

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**CHINA, PAKISTAN TO ATTEND TWO-DAY E-9 MINISTERIAL
REVIEW MEETING, DR SHASHI THAROOR TO DELIVER
INAUGURAL ADDRESS ON “INCLUSIVE, RELEVANT, QUALITY
EDUCATION FOR ALL”**

New Delhi: November 8th, 2012

India in cooperation with UNESCO will host the ninth E-9 Ministerial Review Meeting in New Delhi from 9- 10 November, 2012.

This year's theme of the meeting, on 'Inclusive, Relevant and Quality Education for All', looks at similar challenges that the E-9 countries are facing, country-specific developments in education since the last E-9 meeting in 2010 with ongoing monitoring till 2015.

The E-9 Initiative was launched in 1993 in New Delhi at the Education For All Summit of the Nine High-Population Countries. The “E” stands for education and the “9” represents the nine highly populated countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan. Given that these countries are home not only to more than 60 per cent of the world's population, but also to more than 70 percent of the world's adult illiterates, about two-thirds of whom are women and girls, and more than half of it out-of-school children, any significant progress made in these countries immediately would have positive impact on EFA (Education For All). Therefore, it was decided to prioritize a group of highly populated countries for the attainment of EFA. The E-9 countries also face common challenges such as decentralization and quality assurance. Hence, the heads of E-9 countries signed the Delhi Declaration and showed their commitment to achieving EFA. Since then, the E-9 Initiative has become a forum for these nine countries to discuss their experiences related to education, exchange best practices and monitor EFA-related progress. It has also become a powerful driver for EFA and South-South Cooperation.

Based on the discussions, the E9 countries will chalk out a plan of action to further relevant quality education in the respective countries which will be followed up over the next two years.

Dr Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resource Development, and the Director-General of UNESCO, will open the meeting. The education ministers of Pakistan, India, China (Vice-Minister) and Nigeria, as well as senior officials from Egypt and Indonesia will then review the challenges facing their countries with a view to increasing bilateral and collective cooperation.

India will assume the chair of the E-9 Secretariat from 2012-2014.

At the close of the meeting, the ministers will adopt a joint Outcome Document.

BK/VSB