Greetings from UNESCO Bangkok,

We are pleased to share with you recent progress, developments and upcoming events for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) in the Asia and Pacific Region from the ESD unit at UNESCO Bangkok. This third update of 2008 is a further step toward building collaboration among all partners in education and moving ESD forward in the region in 2008 and beyond. We continue to invite our past and future ESD partners to submit brief information on their ESD projects or activities for review to include in future updates. Kindly see page seven for submission details. We are currently in the process of updating our database of ESD partners, and kindly encourage you to submit your details by following the link on page two.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Education for Sustainable Development Unit
UNESCO Bangkok

“We have no longer a choice: either we adopt behaviours that respect sustainable development, either we stop polluting the environment, allow for renewal of natural resources and contribute to the improvement of the well-being of all, or sooner or later we sign our own death warrant.”

Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO.
ESD Unit updating its database

The Education for Sustainable Development Unit at UNESCO Bangkok is currently updating its ESD contact database in preparation for the World Conference on ESD in March/April 2009 and moving into the second half of the Decade.

As a current partner in ESD, we would be pleased if you could update your contact information through the link below:


As always, we will continue to use your contact information for internal purposes only, such as sharing information on recent ESD-related activities and upcoming events in the Asia-Pacific through our quarterly newsletter.

With thanks,
The UNESCO Bangkok ESD Unit

In Focus
UNESCO’s Role: Myanmar Cyclone Nargis

UNESCO Bangkok Office as the Asia-Pacific Natural Disaster Focal Point, participating actively in the emergency Education Cluster for Cyclone Nargis, led by UNICEF and Save the Children. The Education Cluster has been formed in Myanmar to ensure a coherent and effective response by mobilizing groups of agencies, organizations and NGOs to respond in a strategic manner across all key sectors or areas of activity to the devastating situation after the cyclone. Following the discussion in the Education Cluster meetings held at the Chatrium Hotel, Yangon, in July 2008, the Education Cluster suggested that there is a need to establish a sub-cluster working group on disaster risk reduction in education within the Education Cluster and for this group to be convened by UNESCO.

UNESCO has convened the Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) working group whose aim is to ensure that the education sector’s response to the disaster includes activities and systems that can help reduce risk, and mitigate the impacts, of future disasters and that DPRE activities are planned, implemented and monitored in a way that supports and furthers reconstruction of safe and hazard-resilient schools and education buildings. The DPRE working group will also disseminate existing resource materials and best practices on disaster risk reduction in education relevant to Myanmar to education actors who are working in the field.

So far, UNESCO has organized three meetings of the DPRE working group (26th August, 4th September and 16th September, 2008 in Yangon). During these meetings, the Terms of Reference for the working group were agreed upon, resource materials shared, and specific activities for the working group were discussed. The working group, which is comprised of representatives from UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, Plan International and UNESCO, officials from the Ministry of Education and the Education Cluster Co-Leads, is currently working on advocacy strategy and teaching/learning materials for DPRE.

With that, at present in consultation with the Education Cluster and Ministry of Education, UNESCO is developing following two projects:
1. Capacity building for disaster response and resilience in education administration and management.

These projects will be part of the UNESCO Myanmar Education Recovery Programme (MERP) that seeks to complement and further the educational efforts of the Government of Myanmar. Activities under these programme component will concentrate in areas where UNESCO holds particular expertise and where gaps have been identified by the Government and the Education Cluster.

For further information
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ESD Outlook

➡ Youth Mural Competition Finale

The UNESCO Bangkok mural competition has come to an end. We are very happy with the response to the competition, with entries being submitted from across the region. Judging of the competition was done by renowned Thai artist Mr. Morrakot Naksin and the ESD Unit at UNESCO Bangkok. Mr. Naksin stated that he was looking for examples of ‘pure art’, while the ESD Unit judged the relevance and content of the mural descriptions. The standard of entries was very high making judging difficult. However, after much deliberation, we are proud to announce the Ateneo Environmental Science Society from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines as the first prize winner. The title of their piece is “Let Hands Shine to Breathe Better” on the theme of Action for Climate Change. The runners up prizes were awarded to the grade 12 art class from the Pilimathalawa Central College and Pradeep Jayasundara from the UNESCO Club at Thontota, both from Sri Lanka. Please visit the UNESCO Bangkok website for further information and to view these, and other selected entries.

