



**ASIA LEADERSHIP
ROUNDTABLE**

BANGKOK
2011

Educational Reform and Change in the Asia Pacific Region

Two Decades of Educational Reform: A Reflection on Theory and Practice

Kasama VARAVARN

Having been involved in three major educational reforms in Thailand, Khunying Kasama Varavarn traced the evolution of policies and practices and highlighted three continuing challenges.

Firstly, the shift from exclusive education to inclusive education which initially aimed at gaining equitable access but eventually bringing about a major review of the curriculum to insuring quality education for all.

Secondly, the attempts to decentralize educational authority and ownerships to schools, Educational service Areas and Local governments, which have facilitated as well as impeded educational reform processes.

Thirdly, the expanded vision of education from schooling to encompass non-formal and informal education, which brought about new partners into the fields beyond the Ministry of Education.

Citing a case study involving the management of small schools, Khunying Kasama illustrated how the reform policies affect provision of educational services and identified factors that shaped national educational reforms.

