UNESCO Bangkok
Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific
Regional Adviser for Culture in Asia and the Pacific

PRESS RELEASE
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“Education for Natural Disaster Preparedness in Asia-Pacific”

1 June 2006, UNESCO Bangkok, Thailand


In the wake of the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004 disaster, UNESCO Bangkok is coordinating a sub-regional project, the goal of which is to develop the preparedness of local stakeholder groups for disaster prevention, recognition and preparedness through case study examples in selected Asia-Pacific countries. The project focuses on gathering, developing and disseminating information from key stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific countries. UNESCO Bangkok aims to employ Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as a framework to facilitate holistic and critical thinking as well as problem-solving in local communities threatened or affected by disasters. The project approach will develop disaster prevention/preparedness education as an initiative under the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

Six countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Maldives and Thailand, have developed educational materials that are locally relevant and culturally appropriate in each country. Various materials, i.e. a board game targeted at teenagers to learn about natural disasters, a video in order to raise awareness and preparedness against landslides in northern Thailand and educational curriculum in Tamil, have been developed through this project.

This one-day workshop’s key objective is to present, promote and disseminate ideas, lessons and training products to the participants and to discuss and to stimulate new initiatives to develop educational materials concerning disaster preparedness in the Asia Pacific region. The workshop will also focus on next steps, developing donor support for ongoing initiatives, and instigating south-south support for new initiatives in the region.

In this regard, we are pleased to invite you and your colleagues to attend this Workshop on 1 June at the UNESCO Bangkok Office, 5th Floor Conference Room from 9:00-17:30 hrs and a reception in the garden from 17:30hrs.

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