For further information
Write to youth4esd@unescobkk.org

See also Morrakot Naksin’s webpage
www.m-naksin.com
G8 Leaders Support Education for Sustainable Development

Education for sustainable development (ESD) was given direct support at the July 2008 G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit, which brought together leaders of the biggest industrial economies plus Russia to discuss the world economy, environmental concerns and African development.

The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 (DESD) is getting more visibility as highlighted by the fact that it is receiving attention from the G8 leaders. The members noted in their declaration on the world economy “we promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) by supporting […] UNESCO and other organizations in the field of ESD and through knowledge networks among relevant institutions including universities to encourage actions by the public leading to a more sustainable and low carbon society”.

Understanding and addressing these global issues of sustainability that affect individual nations and communities is at the heart of ESD. These issues are directly linked to three spheres of sustainable development: the environment, society and economy. The Toyako Summit’s statement paid special attention to ESD’s positive impact on the economy. As a natural consequence of this recognition in the economic sector, ESD can also find a stronger foothold in societies more generally.

None of the spheres should, however, be prioritized over the other two for the simple reason that it is indeed the balance between the spheres which, in the end, leads to sustainable development, not its individual dimensions. Environmental issues like fresh water availability and waste management affect every nation and local community, but these cannot be dealt with separately from societal issues like social equity or economic ones, such as industrial production efficiency and sustainability. The G8 offers a platform for establishing the connections between these global and local challenges.

The next G8 summit will be held in Italy, and the forthcoming agenda will include climate change, energy (including nuclear energy), Africa, food security and intellectual property. Having moved beyond mid-decade in 2009, it is critical that the Decade continues to be relevant and remain a priority on the political agenda of decision makers everywhere.

For further information
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Recent events

2008 Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development 20 September 2008 in Seoul, Republic Of Korea

The workshop was organized in order to raise awareness of Education for Sustainable Development among stakeholders, to build capacity of the participants as experts on ESD and to seek strategies of implementing ESD in universities. Co-organizers of the event included the Institute for Sustainable Development at Hanyang Cyber University and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, as well as the Korean Society for Environmental Education and the Korean National Commission on Sustainable Development as partner organizations.
South-East Asia ESD Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop, 9-12 September 2008, Manila, Philippines

The South-East Asia Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop in Manila, Philippines was the third Asia-Pacific regional workshop, sponsored by the Japanese Funds-In-Trust, to assist UNESCO Member States in building additional capacity for ESD leadership, coordination and monitoring at the national level. Twelve senior level representatives participated in the event from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Timor Leste, including His Excellency, the Minister of Education and Culture. Workshop discussions emphasized several factors required to move ESD forward in South-East Asia, such as inter-ministerial involvement in ESD and five or six core global/regional indicators for ESD to be adapted and expanded for monitoring at the national level by national stakeholders, and utilizing ESD as a framework for enhancing quality education and content.

For more information
Joel Bacha
Project Officer, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
j.bacha@unescobkk.org

WSPA Teacher training

On Saturday 6th September WSPA (The World Society for the Protection of Animals) held its first teacher training workshop in Bangkok. The event was attended by 44 teachers representing 18 schools from around the city. The workshop was held to provide initial “International Animal Welfare Education” training to both primary and secondary school teachers.

The workshop was a great success with teachers participating enthusiastically in all the activities and providing valuable insights and suggestions based on their teaching experience. A teacher from Sainamtip School said “…the workshop provided good, useful resources which I will use in class” and another from Silacharnpipat School felt “…the activities were very interesting”.

WSPA is a global organisation that strives to end cruelty to animals by working with animal welfare groups worldwide. Its school-based programme ‘IN AWE’ (International Animal Welfare Education) aims to embed welfare education into the school curriculum to encourage respect for animals in their own right and generate responsible stewardship of animals and the environment.

The ‘IN AWE’ programme focuses on support for teacher professional development, identifying educationally sound methodologies and providing research and networking opportunities. Teacher training workshops are therefore a vital and integral part of this programme. During workshops teachers have the opportunity to learn about Animal Welfare Education and its importance and benefits, receive resources and materials and discuss how aspects of Animal Welfare Education can be integrated into their lessons.
After the success of this inaugural workshop WSPA will run further introductory sessions later this year, as well as provide continuing training and support for the participants of this event. Other IN AWE events planned this year in Thailand include training for pre-service teachers and demonstration classes. In the upcoming year IN AWE workshops will also take place in India and Vietnam.

For further information about the IN AWE programme, including how to find resources go to www.animal-education.org and to find out more about WSPA and all its work visit www.wspa-international.org.

If you have any questions on the IN AWE, including how you can get involved, email Nicola Ball, Education Manager at wspa_asia@yahoo.com.

