**UNAOC Asia South Pacific Regional Consultation**

**Harmony through dialogue and diversity**

**Rooting the Alliance of Civilization in Asia Pacific Region**

**Shanghai International Convention Centre**

**November 29-30th, 2012**

**Workshop 8 : Adapting educational institutions and policies to the needs of “intercultural dialogue and harmony”?**

Facilitator: Greg Barton (Monash University, Melbourne, Australia)

Rapporteur: Alessia Lefebure (Columbia University, New York, USA)

Presenters:

* Francis Markus (International Federation of the Red Cross)
* Kao-Cheng Huang, Ph.D. (Hunan Daonan Academy, China)
* Wu Wei (Xiamen University, China)

Education has a key role in the relation that future generations will have to conflicts and peace. Education should go beyond achieving professional skills and employability. Education should teach Empathy, Non-Violent Conflict Resolution, Mediation.

* The Red Cross has launched a different Education based on the development of Humanitarian skills and values. The program, called YABC (Youth as Agent of Behavioral Change), was first launched for non-formal education (youth clubs and camps, community-based activities…) and eventually inspired schools in Indonesia, Ghana, France and Tunisia. YABC is based on non-cognitive methodology, learning through games, role-plays, story telling, dance and music. The school is the microcosm of the society that we want to build and therefore it must be inclusive (for example, separate school for migrants do not prepare to solve potential conflicts in a non violent way, they don’t fight prejudices).
* Another alternative approach to education for peace is the Vijaptimatra. It is based on a strong integration of sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as on meditation techniques.

Different communities and civil society actors have experimented different answers to the materialistic education that has become dominant everywhere. International comparisons and sharing would be beneficial to the society.

**Suggestions for the UNAOC:**

* To encourage teachers’ mobility across different countries in order to help c**onstructing their beliefs around cross-cultural values**, and to hold international workshops for teachers and trainers.
* To facilitate the establishment and the development of a **clearinghouse on international education practices**. Research in this area is not widely shared.
* To foster **multidisciplinary curricula** and programs in Higher Education institutions (liberal arts colleges are one example) and to show the positive impact that this kind of education might have on creativity, innovation and economic development.
* To raise awareness about different experiences inside and outside Formal education.
* To help policy makers articulating and formalizing education policies that take into account non-formal education successful experiences.