

Foreword

IMMLE Conference Academic Publications

The British Council is delighted to be launching this series of academic papers from the Inclusion, Mobility and Multilingual Conference which took place in Bangkok in September 2019. The conference was a unique coming together the Language and Development Conference series and the Multilingual Education Conference series, and was co-hosted by the British Council and UNESCO Bangkok on behalf of the Language and Development Conference Trustees and the Asia Pacific Mother-Tongue-Based Multilingual Education Working Group.

The academic series was initially delayed by the pandemic as we focussed our resources on providing support to teachers and learners across our networks. Once we relaunched the call for papers in September 2020, we were pleased to receive 22 applications from the conference speakers. Together with the submissions from three of our plenary speakers, this series includes a diverse range of 14 papers from authors across the globe. Over the last year, we've had time to reflect even further on the importance of having inclusive policies and practices which reduce inequalities in education systems and beyond. As a result, most of the authors have revised their papers to highlight new and relevant perspectives and insights gained during the global pandemic.

The themes of the conference were Inclusion, Mobility and Multilingual Education. While human mobility has slowed down considerably as a result of the pandemic, some communities have no choice but to move if they need to flee from natural disasters or conflict. Schools still remain closed in many parts of the world and through remote, distance and online approaches teachers are working hard to maintain the continuity of education. Without equal access to internet or technology, or with poor digital literacy or digital pedagogy skills, this is still challenging for many. Parents face increasing

challenges to support their children at home, especially if the language of the school is not the same as the language of the home. Ministries of education, international organisations, and NGOs are putting forward policies, responses, and programmes to tackle the situation and to minimise learning loss. We hope the academic papers in this series will add to the growing calls for education systems to take into account, now more than ever, the language learning needs of all stakeholders involved in the teaching and learning process.

We would like to thank the authors for their patience and hard work over the last year as they worked with our editor, Hamish McIlwraith, and Project Manager, Benjaporn Phomahad, to finalise their texts. We hope you find these papers useful and we look forward to continuing the conversations in the coming months.

The Conference Steering Committee

More about us:

- **The IMMLE Conference website**
<https://www.asiapacificmle.net/conference/2019>
- **The conference organising partners**
<https://www.asiapacificmle.net/conference/2019/committee>
- **The IMMLE Conference Proceedings and the launch event**
<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/conference-proceedings-inclusion-mobility-multilingual-education-conference-2019>
- **Bangkok Statement on Language and Inclusion**
<https://bangkok.unesco.org/content/bangkok-statement-language-and-inclusion>