➔ ACCU: the ESD-HOPE Evaluation Mission

A series of ESD evaluation missions by an ACCU-organized team of experts commenced across the Asia-Pacific region, with a visit to Palau’s Emmaus High School from 17-21 August 2008, where a vocational education programme had been reinstated two years ago alongside academic courses. Through interviewing beneficiaries and project managers participating in the ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific Innovation Programme for ESD, the mission team reaffirmed the relevance of the skills development project in terms of educating the youth to shoulder the responsibility for a sustainable future. Firmly grounded on the school’s policy that places a premium on character building, the vocational training cultivated a sense of trust, self-esteem and unity amongst the school communities, touching upon economic, social and environmental spheres of ESD.

In cooperation with Palau National Commission for UNESCO, the mission delegates exchanged views with the Minister of Education and other key government officials, which was essential in situating school-based ESD activities in a broader context and linking them to educational priorities in the country. In the spirit of the HOPE framework, the evaluation exercise served as a holistic, participatory and empowering platform for all stakeholders involved in the project. The evaluation team is expected to visit the ESD project sites in Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand and Viet Nam in the month of September 2008.

For more information
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Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)
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ESD Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop, 4-7 August 2008, Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop in Ha Long Bay in August was the second in a series of Asia-Pacific regional workshops, sponsored by the Japanese Funds-In-Trust, to assist UNESCO Member States in the region in building additional capacity for ESD leadership, coordination and monitoring at the national level. Approximately 20 senior level participants attended the event from Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Workshop discussions emphasized several factors required to move ESD forward at the national level, such as full support for ESD among the government and donors, internalizing ESD within national budget structures, inter-ministerial involvement in ESD and linking ESD to related activities that do not necessarily carry the “ESD” name. Workshop presentations also demonstrated a variety of national approaches to ESD which differed according to each country’s historical background, educational perspective and political structure.

For further information
Joel Bacha
Project Officer, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
j.bacha@unescobkk.org

ASEAN Leadership Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption

The first ASEAN Leadership Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption under the framework of the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP 2008-2012) was held on 18-19 July 2008 in Cha-am, Petchaburi, Thailand. The programme was co-organized by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand. About fifty participants represented the ten ASEAN member countries, private sector enterprises and organizations operating in Thailand.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012 has set for an agreed-on plan of action for region-wide development and promotion of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development as a key mechanism towards the achievement of a ‘Clean and Green ASEAN’. ASEAN has stated the need to provide ASEAN Environmental Education for Sustainable Development Leadership Training Programmes for key target groups such as government officials, members of parliament and other elected officials, media and communication professionals, youth and women.

For more information
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The ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan for the years 2008-2012 has been adopted by the ASEAN environment ministers at their 10th informal meeting in Bangkok on September 6, 2007. The new action plan was adopted before the adoption of the Ahmedabad declaration and cannot therefore be linked to this key document relating to the interconnectedness of EE and ESD. Representatives of ASEAN plus three countries were present at a workshop (15-17 July) to discuss the Action Plan more concretely.

**Network of higher education institutions launched**

The network for the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research, or ProSPER.Net, was officially launched on 21 June 2008, in Sapporo, Japan, in conjunction with Hokkaido University’s *Sustainability Weeks 2008 – G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Round celebratory activities leading to the G8 Summit in July this year*. The network’s first Board meeting and General Assembly were also held at the time.

ProSPER.Net is an alliance of leading higher education institutions in Asia and the Pacific that have committed to work together to integrate sustainable development into postgraduate courses and curricula. The academic and research network is an effort of the Education for Sustainable Development (EfSD) programme at the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) to bring about understanding and delivery of ESD and SD at the postgraduate level.

Sixteen universities from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand are members of ProSPER.Net currently, in addition to two regional universities in Asia and the Pacific.

More information on the network is available at [www.ias.unu.edu/efsd/prospernet](http://www.ias.unu.edu/efsd/prospernet).

