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 UNESCO Bangkok. This second 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. To promote sharing between ESD partners in the region, we invite you to submit brief information on your ESD projects or activities for review to include in future updates. Kindly see page seven for submission details. Many thanks for your continued support.

Derek Elias
Asia Pacific Coordinator for ESD

In Focus: UNESCO’s Role: Myanmar Cyclone Nargis

On May 2nd 2008, Cyclone Nargis devastated areas of Myanmar and left 2.4 million people affected. As the Asia-Pacific Natural Disaster Focal Point for UNESCO, the Bangkok office has been directly involved with activities following Cyclone Nargis, including active participation in the IASC cluster coordination meetings held by OCHA.

UNESCO Bangkok’s potential role in this disaster situation lies in the Education Cluster and as a bridge between the Education and Early Recovery Clusters. UNESCO Bangkok sees it’s most important contribution as being the application of expertise for determining the requirements and gaps in the provision and response of teacher training institutions, tertiary and secondary education, technical and vocational schools, non-formal education and mobile training teams, together with

“We must champion ESD as a sine qua non of quality education. At a time of global climate change, of rapid population growth and urbanization, of increasing food and water shortages and unprecedented environmental degradation: education must promote the knowledge, skills and values needed to address the mounting challenges of sustainable development.”

Koichiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO
Opening Address of the 179th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board, Paris, 7 April 2008
assisting in the needs assessment for school reconstruction. UNESCO Bangkok has committed to assisting cluster co-leaders, UNICEF and Save the Children, to investigate the following projects:

Project I: Capacity building for disaster response and resilience in education administration and management to provide a series of training programmes adapted from INEE minimum standards to enhance capacity for the provision of education in emergencies; and

Project II: Child and community empowerment for education in emergencies and disaster risk reduction to develop processes, materials, information kits and training to empower the community for emergency education provision and disaster risk reduction, and ensure the protection and well-being of children.

Additionally, UNESCO/IOC has a joint proposal with WMO, ESCAP and ADPC within the recovery cluster regarding the support of Operational Early Warning System for tropical cyclones, river flooding, tsunami and other coastal hazards.

For further information
Kamonrat Chayamarit
ESD programme assistant
c.kamonrat@unescobkk.org

➡️ Untouched World™ Fashion Company (New Zealand) displays UN DESD Logo

In November 2007, Untouched World™, an ethical lifestyle fashion brand based on the New Zealand lifestyle, became the first fashion company in the world to be given permission to carry the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UN DESD) logo on its labeling. The company grew out of a desire to create a positive, sustainable future with social, cultural and environmental sustainability built deep within the DNA of the business. Providing Untouched World™ with the rights to use the UN DESD logo recognizes their efforts in the area of corporate education for sustainability. The DESD logo can be seen in Untouched World™ store fronts in New Zealand, on garment tags and on the company website (http://www.untouchedworld.com/).

➡️ Youth Mural Competition Update

The UNESCO Bangkok mural competition is up and running. Targeting ASPnet schools but open to all youth in the Asia Pacific region, the competition aims to promote discussion on sustainable development themes such as sustainable urbanization, action for climate change, and the preservation of traditional and indigenous knowledge. When considering decisions about the future, young people's viewpoints are extremely important. Mindful of this, UNESCO Bangkok wants to showcase the competition entries as a representation of young people's points of view on sustainability issues and thus provide a greater understanding of sustainable development from a
youth perspective. As the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 – 2014) moves into its second half the entries will create a legacy for future discussion and awareness. There has been an impressive response so far and you are actively encouraged to become involved in the competition. The deadline is August 5th 2008.

For further information
youth4esd@unescobkk.org or
Andrew Tangye
Australian Youth Ambassador for Development
a.tangye@unescobkk.org

Private Sector Engagement in ESD

UNESCO Bangkok has recently entered into partnership with MAS Holdings, a Sri Lankan apparel manufacturer, to engage youth on sustainable development issues. In-school workshops have already been conducted in 30 schools in Sri Lanka, targeting over 11,000 15 -18 year olds. Students are currently in the process of completing self designed sustainability projects, providing them with experiential learning. An awards ceremony, attended by UNESCO, will be held in October 2008 to showcase the best projects. To complement these activities, UNESCO Bangkok will be using its technical expertise to produce a toolkit on how businesses can contribute to sustainability education in their communities, and how to conduct in-school workshops. This toolkit will then be used to broaden the scope of private sector initiatives in the Asia Pacific region and beyond, and provide schools with a clear guide on facilitating their own sustainable development workshops.

