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 first update of 2008 is an initial step to building collaboration among all partners in education to move ESD forward in the region in 2008 and beyond. To initiate sharing, we welcome you to submit brief information on your ESD projects or activities for review to include in future updates. Kindly see page 6 for submission details. Many thanks for your continued support.

Derek Elias
Asia Pacific Coordinator for ESD

“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.”

Koïchiro Matsuura, Director General of UNESCO
Opening Address of the 179th Session of the UNESCO Executive Board, Paris, 7 April 2008
In Focus: Recent publication “ESD on the Move: National and Subregional ESD Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region”

“ESD on the Move: National and Subregional ESD Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region” examines how thirteen UNESCO Member States and two subregions in Asia and the Pacific region have begun developing initiatives for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development during the first years of implementation, including challenges, gaps in implementation and factors for success. This publication was compiled through the generous contributions of the Japanese Funds in Trust for ESD in partnership with UNESCO National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific. It is hoped that the experiences highlighted in this publication will serve as a guide for countries as they take steps towards implementing the Decade in their own national and subregional contexts.

For further information:
Derek Elias
Asia-Pacific Coordinator for ESD
d.elias@unesco.org

Asia-Pacific National ESD Monitoring Project

The Asia-Pacific National ESD Monitoring Project is now in its second phase as countries are taking stock of the challenges, lessons learned and next steps toward developing their national DESD monitoring systems. Eighteen countries in the Asia-Pacific have provided information on the progress of their monitoring system to date, including their envisioned stages of development for June 2008. Several Member States are in the process of identifying their national ESD goals and priorities and producing national ESD action plans which will provide a basis for developing national ESD indicators. The majority of countries reporting are at the stage of formulating working groups with stakeholders from across sectors to collaborate on indicator development; a few countries have also completed this process and are beginning to elicit important questions regarding national ESD indicator development and funding.

For further information:
Joel Bacha
Project Officer for ESD
j.bacha@unesco.org

Education for Natural Disaster Preparedness Project

UNESCO Bangkok co-organized the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction in October 2007. Following this event, UNESCO has been working with eight national institutions to explore disaster risk reduction (DRR) education in schools. Countries involved include China, Japan, Indonesia, India, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vanuatu. The national institutions are expected to produce final reports shortly, which will include a set of recommendations as to why DRR is needed in education and how best to teach DRR in schools.

For further information:
Kamonrat Chayamarit
Programme Assistant for ENDP
c.kamonrat@unescobkk.org
Youth Mural Competition

UNESCO Bangkok is organizing a mural competition on the theme of sustainable urbanization, action for climate change, or the preservation of traditional and indigenous knowledge. The murals, created on free surfaces at a school or in the local community, are intended to be part of a community-led initiative to mark the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and create a legacy for future discussion and awareness on sustainable development. The youth mural competition is targeting ASPnet schools and UNESCO Clubs however all youth may participate. The deadline for the competition is August 5th 2008. A notice in the next UNESCO Bangkok Newsletter will highlight additional details of the competition.

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

Private Sector Engagement in ESD

In recognizing the role of the private sector as a key player in ESD, UNESCO Bangkok is in the process of finalizing two partnerships in the Asia Pacific region. This process has involved identifying organizations whose existing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes have an education, environment or youth focus and working with these partners to identify opportunities to develop ESD projects. UNESCO Bangkok believes these partnerships will act as showcase examples of how businesses can contribute to sustainability education in the communities in which they live and work.

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

Review and Update of UNESCO Bangkok ESD Website

In tune with the new UNESCO Bangkok web format (coming soon), the ESD unit is updating its youth page. The page will showcase the youth mural competition and the text and layout of the webpage is being reviewed and updated so that it may better capture young people’s attention. More youth related pictures are needed to light up the page and garner interest (we welcome your contributions). There are also tentative discussions about setting up a youth theme for the new UNESCO Bangkok web format which could help to coordinate and streamline youth related initiatives within UNESCO Bangkok.

For further information:
Hartfried Schmid
Information Assistant
h.schmid@unescobkk.org
Teacher Education for ESD

Teacher Education for ESD in the Asia-Pacific region aims to pursue the objective of reorienting education programmes to address sustainability in line with the broad range of national sustainable development priorities in each country. This means linking Teacher Education to ongoing research in pedagogy and curriculum development for a wide range of content including Disaster Preparedness, Climate Change, World Heritage Education, ICTs in education and more. A key network for ESD Teacher Education in the Asia-Pacific region is the Asia Pacific ESD-NET, which aims to coordinate efforts by teacher education institutions (TEIs) to reorient their curricula to address sustainability. TEIs met for the first ESD-NET Training workshop in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2007 and are currently carrying out ESD Action Plans as part of a larger effort to learn about processes for reorienting Teacher Education programmes in the Asia-Pacific context.

