

Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative (EoEESI) Side Event Side Event on Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES)

Date: 7 October | Time: 12:30 – 13:05hrs | Abu Dhabi

Background

The Global Universities Partnership on Environment for Sustainability (GUPES) is a global network consisting of over 560 universities. GUPES aims to promote the integration of environment and sustainability concerns into teaching, research, community and student engagement, greening of university infrastructure and participation in sustainability activities both within and beyond universities. GUPES recognizes the vital roles universities play in promoting effective use of environmental data and information and thereby instilling environmental best practices and developing capacity of environmental professionals.



Summary

- **Brian Waswala (UNEP)** welcomed participants and gave opening remarks;
- **Mahesh Pradhan (Chief, Environmental Education and Training, UNEP)** highlighted the role of the GUPES and its contribution in championing environmental education, training and networking;
- **Emily Nilson (Central European University)** showcased the ISEPEI initiative, an EoE seed funded project that seeks to bridge the gap between decision-makers and ICTs. She highlighted four training and capacity building water security workshops and applications that ISEPEI has conducted and the need to promote ICT in natural resource management. She called for additional case studies to be included in the [Training Manual](#) which was launched at the Summit; and
- **Fares Howari (Zayed University)** presented the Arab States Green Universities Network (ASGUN), a functional network of HEIs in the MENA region that will promote green knowledge and practices in Arab Universities. The network will promote the development and implementation of Green Curricula for the Arab region; green campuses; community, government and students engagement; and leverage GUPES in the MENA region for greater impact for the Eye on Earth community.

Way forward

- i. Use the GUPES network to promote research and knowledge dissemination and partnership for the Eye on Earth Community;
- ii. Organise a high level ASGUN launch in June 2016, in Jordan;
- iii. Call for green university initiative case studies for the next Greening Universities Toolkit;
- iv. Establish green university sustainability indicator dashboard to promote and rate Low Carbon Universities; and
- v. Share of best practices on sustainable campuses, as part of whole institution approaches under the GAP on Education for Sustainable Development.

Images (Copy and paste the link): <https://goo.gl/LC9nGk>