For further information
Andrew Tangye
Australian Youth Ambassador for Development
a.tangye@unescobkk.org

Call for Submissions: Earth Charter Oneness Book 2008

Earth Charter International invites you to reflect upon moments when you have suddenly felt a deep sense of connection or oneness in your life. Personal stories and photos from every region of the world, from people of all ages and from all walks of life are being gathered. Selected submissions will be published in a book, to be released internationally in 2009. Through this project, our vision is to celebrate the unity and diversity of connections that bind us together, and reaffirm our common purpose of creating a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. (www.earthcharterinaction.org/publication)

iCUBED.us Happiness Contest 2008

iCUBED.us is an enterprise founded on the premise that young people (aged 13 to 21) in Hong Kong and Worldwide have limited access to dedicated and age-specific local websites for information on community resources, discussion of subjects that impact their lives, and a forum to facilitate open dialogue and a useful exchange of opinions and viewpoints. Submissions are open until Monday 18th August for the 2008 iCUBED.us Happiness Contest. Entries consist of an
innovatively prepared essay, with entries which are selected for publication receiving one of three Wildfire Restaurant (Hong Kong) gift certificates each worth 500 HKD.
http://www.icubed.us/node/gallery/1065

**ACCU Asia-Pacific ESD Photo Message Contest: Letters to Tomorrow 2007**

The Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) organized the ACCU Asia-Pacific ESD Photo Message Contest: Letters to Tomorrow 2007 on the theme of “Celebration of Our Living Culture” as part of its contribution to the UNDESD. Out of the 45 eligible countries in the Asia-Pacific region, over 3,200 entries from 38 countries were received in 16 different languages thanks to the cooperation of partner organizations including the National Commissions for UNESCO concerned. The 80 prize-winning works, selected through the international jury meeting, display a variety of rich cultural traditions of Asia and the Pacific that each participant cherishes in building a sustainable future. For more information about the contest and the following photo caravan events, please visit the Web site: www.accu.or.jp/esd/photomessage/index.html

**Workshop on Evaluation Approaches from ESD perspectives in Asia and the Pacific**

This workshop was held in Tokyo and Miyagi, Japan from 23-28 June 2008 by ACCU in cooperation with the Miyagi University of Education with the support of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Bangkok, UNU-IAS and the RCE Greater Sendai Area. In the presence of five representatives of the Centres of Excellence (COEs) in ESD and three experts among others, a framework for indicators and methodologies were developed for evaluating community-based ESD projects, notably the ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific Innovation Programme for ESD. The overall concept of evaluation effort was summarized as “Hope”, in the hope of making it holistic, participatory and empowering for all stakeholders involved in the projects.

**Publications**

**NORRAG News No. 40**
The Network for Policy Research, Review and Advice on Education and Training (NORRAG) published the May 2008 NORRAG NEWS Special Issue on “Education for Sustainable Development? or The Sustainability of Education Investment?”. This special issue is essentially concerned with the trade-off between education expansion and sustainability, between social sector investment and economic growth, and between reaching the EFA Goals and sustaining this achievement.

**Recent Events**

**Asian Young Leaders in Governance (AYLG) Event Update**
The UNDP Regional Centres of Bangkok and Colombo, supported by UNDEF, are implementing the Asian Young Leaders in Governance (AYLG) initiative to build a critical mass of young leaders in
the region, who will be trained as leaders in democratic governance processes. The AYLG project strategy, now in its third year, supports building the leadership values and capacities of young leaders towards further enhancing their knowledge and skills in their various areas of expertise and influence; and in turn strengthening democratic governance processes in the region. Most recently, the third Leadership Training of Trainers (TOT) and fifth sub-regional leadership course were held in Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

The Leadership TOT for Young Leaders in Governance, held from 20-24 May 2008, brought together 14 AYLG Leadership Fellows to train them in the delivery and facilitation of the leadership course modules. The Fellows spent 5 days stepping into the shoes of facilitators, practiced presenting the leadership modules, running activities and ice breakers and facing feedback from fellow participants. 6 of the trainers had the opportunity to gain hands on experience in the delivery of the modules during the South Asia 2008 Sub-regional Leadership Course for Young Leaders in Governance, 26-31 May 2008. 23 young leaders, from 9 countries in South Asia, from government, elected officials, academia, media, law and civil society came together in Bangkok for an intensive and fun week of learning and sharing. Over 6 days the participants are trained in key leadership skills such as systems thinking for transformational change, negotiation and cross cultural communication along with leadership values such as anti corruption and gender. This brings the total number of Leadership Fellows to 187 and 29 Leadership Trainers expanding and strengthening the core groups of Asian young leaders. The Leadership Fellows have continued sharing their knowledge and experiences through the AYLG Network (community of practice) to keep the energy and collective spirit of the course alive.

