



# The 7<sup>th</sup> IAEC Asia-Pacific Regional Conference

## ‘Educating Cities for social cohesion’

- Gumi, Republic of Korea -

### Background

More than a half of the world’s population lives in urban areas and that amount of population is expected to increase to 70% by 2050.

These demographic change to a more urban world comes along with situations of discrimination and exclusion which take various ways in different countries throughout the world: poverty, unemployment or labour precariousness, the weakening of the community relations, and the fracturing of social ties, spatial segregation of the population, the lack of housing or precariousness in this respect, unequal access to health and to a healthy environment, unsuitability of the spaces and public services regarding people suffering from disabilities or reduced mobility, the lack of access to public transport, deficient provision of public services of quality, digital shift and the absence of policies of equal opportunities, etc.

In the city, exclusion can be specifically found in some groups in a more notable way than in others, mainly due to gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religion, or in the most vulnerable groups of the population such as children or the elderly, the disabled or people in situation of social or economic disadvantaged.

But the city can also be the best potential provider of social and democratic resources for inclusion.

Political action allows cities to act on the causes of exclusion and to transform the social reality based on actions which include values such as equality, solidarity, respect for differences and the promotion of sustainable development, generating societies with greater cohesion and which are more democratic, and that guarantee the exercising of the basic human rights of the citizenship (civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights).

As stated in their Charter, the Educating Cities undertake multiple and diverse actions that tackle exclusion. They boost and generate policies of citizen participation, of work and learning and generate collaboration between all the social and educational agents present in the territory.

With this regards, the IAEC Asia and Pacific member cities decided to organize the 7th IAEC Asia and Pacific Regional Network conference under the theme “Educating Cities for Social inclusion”.

More than 200 participants from 28 member cities in the Asia-Pacific region will meet to exchange experiences and discuss on the role of cities as drivers of social inclusion.

➤ **Objectives:**

The main objective of this regional conference is to build consciousness on the role local governments and education can play as agents of inclusion and as potential generators of opportunities and solutions for old and new causes of exclusion.

- To exchange experiences and good practices on social cohesion.
- To consolidate the Asia-Pacific Network and to strengthen peer-to-peer learning among the member cities.

➤ **Expected Outcomes**

Participants will exchange approaches and experiences on social inclusion using a comprehensive education point of view.

- To acquire knowledge of the various and efficient ways of running the social policies.

➤ **.Date**

Conference period: 3 - 4 November 2015

➤ **Venue**

Convention Hall at HOTEL Geumosan

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