The Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHSAP), was established in 1977 at UNESCO Bangkok. We are engaged with hundreds of partners in the programmes below, acting as a neutral forum for discussion of some of the most critical social and ethical issues in global society today, networking persons and institutions across all disciplines to enhance the capacity of member countries, communities and individuals to create solutions to these issues. We cultivate a culture of peace. We welcome suggestions from National Commissions and others in any form (please noting that our budget does not allow us to be a funding agency). This explanation supplements the 34C/4 and 34C/5 documents, and may inform discussions towards 34C/5. For meeting information updates are placed on the RUSHSAP website. Enquiries and suggestions are welcomed to:
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Main activities

A. Ethics of science and technology

- UNESCO Asia-Pacific School of Ethics (APSE). (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=apse) acknowledges a growing number of partners involved in ongoing projects with 100+ individuals and 30+ institutions to deliver programmes. Holding annual APSE roundtable conferences (next, 23-26 April, Tehran).
- Mapping experts and institutions and resources from the region to feed into the Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs organized in HQ); and into UNESCO Bangkok website ethics resources
- Follow-up to the Bangkok Declaration on the Ethics of Science and Technology (From COMEST 2005 in Bangkok). 2009 ordinary session of COMEST in the region.
- Consultation meetings, international, regional, subregional and national workshops in 18 countries across the region since 2005, as parts of these ongoing projects. Holding 1-2 per month.

B. Ethics education and bioethics

- Compilations of open source multilingual ethics teaching resources and trials for evaluation.
- Museum displays on ethics and science and technology, and evaluation of visitor learning.
- Teacher training workshops for school and university ethics teaching. Holding 1-2 per month.
- Regional Bioethics Documentation Centre in UNESCO Bangkok for consultation

C. Ethics of Energy Technologies Project

- Following on from the launch conference 14 working groups have been formed on the following topics (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=energyethics):

  Meetings held in different countries and via web, policy reports being prepared on:
  - Universalism and environmental values
  - Ethical worldviews of nature
  - Visions and hopes of the future
  - Representation and who decides
  - Community engagement
  - Stakeholder responsibilities
  - Energy equity and human security
  - Cost-benefit analysis and economic constructions
  - Adoption & development of energy technologies (state of the art review)
  - Ethical frameworks for research agendas and policy
  - Educational frameworks for environmental ethics
  - Nuclear dialogues
  - Energy flow, environment, and ethical implications of meat production
  - Water ethics and water resource management

  IT communication is being used to enhance dialogues. There are also mail list serves including:
  http://groups.yahoo.com/group/unesco_eet
  http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AsiaArabPhilosophicalDialogues
  http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bioethicseducation
D. Philosophy
- Inter-regional Asia-Arab Philosophical Dialogues with working groups on:
  1) Challenges of globalization to philosophy and democracy;
  2) Philosophy facing the challenges of modern technology;
  3) The roles of philosophy in war and peace. (next, 27-29 May, 2009 in Bangkok)
- Promotion of philosophy teaching and development of a regional strategy through a High Level Meeting with Ministers of Education (next, 23-26 May, 2009 in Manila)
- Promotion of World Philosophy Day, networking of philosophers to enhance societal critical thinking

E. Promotion of Human Rights
- Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific: Towards and Inclusive Society, partnerships with cities across the region on the implementation of the ten point commitment and in order to develop and share best practices within cities and beyond. Also HIV cases in 2009.
- Networking of experts in human rights focus of SHS in Jakarta (position under selection review).

F. Peace
- Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong Project completed 2004-2006, next phase launched as:
  - Joint ASEAN-UNESCO Concept Workshop on Human Security was held 26-27 October, 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

G. Gender studies
- Asia-Pacific Network of Gender Studies Centres and hosting UNESCO Women’s Studies and Gender Research Network Conference (next, 9-13 February, 2009, Bangkok)
- Comparisons of existing curriculum and development of foundational curriculum for gender studies
- Prevention of Violence against Women (including support for Kabul)

H. Social Development
- Possible launching of a Forum for Ministers of Social Development in South East Asia with ASEAN member countries
- The South Asian Forum for Ministers of Social Development was launched in 2006, with SHS in New Delhi, Marina Faetanini, also focusing on urban poverty.
- SIDS issues are a focus for work by SHS in Apia (Susan Vize).
- Urban development, and model land development (Cooperation Private Joint Venture in Thailand)
- Migration is a focus for SHS in Almaty (Laura Kennedy), and Beijing (position under selection).

I. Youth
- Youth leader training of youth science leaders in Ethics of Science and technology and involvement of youth in above activities. Possible Youth forums on current issues to continue.
- Regional Youth Strategy under development, coordinated with SHS in Apia (Susan Vize)

J. Sports
- Sports for All. Future activities against doping in sports.

RUSHSAP Goals: We will directly effect changes so that this happens:
- Introduce new legislation, consistent with UNESCO and UN Declarations
- Develop new teaching programs
- Effect curriculum change towards empowerment of all citizens as decision makers
- Ensure that policy makers always interact with researchers and communities in decision making
- Enable groups of divergent opinions to dialogue with each other
- Rediscover indigenous philosophical ideas and thoughts and integrate these into curriculum, common knowledge and policy making across the world
As a consequence we can expect that this happens:
- Halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty in developing countries
- Reduce gender disparity and other forms of discrimination for empowerment of the currently excluded and inclusion for all
- Societal and individual maturity and critical thinking is developed towards more informed choices