Publications

ESD on the Move: National and Subregional ESD Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region

“ESD on the Move: National and Subregional ESD Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region” takes a look at how countries in Asia and the Pacific have attempted to begin developing initiatives for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development during the first years of implementation. Experiences are intended to serve as a guide for UNESCO Member States in implementing the Decade in their own national and subregional contexts. (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=976)

- Media as Partners in Education for Sustainable Development: A Training and Resource Kit

“Media as Partners in Education for Sustainable Development”, produced by UNESCO Paris Headquarters, addresses issues that are being discussed on the social, economic and environmental fronts. It encourages the media to engage in public participation and to debate improvements that can lead to sustainable development. It also seeks to contribute to media awareness and understanding of sustainability. (www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=7908)

- Education for Sustainable Development: Linking Learning and Happiness

Compiled and published for the 3rd International Conference on Gross National Happiness held in Thailand in November 2007, ‘ESD: Linking Learning and Happiness’ providing a brief overview of GNH and its linkages with ESD as a means of promoting ‘Happiness’ through quality learning. (www2.unescobkk.org/elib/publications/146_147/)
Recent Events

- **Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on School Education and Disaster Risk Reduction**
  Bangkok, Thailand, 8-10 October 2007
  Co-organized by UNESCO Bangkok, the workshop aimed to contribute toward reducing the vulnerability of school children to disasters and improving resilience of school communities under the mandate to promote the *Hyogo Framework for Action* throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The regional workshop was the benchmark activity which gave opportunity for real dialogue on ENDP between practitioners, curriculum developers and policy makers from a larger number of countries throughout the region. Following the workshop, eight national education institutes were agreed to conduct a situational analysis of policies, programmes, curricula and school-based activities and materials in relation to the integration of ENDP into school and teacher education curriculum and training. ([www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=6794](www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=6794))

- **3rd International Conference on Gross National Happiness. Towards Global Transformation: World Views Make a Difference.**
  Thailand, 22-28 November 2007
  The 3rd International Conference on Gross National Happiness (GNH), co-organized by Sathirakoses Nagapradip a Foundation and the Center for Bhutan Studies, offered a creative platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on the development paradigm of GNH. GNH originated in Bhutan as an integrated concept of development that revolves around four complementary and mutually reinforcing goals: economic prosperity, environmental preservation, cultural promotion and good governance. Emphasizing the linkages between GNH and ESD, Dr. Sheldon Shaeffer, the director of UNESCO Bangkok, gave at keynote speech at the conference on ‘Learning to Transform: Fostering Change through a Chaordic Perspective.’ Two workshops on ‘Education for Sustainable Development’ and ‘Alternative Education’ were also held during the eight day event. ([www.gnh-movement.org/](www.gnh-movement.org/))

- **Pacific UNDESD Implementation Workshop**
  Auckland, New Zealand, 29-30 November 2007
  As a follow-up event to the presentation of the Pacific ESD Action Plan at the Pacific Forum of Education Ministers Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand in November 2007, the UNESCO National Commission, New Zealand and PACE-SD/USP co-hosted the Pacific UNDESD Implementation workshop. The major objective of the workshop, funded through UNESCO Participation Programme and by New Zealand UNESCO National Commission and the Ministry of Education, New Zealand, was to develop 4-5 regional ESD project proposals for the Pacific implementation of ESD in 2008-2009. Through the event several key messages were emphasized to carry ESD forward. These include: 1) ESD should be stratagized through mainstreaming into existing institutional processes and activities; and 2) a need exists to develop a process for identifying and capturing “non-ESD” branded activities in order to build on lessons learned through ongoing activities which are already stimulating change through education.

- **9th Asia-Pacific UN DESD Interagency Steering Committee Meeting**
  Bangkok, Thailand, 14 December 2007
  The outcomes of the 9th UN Interagency Steering Committee Meeting, chaired by UNESCO Bangkok, focused on issues of interagency collaboration on ESD, climate change and urbanization. Interagency partners acknowledged that recognition should be given to ESD-related initiatives undertaken by all partner agencies and opportunities looked into for further collaboration with new partners. On the issue of climate change, the Steering Committee agreed to initiate discussion to investigate further interagency collaboration and potential contribution to climate change through education. Interagency Committee members also agreed to bring ESD perspectives into the 4th session of the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China, on 3-7 November
2008. Issues of climate change, urbanization and economic aspects of sustainable development will be of particular interest to the Steering Committee.

- **EARCOS Global Issues Network Conference**
  Beijing, China, 4-6 April 2008
  This conference will be held at The Western Academy of Beijing. The EARCOS Global Issues Network Conference will feature Education for Sustainable Development in panel on reorienting curricula and integrating global issues into the school learning environment. ([www.earcos.org/gin2008/](http://www.earcos.org/gin2008/))

**What’s coming up?**

- **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 a 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
  Organised 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”.

- **World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development – Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade**
  Bonn, Germany, 31 March-2 April 2009
  This conference will review progress made during the first five years of the decade and look ahead to further promote ESD worldwide.

**Welcoming DESD updates contributions**

The UNESCO Bangkok ESD Team 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)
Submission criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programmes and Activities</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Name of Programme/Activity</td>
<td>● Name of Resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● City, District, Country where implemented</td>
<td>● Author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Date(s) of implementation</td>
<td>● Publisher (for publications)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Brief description (maximum 150 words)</td>
<td>● Year developed/published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Weblink (if available)</td>
<td>● Brief description (maximum 100 words)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● 1 or 2 photos (if available)</td>
<td>● Weblink (if available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● 1 photo (if available)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Meet the ESD Team

Derek Elias
Asia Pacific Coordinator
E: d.elias@unescobkk.org

Mikko Cantell
Associate Expert
E: m.cantell@unesco.org

Joel Bacha
Project Officer for ESD
E: j.bacha@unesco.org

Andrew Tangye
Australian Youth Ambassador for Development
E: a.tangye@unescobkk.org

Hartfried Schmid
Information Assistant
E: h.schmid@unescobkk.org

Kamonrat Chayamarit
ESD Programme Assistant
E: c.kamonrat@unescobkk.org

Chelsea Giles-Hansen
ESD Intern
E: c.giles-hansen@unescobkk.org

Janine Baudach
Intern
Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
E: j.baudach@unescobkk.org