ESD Action Plan Update
Institute of Education and Research
University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Action Plan for ESD included a variety of activities. These included research, curriculum development, awareness meetings, and professional and resource development. Since our arrival from Bangkok (26th August 2007) our beloved university, University of Dhaka, remained closed until the 27th October 2007 due to campus violence. Despite our best human endeavour and goodwill, nothing remarkable could be achieved. On reopening of the University we became extremely busy in managing academic activities and in-course examinations. A peaceful campus is a sine-qua-non for establishing ESD at the institutional level. However you will be happy to learn that we have started ESD activities at the INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (IER) from the 20th November 2007. The accomplished activities include:

1. A seminar for teachers and students of IER was arranged on the 20th November 2007 in training room 003. A power point presentation on “ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) High-level meeting in Penang 2006 and ESD-NET Teacher Training Workshop in Bangkok 2007” informed and enthralled the audience. Prof. Md. Hedayet Hossain was the main speaker. Teachers and students of IER learned about visions, objectives and components of the ESD model. The seminar appraised the role of the IER delegate to the high-level meeting and workshop in Bangkok, and the subsequent onus of everybody to implement ESD at an institutional level (please see the seminar photographs).

2. After the seminar held on 20th November, I wrote an invitation to all colleagues on the 22nd November “Re: invitation letter to join ESD”. In this letter I tried to reinforce/ motivate all to ESD and provided them with a set of readings and the action plan declared in Bangkok. IER has 10 departments, for example Educational Administration and Science, Mathematics and Technology Education. I outlined some activities and exercises encompassing ESD for all departments and for each teacher as well. I sought individual and collective co-operation in implementing ESD at the IER level.

3. Understanding that colleagues are extremely busy due to the semester closing in the near future, I invited all 10 department heads into my chamber under an appeal such as “ESD implementation meeting: Views of IER Heads”. In this meeting we reviewed ESD materials already sent to heads and future mechanisms warranted to be developed for ESD implementation. Out of a total of 10 department heads, 8 were present and all of them meaningfully contributed to the meeting. This meeting of the department heads consolidated their knowledge and deepened participants’ understanding about ESD. Discussion and entertainment touched their hearts I believe (please see the photograph).

4. The Bangladesh Action Plan incorporated “ESD Status Analysis in the University of Dhaka”. This is a visionary and challenging act on the part of IER to bring the whole university to the imposing training room No.3. Eventually, on the 5th December 2007 a roundtable discussion on “Situation Analysis of Education for Sustainable Development in the University of Dhaka” was held with great enthusiasm. Prof. Md. Hedayet Hossain moderated the roundtable. Honorable Deans of all the Faculties (10) and Directors of all the Institutes (9) of the University were invited to the roundtable as special guests and speakers. Honorable Vice Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, Professor S.M.A Faiz was present as chief guest and gave a powerful and thought provoking speech in the roundtable. Mr. Zaglul A. Chowdhury, Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS (official news agency of the GOB) was present in the roundtable as special guest and speaker and generated extremely effective and useful discussion of ESD in the Bangladesh context. The whole
audience appreciated discussion of the learned special guests and speakers, particularly the V.C., and imminent journalist and icon of BSS. The roundtable obtained a good coverage in national newspapers (please enjoy some photographs).

5. ESD in the Classroom: We ended the 6th semester for third year Honors students in which they completed a Value Education course with us. This is a compulsory course for all third year 6th semester students. The number of students enrolled in this course is 150. We infused many aspects of ESD into this course. The most remarkable one is that 16 sub-themes of ESD have been brought under ESD Research Net. This means 16 groups of students will conduct research on school textbooks (from grade I-XII) published by the national agency called NCTB. We introduced short and comprehensive ESD models to our students very effectively. Their research output will be disseminated through national seminars and briefings (please see some photographs).

6. Value Education course class closing ceremony: Among international organizations this year the Value Education course offered special focus on UNESCO activities at international and national levels. Dr. Mahmood Hasan, Secretary, BNCU (Bangladesh National Council for UNESCO), was invited to give a talk to our students on “From UNESCO to BNCU with a special focus on ESD”. This colorful event was held on 8th December 2007 at IER training room No.3. The learned special guest gave a very useful lecture and addressed all questions encompassed in the “Question-Answer session”. In the closing class, an ESD Club was formed with great enthusiasm (please enjoy the ESD Club Formation photographs).

