Opportunities for Partnerships

with the Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHSAP)

<http://www.unescobkk.org/rushsap>

RUSHSAP shapes our Common Future and aims to:

- Introduce new legislation, consistent with UNESCO and UN Declarations
- Develop new teaching programs
- Effect curriculum change in ethics, values, security and peace education; empowerment of all citizens as decision makers
- Ensure that policy makers interact with researchers and communities in review of policies 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

Mission statement

In an era of rapid globalization, UNESCO's Regional Unit for Social and Human Science in the Asia-Pacific (RUSHSAP) aims to develop and promote ethical social policies which uphold peace, human rights, democratic governance and tolerance. To achieve this goal, social policy must provide opportunities and empowerment for all, particularly during this period of major social, political, economic and cultural change.

RUSHSAP’s mission and programmes reflect a wide range of social concerns, including promotion of the culture of peace, poverty eradication, human rights and the fight against discrimination, youth, the ethics of science and technology, bioethics, environmental ethics and ethics of climate change, philosophy, gender, human security, social development, dissemination of information, research and training. RUSHSAP has a unique role in the United Nations system.

As a consequence of the programmes and networks we can expect that all citizens will receive sound education to become wiser and more ethical persons. These actions will work to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, and to reduce gender disparity and other forms of discrimination for empowerment of those currently excluded.
RUSHSAP works at all levels - grass roots through to policy makers - to make a range of actions including...

- Identify key stakeholders
- Create new and neutral spaces for dialogue
- Facilitate partnerships among different stakeholders, including national, local authorities, GOs, NGOs, community leaders, researchers and policy makers within and between countries
- Identify key gaps in the social and human sciences related to policy
- Educate educators, governments, civil society and academics
- Linkage and develop policy options and strategic planning documents
- Develop, monitor and evaluate frameworks for ethics, culture, policy, housing, employment and education

With these groups/people

- International/national/local policy makers and parliaments
- UNESCOs networks including SHS colleagues in Apia, Almaty, New Delhi, Jakarta and Beijing cluster offices, and utilizing all the UNESCO field offices
- National Commissions to UNESCO
- Academic associations in related fields (e.g. Asian Association of Social Science Research Councils (AASREC), Asian Bioethics Association)
- NGOs and CSOs, and civil society
- Private sector leaders and donor agencies
- Educators
- Youth
- City, municipality, and provincial councils
- UN agencies and other international organizations

Using these methods and avenues

- National/Regional/International conferences
- Meetings with key stakeholders
- Policy papers/publications/Policy briefs
- Website, social networking and list serves
- Networks of partners
- School and university curriculum development
- Museum displays and mobile exhibitions
- Attendance at important meetings and conferences
At the forefront of global reflection

The Unit collaborates with numerous partner organizations to carry out projects and activities. Some examples are listed here and we welcome any opportunity to work with you as empowered individuals and/or organizations.

Ambassadors, academics and experts discuss the nuclear age at UNESCO Bangko

Ethics of Nuclear Energy Technology and the Future of Nuclear Weapons

Many countries in Asia-Pacific region are developing nuclear energy technologies for their development. Some are developing nuclear weapon deterrents for national security...can such technology be considered sustainable given the potential apocalyptic consequences of even limited use of nuclear weapons to the globe?

RUSHSAP publishes an ongoing series of expert studies on Ethics of Science and Technology covering topics like bioethics, assisted reproduction, cloning, biodiversity, justice, and ethical issues arising from intensive meat production, among many ...

Ethics of Science and Technology in Asia and Pacific

Innovative Partnerships

Please consider how you might be able to partner with RUSHSAP to jointly achieve the goals of your organization, and to build a better quality of life, environment and society for today and our future generations.

Breathe some fresh air into the research-policy linkages...
UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassador Programme

We invite your organization to join UNESCO in building peace in the world through empowering youth from different countries across Asia and the Pacific, and in the world share experiences of working to promote the culture of peace and to develop practical action plans with the inspiration of the young people.

Since 2010, UNESCO, in cooperation with partner institutions has organized four Youth Peace Ambassador Training Workshops across the Asia-Pacific with 320 youth from many countries and circumstances. Together, the youth have worked to identify issues that can promote a culture of peace, and developed 120 action projects promoted at making a difference in their communities. By the end of 2012 we plan to develop a further 50 action plans and complete half of the plans now ongoing (See the RUSHSAP website). The ongoing programme fosters information exchange between members who have faced many different types of conflict, involving human relations, conflicts, discrimination, environmental problems.