**For more information**
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natori@ias.unu.edu

**What’s coming up?**

**SWEDESD – Sweden’s contribution to ESD.**

In 2005 the Swedish Government commissioned the establishment of a research centre as an international focal point for development cooperation during the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). At the end of this year the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD) will open its doors to international stakeholders for the first time. The SWEDESD is located at Gotland University and started its operations in January 2008. It is financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and its overall duties aim at facilitating and supporting Sweden’s development cooperation in the field of education and learning for sustainable development. Future activities of
the centre will focus on cooperation with partner institutions regarding policy development, capacity development, development of education programmes, assessment of research and practical experiences in ESD. The Invitational Conference on the 3rd and 4th of October marks a starting point for the institute and will bring future development partners together with the objective to envision a joint strategy for the institute and its activities. UNESCO Bangkok will participate at the conference in order to explore future ways of cooperation.

www.swedesd.se

The 8th Asia-Pacific Training Workshop on EIU

As a continuation of its efforts to identify the key players in multiplying the effects of in- and post-training activities, APCEIU is offering the workshop to 32 participants from 23 different countries of the Asia-Pacific region on 22 September-2 October. Composed of mainly teacher educators/trainers of teacher training institute/college and RCEs, the participants would explore ways to integrate their understandings of EIU/ESD into their educational curriculum and to consolidate local educational practices towards the Culture of Peace and sustainable future. Particularly this upcoming gathering will be featured with the most updated ESD issues that will be dealt with by experts of UNU-IAS, enriching the linkage between EIU and ESD.

For further information  
Hyeran Yang. APCEIU  
hyeran311@gmail.com

Media Training Workshop on Climate Change within the UNESCO ESD Framework 20-22 October 2008, Nadi, Fiji

Together with many Pacific partners, the UNESCO Pacific Office in Apia has prepared a Pacific DESD Framework and Action Plan. A critical component of the DESD Action Plan is to provide training and assistance to the media to more accurately and more frequently report both on issues of sustainable development as well as regional efforts to integrate sustainable development into educational and learning frameworks. Climate change is an integral component of the DESD Framework.

UNESCO is proposing to conduct an intensive Training Workshop for Pacific media organizations on climate change. The Workshop is tentatively scheduled from Mon 20th – Wed 22nd October, 2008 in Nadi, Fiji. The training will be based largely on the UNESCO ESD Media Kit.

For more information  
Abel Caine, adviser for Communication and Information at a.caine@unesco.org  
Jan Steffen, Adviser for Science, a.i., at j.steffen@unesco.org

East Asian ESD Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop 27-30 October 2008 in Hangzhou, China

This workshop, organized with the financial support of the Japanese Funds-In-Trust, will convene approximately 25 representatives from the government and civil society in China, DPRK, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea to build on strategies for ESD leadership, coordination and monitoring in East Asia.
UNESCO is a member of the Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) which has been an important resource base for UNESCO in past and present Post Conflict Post Disaster responses. One of the INEE’s most important achievements to date has been the development and promotion of the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction. As part of UNESCO’s continuing support to and participation in work in Post Conflict Post Disaster (PCPD) situations, UNESCO Bangkok is pleased to host the next INEE meeting 11-14 November 2008.

South Asian ESD Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop 18-21 November 2008 in Colombo, Sri Lanka

This workshop, organized with the financial support of the Japanese Funds-In-Trust, will convene approximately 25 representatives from the government, civil society and private sector in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka to build on strategies for ESD leadership, coordination and monitoring in South Asia.

For more information
Joel Bacha
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International Symposium on Agricultural Education for Sustainable Development in Japan

The Agricultural and Forestry Research Center of the University of Tsukuba (UNESCO/APEID Associated Centre) is organizing an International Symposium on Agricultural Education for Sustainable Development November 4-11, 2008. The Symposium will focus on the present situation of educational and research activities on the sustainable development of agriculture at participating universities and institutions.

Publications and Documents

Country Update Compilation: Progress Reports 1-4
Country Update Progress Reports 1-4 is a final compilation of the four Country Update reports compiled and shared throughout the Asia-Pacific region for the purposes of learning about the processes for developing national ESD monitoring systems. This report is divided into sub-regions to depict the key national ESD monitoring system development trends, lessons learned and challenges at the sub-regional level during the initial stages of development. The core trends, lessons learned and challenges at the regional level have also been synthesized to provide further guidance to all Member States in the region as countries continue to move forward with the development and identification of their national indicators, data collection and reporting mechanisms for ESD.

www.unescobkk.org/education/esd/monitoring

Welcoming DESD updates contributions

UNESCO Bangkok invites all partners in education to share their examples of ESD in action, including information about programmes, activities or resources, to include in future DESD updates or on the UNESCO Bangkok website.

Kindly submit examples based on the following criteria to esd@unescobkk.org by 28 November 2008.

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By contributing examples, you give UNESCO Bangkok permission to share information with proper acknowledgment through future updates and the UNESCO Bangkok website. All submissions must be accepted by the Director of UNESCO Bangkok for inclusion.

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