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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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**SHRI KAPIL SIBAL TO INAUGURATE MEET OF PARLIAMENTARIANS  
FOR EDUCATION**

**New Delhi: March 23, 2010**

Bringing together Parliamentarians from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, a conference on education - organized by UNESCO New Delhi in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, the World Bank, UNDP, and UNICEF – is to be held in New Delhi, on 24-25 March 2010. Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Kapil Sibal, will inaugurate the event.

As part of a more synergetic approach towards educational development, this conference aims to strengthen cooperation between UNESCO, Parliamentarians and other partners in South Asia, so as to create a broader and sounder platform for educational development in the region. This would provide Parliamentarians with the space to generate awareness on the challenges facing educational development and highlight policies and strategies needed to expand the scope of education in the region, in terms of both accessibility and quality.

‘Education for all’ (EFA), as an international development goal, requires a collective approach, and the political commitment and backing of Parliamentarians in these countries would be a significant step towards making EFA a reality for the developing world. Representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka will discuss the situation of education in their own country and are expected to develop a collaborative approach towards consolidating a stronger, informed, and more interactive role for Parliamentarians in educational development.

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