For further information
Ms. Maha Jahangir
Project Associate, Asian Young Leaders in Governance (AYLG)
maha.jahangir@undp.org

Asia-Pacific Expert Consultation: Developing an ESD Mid-Decade Coordination and Programming Tool - Bangkok, Thailand, 9-13 June 2008

In light of this need to guide ESD policy, programming and to continue building on political will for ESD at the national level, the Asia-Pacific Expert Consultation: Developing an ESD Mid-Decade Coordination and Programming Tool gathered Asia-Pacific UN DESD Interagency Steering Committee Members and experts familiar with ESD policy and programming processes to discuss the core components of ESD projects and develop a generic coordination tool to assist Member States in building capacity for implementing and monitoring programmes related to ESD in a coordinated and effective manner. The generic tool will be adapted at the sub regional level during proposed ESD sub-regional coordination and capacity building workshops to be held throughout 2008.

Central Asia ESD Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop - Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 17-19 June 2008

The Central Asia ESD Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop is first in a series of Asia-Pacific regional workshops held throughout 2008, sponsored by the Japanese Funds in Trust, to assist UNESCO Member States in building additional capacity for ESD leadership, programme coordination and monitoring. The workshop was held in response to the DESD resolution adopted at the 34th General Conference, the immediate challenges in implementing ESD at the national level and preparations for the World Conference on ESD: Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade to be held in Germany in March/April 2009. On a practical level, the workshop aimed to establish
linkages between ESD, EFA and national Poverty Reduction Strategies; promote reflection on national ESD priorities as a basis for sub-regional and regional ESD coordination; identify next steps in the development of a national ESD monitoring framework; and promote national ESD coordination.

**Regional Innovative Teachers Conference “ICT for ESD: Seeing Farther and Thinking Deeper” - Hanoi, Vietnam, 8-10 April 2008**

Approximately 100 teachers and 50 senior government and education officials from over 22 countries in the Asia-Pacific region attended the *Partners in Learning: Regional Innovative Teachers Conference 2008*. This event was co-organized by Microsoft, UNESCO Bangkok and the Ministry of Education and Training in Viet Nam. Themed “ICT for ESD: Seeing Farther, Thinking Deeper”, the conference aimed to promote the infusion of Education for Sustainable Development into teaching and learning through ICT, along with providing an opportunity for innovative teachers to share experiences and exchange knowledge.

[http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=6800&tx_wecknowledgebase_pi1%5btt_news%5d=1022&tx_wecknowledgebase_pi1%5bbackPid%5d=6771&cHash=4f7a80d910](http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=6800&tx_wecknowledgebase_pi1%5btt_news%5d=1022&tx_wecknowledgebase_pi1%5bbackPid%5d=6771&cHash=4f7a80d910)

**ProSPER.Net Meeting on Sustainable Development in Business Schools Curricula - Asian Institute of Technology - Bangkok, Thailand, 23 April 2008**

The ProSPER.Net (Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network), funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and lead by UNU-IAS in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) convened a meeting to develop a first year work plan for integrating sustainable development (SD) into business school curricula. Approximately 15 participants contributed to the meeting, including representatives from UNU-IAS, AIT, ARIES, UNEP, UNESCO Bangkok, University Sains Malaysia, Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia and Shinshu University in Nagano, Japan. The outcome of the meeting resulted in an updated draft work plan which includes a baseline study on the status of SD in ProSPER.Net business schools, action research on processes for integrating SD into business school curricula and a tentative March 2009 Symposium to collaborate with, and receive input from, local businesses.

➡ What’s coming up?

- **ESD Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop**
  Ha Long Bay, Viet Nam, 4-7 June 2008
  A workshop, sponsored by the Japanese Funds in Trust for Singapore and Member States in the Mekong Sub-region, to build capacity for ESD leadership and coordination, link new and ongoing ESD-related initiatives and assist in the development of national ESD monitoring systems.

- **South East Asia ESD Coordination and Capacity Building Workshop**
  Brunei Darussalam, 22-26 September
  A workshop, sponsored by the Japanese Funds in Trust for Member States in South-East Asia, to build capacity for ESD leadership and coordination, link new and ongoing ESD-related initiatives and assist in the development of national ESD monitoring systems.

- **Earth from Above by Yann Arthus-Bertrand: An Aerial Portrait of Our Planet Towards a Sustainable Development**
  Zen, Bangkok, 3 June – 9 September 2008 (99 days)
  A photo exhibition by the renowned French photographer. More than 500,000 pictures were taken from above in some 100 countries, under the patronage of UNESCO.

- **2nd Asian Youth Forum**
  Gwangju City, Republic of Korea, 26-30 June 2008
Organized by UNESCO and the Korean National Commission for UNESCO the theme will be Sustainable Community in Asia.

- **ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEP 2008-2012) Implementation Workshop**
  Cha-Am, Thailand, 14-16 July 2008
  A coordination between the ASEAN Member Countries for the implementation under the Environmental Education, as a key component of Education for Sustainable Development.

- **4th Session of the World Urban Forum**
  Nanjing, China, 3-7 November 2008
  The World Forum is organized by UN Habitat, and is themed “Harmonious Urbanization: The Challenge of Balanced Territorial Development”.

→ **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](mailto:esd@unescobkk.org) by 15th August 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.