Through the Youth Peace Ambassador Programme, UNESCO is harnessing the power, optimism and influence of young people to promote action and change for Peace. The outcomes you could help achieve include:

- Strengthening the youth peace ambassador network of young people as a forum for the exchange of ideas and good practices for effecting social change for peace.
- Reducing the suffering from conflicts and violence;
- Broadening aspects of participant life plans from a multicultural perspective;
- Support for specific youth-led projects to be implemented in different countries;
- Expand the integration of security and peace activities into policy making, with special relevance to young persons;

Only those who complete their action plans will be called UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassadors. We are seeking funds to award the best achievements of the programmes and learn solid lessons for evaluation of the peace ambassador programme.

Be a partner in this endeavour to build a culture of peace...
How to partner with UNESCO?

Support could be given to individual action plans, to national networks of YPA trainees (currently in Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and Thailand), and/or to particular training workshops.

The Fifth Youth Peace Ambassador Training Workshop is planned to be held in Thailand in late 2012, and the Sixth in Indonesia in 2013. At each workshop there will be some of the previous participants who have demonstrated excellent results from their action plans, and youth from different countries of the world, especially Asia and the Pacific, sharing experiences of promotion of the culture of peace. The programme is more than gathering people together, however, we need to share the impacts that every participant has made in the communities they focus on changing when they return.

Past Workshops: The first UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassador Training Workshop was held in Hiroshima, Japan, 9-13 October 2010, with the cooperation of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Eubios Ethics Institute, and UNITAR. The second was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 28 March to 1 April 2011, with the cooperation of CICP and Eubios Ethics Institute. The third was held in Penang, Malaysia, 28 November – 1 December 2011, in cooperation with Penang Free School, Eubios Ethics Institute, USM and AIU. The fourth was held in Hiroshima and Etajima, 24-31 March 2012, with Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Eubios Ethics Institute and UNITAR.

How to contribute and participate

The programme is especially for youth who have already started to make a difference in their community to overcoming the challenges for their communities, and persons who are actually doing things to rebuild communities. We need your support to build upon their initiatives, please join us.

At present there are twenty UNESCO Youth Peace Ambassadors out of the 320 participants. More will become ambassadors for peace as they develop their plans. UNESCO is currently looking for donors to fund awards of USD3000 for some of these engaged, optimistic and energetic youth! These awards will help them develop their activities. A sampling of projects you could be involved in and support...

- Ms. Chang Hoay Yuen, Ms. Hoe Wen Yi, Ms. Nurul Syahida binti Sharul Zaman and Ms. Fan Wei Sin Joyce (Malaysia) “Sexual Assault against Women”
- Ms. France Jimenez (Philippines), Ms. Alyssa Marie Dispo (Philippines) and Mr. Amirin Shahril (Malaysia) “Art Amidst Cultural Conflict”
- Ms. Helen Gemma Vallejos (Philippines) “Balikatang Pak Na Pak Para Sa Mga Batang J’wak (Cooperation for the Young J’waks)”
- Ms. Maria Carmina Valdes (Philippines) and Mr. Andres Adhitra (Indonesia) “It’s not a dog-eat-dog world: Raising Animal Cruelty Awareness in Modern Society”
- Ms. Muhammad Mirza Mustaquim and Mr. Urfan Ridha (Indonesia) “Speaking for the Voiceless: Coral Reef Conservation”
- Ms. Natasha Shokri (Iran) “Art Exhibition of Peace”
- Mr. Ouksaphea Lay and Ms. Enchanreaksmey Oum (Cambodia) “Pushing Peace Maidser on Children in Local Community”
Sowing the Seeds of Peace to a Human Security Curriculum

Ruamrudee International School (RIS), Thailand supported RUSHSAP in the Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin project, and in Peace and Human Security activities from 2005 to 2010. In 2005-2006 RIS supported activities on Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin and in 2007-2010 on Peace and Human Security in Asia and the Pacific. We also collaborate with many institutions, such as the Malaysian Social Science Association and regional human rights and peace centres.

These regional projects on peace and human security continue, and partners are needed for printing of teaching materials, development of case studies, and training of trainers and teachers to include Peace and Human Security into curriculum and teaching in local languages.

Bioethical maturity: How do we form a mature society full of well informed and balanced persons? Bioethically mature means a person, or a society that can balance the benefits and risks of alternative options, make well-considered decisions, and talk about these.

