

## EYE ON EARTH

### Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative Coordination Meeting – Bahrain 21-22 October 2013



#### **Background**

The Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative (EoEESI) is one of the Eye on Earth Foundation Initiatives, designed as an educational contribution towards sustainable development guided by the objectives of Eye on Earth and within the ongoing United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UN-DESD) 2005-2014.

#### **The meeting**

The Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative Coordination Meeting was held in Manama, Bahrain on October 21-22, 2013. The meeting brought together representatives from 16 different countries, and was hosted by UNEP's Regional Office for West Asia, in collaboration with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI).

#### **Goals**

Present the work of the EoEESI to the new and current stakeholders of the SI, giving special attention to GUPES, the Global Partnership on Environment and Sustainability. As UNEP's flagship programme on environmental education in higher education, GUPES is one of the projects that has received seed funding from EAD, looking to mainstream environmental education in the Arab Region. At the meeting the following project outputs were discussed,

- Adaptation of the Greening Universities Toolkit for the Arab Region, with new case studies from the region.
- Preparatory work for the creation Arab States Green Universities Network, with national contact points.
- Preparatory work for the Massive Online Open Course on Disasters and Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.
- Planning of the workshops on In-Service ICT Training for Environmental mid-career Professionals to access and use Environmental Information (ISEPEI).

#### **Follow up actions**

- Explore synergies with existing networks in the region, such as the EU – GCC Clean Energy Network and the Arab Region Environmental Information Network (AREIN) for the Green Universities Network
- Identify potential partners to assist with the adaptation, translation and integration of new case studies for the Green Universities Toolkit.
- Follow up with Masdar Institute on universities-networking event planned for the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, on January 2014.

### Additional follow up projects

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Focal Points</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global platform with regional components to develop and share environmental education resources online;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andreas Horfurter</li> <li>Karl Donert</li> <li>UNEP ROWA</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suite of training courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victor LAgutov</li> <li>Asma Ali Abahussain</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arab Region University Network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meshari Al Harbi</li> <li>Hamza Kazim</li> <li>UNEP ROWA</li> <li>UNEP EETU</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atlas of the Arab Region: Educational component</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNEP ROWA</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hot Spots in the Arab Region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNEP ROWA</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of criteria for greening universities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asma Ali Abahussain</li> <li>Hamza Kazim</li> <li>Rebecca Taylor</li> <li>Gayatri Raghwa</li> <li>Tongji University</li> <li>UNEP EETU</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborative funds for research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ashraf Al-Najdawi</li> <li>Najat A. Saliba</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Center for environmental reporting in the Arab Region</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asma Ali Abahussain</li> <li>CEDARE</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online introduction module to Environmental Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNEP EETU</li> <li>UNESCO</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exchange program on sustainability and universities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chris Gordon</li> <li>Tongji University</li> <li>Masdar Institute</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Innovation in the region: Policy, Technology and Application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNEP ROWA</li> <li>UNESCO</li> <li>Najat A. Saliba</li> <li>AGEDI</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialogue with governments on Environmental Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNEP ROWA</li> <li>UNEP EETU</li> <li>Others (tbd)</li> </ul>