7. As a teacher of Economics and Education, Prof. Hedayet Hossain always nourished ESD economic components in the classroom with a great care. For example, his abstract on “Infusing ESD Economic Components in Higher Teacher Education and Training in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Participation and Development” was accepted for the 11th UNESCO-APEID International Conference on Re-inventing Higher Education. The paper could not be completed due to some unavoidable circumstances. Prof. Hossain this year also infused corporate social responsibility (CSR) to his economics students with great enthusiasm and care. Sixteen groups of students will conduct research in 16 industries on CSR. Last year 16 groups studied CSR in 16 banks. These are all examples of good practices of ESD from a teacher education setting to encompass larger society like banks and corporate industries (please see photographs). The aim of these activities is to open IER to larger societal elements mentioned above and start mutual dialogue for participation of development.

8. Promotion of intercultural and interfaith awareness in the class: The Value Education course provided students with enough knowledge, understanding and attitude towards great religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam). Students were motivated to follow and to practice prayer according to their religious instructions and beliefs, and to develop a broad understanding and tolerance for each religion. They prayed in their worship places like a Mosque for Muslims and a Mondhir for Hindus. The Value Education course teachers participated in the prayer at the Institute Mosque and also attended a function as special guests in the Mondhir. At the special function Hindu students recited from ‘Sri Geeta’ and explained the message of ‘Geeta’ to the audience. Both teachers of the Value education course addressed their students and advised them to build up their lives with all knowledge including religion.

9. Professor Hossain not only tried to implement ESD in his own institute and in his own classrooms, but also tried to play a pro-active role by participating in international days like World AIDS Day and Human Rights Day 2007, which were organized by BNCU in cooperation with the UNESCO Dhaka office. Professor Hossain involved his colleague Mr.
Nur-E-Alam Siddiquee and students in making the program for the two international days observed in December 2007 (please see the pictures).

Prepared
By
Professor Dr. Md. Hedayet Hosssain
Muhammad Nur-E-Alam Siddiquee
Institute of Education and Research
University of Dhaka
Answer 2(a): Under Professor Hossain’s leadership, he endeavored to include each of his colleagues and students in the ESD-NET at the institute level. He tried his best to groom young leadership, for example Mr. Nur-E-Alam Siddiquee, by exposing him to significant ideas that needed very hard work in all situations. The description of activities performed so far reflects committed work and intellectual understanding both by the leaders and the followers. As mentioned earlier, Professor Hossain with his formal and informal teams performed a variety of activities to establish ESD at IER with due commitment and professionalism. Since August 2007 (actually from 20th November 2007) significant activities include: seminar at IER for teachers and students, meeting with IER department heads regarding ESD implementation, roundtable meeting to ascertain ESD status in DU curricula, 16 research teams on text book analysis from grades I-XII, value education course class closing ceremony, formation of ESD club at IER and participation and pro-active role played in World AIDS Day and World Human Rights Day 2007.

Answer 2(b): Since our arrival from Bangkok on the 26th August, my most significant challenge that I have experienced is the non-availability of a peaceful university campus towards implementing ESD. Flood and hurricane (SIDR) events and campus violence dominated national and institutional scenarios from 20th August to December 2007.

Answer 2(c): The most significant lesson that I have learned is that gloomy and devastated human and material conditions most of the time sounded the bell to my failure. By the grace of God I did not allow it to happen. I know that I am in a very rough sea but I must make my journey with fierce determination. My activities performed so far with the cooperation of my young ESD team member and pro-active students speak about my achievements. These activities and pictures speak for themselves.

ESD in Action at IER

A Talk on ‘ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) High-level Consultation Meeting in Penang 2006 and ESD-NET Teacher Training Workshop in Bangkok in 2007’

By

Professor Md. Hedayet Hossain
Nur-E-Alam Siddiquee

20 November
A roundtable Discussion on “Situation Analysis of Education for Sustainable Development in the University of Dhaka”.

**Chief Guest:** Professor S.M.A. Faiz  
Honorable Vice Chancellor  
University of Dhaka

**Organized by**  
*Institute of Education and Research (IER)*  
5 December 2007
From UNESCO to BNCU With a Focus on **ESD**

by

Md. Mahmudul Hassan, Ph.D
Deputy Secretary GOB and Secretary, BNCU
Ministry of Education
Dhaka, Bangladesh

8 December 2007

Intercultural and Interfaith