UNESCO Asia-Pacific School of Ethics

The Asia-Pacific School of Ethics is a regional network of over 100 individuals, and 50 institutions and associations that are working on projects and meetings together with RUSHSAP. RUSHSAP also consults and collaborates with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), institutions and individuals with special expertise. At national and regional conferences, including those of the Asian Bioethics Association, researchers present papers on research and policy. How can we develop infrastructure for research in developing countries? Donors sometimes support the research projects and sometimes the participation of scholars to nurture the capacity for ethical reflection in the Asia-Pacific.

Join the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific School of Ethics** to Implement the UNESCO Bioethics Declarations and the **Joint Plan of Action for Regional Networking in Bioethics Education Towards Better Bioethics Education**, that emerged from the joint expert meeting of RUSHSAP and the **Korean National Commission for UNESCO in Seoul in 2006**.
Ethics Education Materials and Workshops

RUSHSAP can facilitate workshops to train teachers and teacher trainers in bioethics education with a range of partners. These include Eubios Ethics Institute in the production of documents and on-line materials for bioethics education, and the UNESCO Chairs in Bioethics in the publication of a book on Moral Games. This is a collection of innovative methods for teaching critical thinking and enhancing bioethical maturity. Videos are also being produced.

Open access teaching materials

There is an ongoing collection of materials that are available to use and adapt for bioethics education. We invite persons to send more materials, and to make more translations/adapted materials for different groups. The language of materials includes Indonesian, Chinese, English, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Tamil, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Trials of Core Curriculum

A number of universities are joining in trials in the region of the UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum. Those trials use new as well as existing open source teaching resources from the regional collection. Materials are available in MSWord format for teachers to modify and edit according to their local needs and audiences.

We welcome donations for translations of more materials, Printing costs for books, and holding training workshops for teachers.

Bioethics Museum Exhibitions: Can you host an exhibition?

RUSHSAP collaborated with the Science Center for Education (SCE), and National Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (BIOTEC), Thailand to co-organize a Biotechnology and Bioethics Museum Exhibition since 2008. The materials for the 300m² exhibition are being made freely available to other museums.

Past Exhibition on Ethics of Science and Technology were at the Science Center for Education Bangkok and are in the Science Centrum Manila. Topics are wide ranging and provide exciting opportunities for students and adults to reflect upon. A Bioethics and Biodiversity Exhibition was also developed.
World Commission on Ethics of Science and Technology (COMEST)

The government of Thailand hosted the Fourth Ordinary Session of COMEST in 2005, and the government of Malaysia hosted the Sixth Ordinary Session of COMEST in 2009, showing the commitment of Asia-Pacific countries to global ethical reflection. The government of the Republic of Iran donates the Avicenna Prize to encourage excellence in reflection on ethics and science and technology.

UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (IBC)

The government of Japan hosted the 2006 Session of IBC, and we expect the 2013 session of the IBC to be held in Asia-Pacific also.

Ethics and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific (ECCAP) project

The project calls for developing dialogues within each participating country and between countries on the results of research, future research needs, policy lessons and policy recommendations in regard to the ethical issues of energy-related technologies, and related environmental and human security issues. How should each country make decisions on the energy technologies that they develop and which strategies to follow, given the environmental crisis and the variety of proposed benefits and potential risks of different technologies? As countries in the Asia-Pacific region face mounting external pressures to decide on their energy policy, what are the values and questions that exist inside the region for ethical deliberation over the choices for energy?

Membership and contributions of support are open to all interested parties with experience in energy issues and environmental ethics. No matter what your field of expertise, including but not limited to engineering, philosophy, government, institutional advisory bodies, civil society organizations, energy-related industries, education, and academia, you can contribute.

Become a member of a ECCAP working group and assist in the drafting of exciting and new topics in ethical and social aspects of climate change. We seek review comments from a wide audience.

Climate changes may be the defining issue of the 21st century, as humankind faces responsibilities for its actions upon the global community. Universalism was one of the most significant social trends of the 20th century. How can we address ethical issues of climate change through the lens of universalism? This series discusses a variety of world views and human relationships with the environment, and the underlying values in them, applied to contemporary issues.
Ethics and Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific (ECCAP) project

If you are tired of the same old rhetoric and politics? Join the ECCAP project to make state of the art reviews of social and natural science with policy options.

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Further working group reports are in different stages of the research and writing process, and input from interested persons and institutions is welcomed.

