

## Introduction to APERA



The Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association (APERA) is a not-for-profit international organization with primary objectives to promote research for informing policy making and educational development and to facilitate collaboration and partnership in educational research among countries in the Asia Pacific region.

### APERA's Objectives:

- Support educational research and researchers in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Promote greater communication between researchers and policy makers, administrators and educational practitioners;
- Disseminate educational research findings; and
- Support the development of educational research skills in the Asia-Pacific region.

### Establishment:

- After a number of meetings were held between research and development institutions in the region since 1995, participants in the UNESCO regional meeting in Tokyo in October 2000 (hosted by the National Institute of Educational Research of Japan, and attended by 22 organizations from 14 countries across the region) agreed to the establishment of APERA.
- The launch of APERA took place at the 2001 UNESCO-ACEID conference in Bangkok on 13 December 2001.
- From 2001 to 2004, Professor Geoff Masters was selected as the first President of the Association and the APERA office was at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in Melbourne.
- Since 2005, Professor Yin Cheong Cheng was selected as the next President of the Association and the APERA office was moved to the Hong Kong Institute of Education in Hong Kong. The Board of the Association was also expanded from 7 to 18 members to increase representatives from different countries in the Region.

### Activities:

In the past few years, APERA has had significant contributions to the field since its establishment. Contributions include publications and scholarly activities. Notably, in 2003 the 1240-page *International Handbook of Educational Research in the Asia-Pacific Region* in two volumes and edited by Professors John Keeves and Ryo Watanabe was published by the Kluwer Academic Publishers. The Handbook that contains 92 chapters by nearly 100 authors provides a comprehensive synthesis of education research undertaken in the Region and serves as an essential reference for researchers, educators and policymakers.

Furthermore, through the publication of its official journal, the *Educational Research for Policy and Practice* with Professor Colin Power as the chief editor since 2001, APERA contributes to knowledge advancement of research and policymaking in the Region. APERA also publishes a book series edited by Professors Rupert Maclean and Ryo Watanabe on topics of high relevance to the Region written by renowned scholars and educators. Since 2002, nine books authored/edited by renowned scholars and researchers have been published and distributed by Springer of the Netherlands.

The APERA International Conference 2006 in Hong Kong is one of the major scholarly activities organized by APERA. This Conference provides a forum for researchers, educators and policymakers from different parts of the Region to get together, share research endeavors and discuss implications for further enhancement of education policy and practice. This Conference becomes a very successful international event with nearly 800 participants and 500 presentations from 40 countries in the Region and beyond.

APERA is looking forward to networking and working with researchers, educators and policy-makers across the Region to contribute to educational development and research endeavor for the future.

Website: <http://www.apera.org/>