University of Dhaka
	Japan	Naruto University of Education
	Japan	Hiroshima University

In September 2015, the *2030 Agenda* was adopted at the United Nations and *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) started. Since then, the research activities of the A-A Dialogue Network universities have focused on how to contribute to the achievement of "SDG4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All." The participating universities truly wish these studies have some impact on educational policy making and its implementation, teachers, schools, classrooms, students, and all stakeholders of education. The A-A Dialogue has reconfirmed its commitment to the contribution to achieving this highly important international priority objective.

Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation not only to the authors of the papers that appear in this CICE publication series but also all people involved in the research project and supported our network for their great academic and practical contributions.

Handwritten signature of Professor Kazuhiro Yoshida in black ink, consisting of the characters 吉田 和浩.

Professor Kazuhiro Yoshida

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