Reports in final production stages include:

- Adoption and development of energy technologies state of art review of Algal Technology
- Energy equity and environmental security
- Ethics of Nuclear Energy Technology
- Ethics and Biodiversity

Other working group topics include:

- A global repository of ethical worldviews of nature
- Visions and hopes of the future
- Community engagement
- Ethical frameworks for research agendas and policy
- Educational frameworks for environmental ethics
- Energy flow, environment, and ethical implications of aquaculture production
- Water ethics and water resource management
- Gender, Environment and Energy technologies
- Ethics and International Investment in the Energy Sector, and the Environment
Youth Forums Looking Beyond Disaster

While hazards are natural, disasters are not. Young people need to not only be aware of the risks and impacts of hazards, but also have take action to prepare for and respond to disasters. Young people have shown already their potential to create a world that takes a proactive stance against tragedies caused by disaster. Disasters can destroy communities but also rebuild them. As key agents of promoting change UNESCO has gathered young community leaders from around Asia and the Pacific in the Youth Looking Beyond Disaster programme.

We invite your organization to join this innovative new programme of UNESCO bringing youth from different countries of Asia and the Pacific, and the world, to share experiences of disasters and to develop realistic action plans to rebuild communities that meet the needs and aspirations of young people. The first UNESCO Youth Forum: Looking Beyond Disaster, was held in December 2011 in Christchurch, New Zealand, with 100 participants from around the world. Youth developed 25 action plans to rebuild communities from disasters, and we seek partners to implement them, as well as to assist in the forthcoming second and third UNESCO Youth Forums on Looking Beyond Disaster in Sendai, Japan (16-19 August 2012) and Manila, the Philippines (January 2013).

The outcomes that you can assist in achieving include:

- Strengthening a new global network of young people across Asia and the Pacific empowered to share experiences and exchange ideas on disaster and community;
- Saving lives and reducing the suffering from disasters;
- Contributing to disaster risk reduction and prevention education and Education for Sustainable Development.
- Giving hope in concrete ways for self-recovery of communities from disasters;
- Support for youth-led projects to be implemented in different countries;
- Getting communities and the policy structures ready for rapid response to disasters;
- Ongoing facebook and other social networking discussions;
- Following up on recommendations on youth resilience, rebuilding communities and disaster response.

Be a partner in this endeavour to overcome these emergencies...
In 2012 we plan to develop a further 50 action plans, through ongoing communication and evaluation, and two training forums, one in the Philippines and one in Japan.

The ongoing programme fosters information exchange between members who have faced many different types of disaster (not directly human-made, although many have significant contributory factors from human activity and environmental change).

The training forum focuses on the development of practical action plans, and the evaluation of ongoing plans, which meet the needs of people in different communities affected by disasters. These forums will empower youth with the tools they need to activate and accelerate change in their vulnerable communities through the (further) development of action plans with a focus on their successful implementation and sustainability. By making clear, concise and actionable plans, young people will learn how to engage their peers and communities and monitor the progress of their initiatives.

How to contribute and participate

The programme is especially for youth who have already started to make a difference in their community after experiencing natural disasters, and overcoming the challenges that means for their communities, and persons who are actually doing things to rebuild communities.

We need your support to build upon their initiatives, please join us.

The programme is seeking applicants from diverse countries, including SIDS, LDCs and countries at risk of disaster, and we also welcome suggestions to join us. Disasters happen at any time and we need support for many of these plans for our communities to rebuild.
Philosophical Dialogues for Policy and our Future

Dialogue is essential for developing a better understanding of not only others, but also ourselves. In recent times the teaching of philosophy in almost all regions of the world has included core components with a predominance of Western philosophers. This relates to the predominance of published works in European languages, and to the higher output of postgraduate degrees in philosophy in North America and Europe, in the past two centuries.

In order to strengthen local, regional and global awareness of the rich philosophical traditions of many regions of the world, UNESCO Social and Human Science Sector’s program in philosophy has launched programmes on inter-regional philosophical dialogues in 2004. There are regional action plans for teaching of philosophy: Thinking for the Future, with resources for philosophy education being developed.

The conferences include support networks, such as the Asia-Pacific Philosophy Education Network for Democracy (APPEND) and consider important topics such as the 2010 Interregional Asia-Arab Philosophical Dialogue Conference: Culture of Peace and Human Dignity held in Port Dickson in Malaysia.

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Can your country or institution host such reflective meetings to consider our future?
Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific: Towards an 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 are growing. New areas include linkages between climate change and human rights.

The international coalition of cities against racism was launched by UNESCO in March 2004 to establish a network of cities interested in sharing experiences to improve policies to fight racism. For national and international declarations such as those promoting human rights and to address concrete problems within the communities, it is essential to involve local authorities.

RUSHSAP collaborated with the Governor of West Java Province, Indonesia to organize the UNESCO International Conference on the Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination, in Bandung, Indonesia in 2009. Over 200 Governors, Mayors, Policy Makers and local authorizes participated in the conference and the Bandung Declaration. Further regional conferences were held in Gwangju, Republic of Korea in 2012, and in Bangkok in 2011.

The coalition aims to combat racism and discrimination at deepening knowledge of various forms of racism and discrimination, the formulation of national policies and plans of action as well as disseminating good practices through

- Providing a worldwide platform for exchange and solidarity. Member municipalities can meet to discuss and exchange ideas and experiences, think and act together,
- Mobilizing decision-makers at the municipal level,
- Reinforcing the institutional capacities in adopting and implementing good policies and sharing good practice against discrimination,
- Raising awareness and educating citizens about mutual tolerance,
- Empowering victims,
- Promoting an inclusive society and cultural diversity, and
- Prosecuting acts of discrimination.

To address specific priorities in different parts of the world, six regional coalitions have been created with similar action plans. The regional coalitions are: Africa, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, and Europe.

Cities interested in joining the coalition and sharing good practices should contact us.

Each signatory will be responsible for establishing, coordinating and/or implementing the local policies against racism and discrimination. This will be based, in particular, on a consultation process with those subjected to racism and discrimination as well as in close collaboration with actors of civil society (NGOs, academics, associations, etc.).
RUSHSAP Strategy

Within UNESCO's overall mandate "of building peace in the minds of people", the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) seeks to advance knowledge, standards and intellectual cooperation to facilitate social transformations where the values of justice, freedom and human dignity can be fully realized.

In pursuit of this purpose, RUSHSAP works under three main structuring lines:
- "Studying what is" --> promoting empirical research;
- "Anticipating what could be" --> promoting philosophical reflection and future-oriented studies;
- "Determining what should be" --> developing and promoting international standards in order to draw up recommendations for policies and action.

Drawing upon this overarching vision, the Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSHSAP) aims to develop and promote ethical social, political, economic and cultural policies and actions. To achieve this goal, social policy activities must provide opportunities and empowerment for all.

To achieve the objectives of the social and human science programme, approved biannually by UNESCO’s General Conference, RUSHSAP conducts research, training, workshops and seminars, conferences advocacy and project sustainable development.

While recognizing the value of international treaties, global agreements and other “macro” solutions to meet the mission goals, RUSHSAP works with a range of partners at regional, sub-regional to micro-level. This requires practical action, in keeping with the ideals of an ethical society, security and the Culture of Peace, in the minds of every citizen.

RUSHSAP as part of the field operations of the Social and Human Science (SHS) sector at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. RUSHSAP partners with other units at UNESCO Bangkok, the global network of UNESCO field offices, national commissions in the Asia-Pacific region, governments, and various research institutions and networks. RUSHSAP also consults and collaborates with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), individuals and community leaders with special expertise.

One of RUSHSAP’s major strategies is the organization of national and regional consultations with member countries, research institutes and organizations in order to undertake stock-taking, seek new visions and directions for ensuring long term capacity building in all forums.
Women's/Gender Studies Network in Asia and the Pacific

The creation of a Women’s/Gender Studies Network in Asia Pacific emerged as an important recommendation from the Regional Consultation on Women’s/Gender Studies Programmes in the Asia-Pacific region held in Bangkok in December 2003. A second Conference was held in February 2009, and a third in March 2011. The consultations bring together expert proponents and practitioners of Women/Gender Studies, some of whom have played pivotal and pioneering roles in the establishment of Women's/Gender Studies in their own countries and institutions.

The Network aims to advance a range of objectives including:

- Serve as a mutually-reinforcing support network and forum for the discussion of challenges of pressing issues that recognizes diversity and similarities of WS/GS throughout the Asia Pacific region;
- Strengthening WS/GS, and centres, associations and institutions that promote WS/GS in the region;
- Undertake collaborative research in response to challenges, and open new tracks for national policy, including education, gender and disaster, gender and climate change, and enhance the publication and dissemination of research;
- Advocacy of GS issues and translation of research in GS, with policy-makers, governments, academic institutions, NGOs and other stakeholders in the Asia and Pacific region.

The above is just a sample of the activities. We also engage in activities involving Youth, Sports and Social Inclusion and Development and are open to consider all collaborations globally.

Can you work with us and the 7,000 partners in our networks to make the world a better place with a secure and happy future? We need your support for the programmes financially or in kind.

More information on <http://www.unescobkk.org/rushsap>