



Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES)

Newsletter, Issue No. 6

Table of contents

I. Global Updates:

- Eye on Earth - Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative (EoEESI)
- The International Training Program (ITP) on “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Higher Education”

II. Regional Updates:

Africa:

- Global South-South Development Expo:
 - Youth Partnership Forum
 - Academia Partnership Forum

Asia:

- The 4th Central Asia Leadership Programme on Environment and Sustainable Development (CALPESD)

North America:

- Annual Conference of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), Baltimore, USA

Europe:

- Joensuu Course
- Engineering Education for Sustainable Development

III. Upcoming Events/Announcements:

- Global Regional Centres of Expertise Conference
- First Latin American Forum on Sustainability and Environment in Higher Education
- Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) Kenya 2014
- Southern African Young Scientists Summer Program, South Africa

IV. Useful UNEP Resources

I. Global Updates:

Eye on Earth - Eye on Environmental Education Special Initiative:

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).



The goal of the meeting was to 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 Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Disasters and Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.
- Preparatory work for the creation Arab States Green Universities Network, with national contact points.
- Planning of the workshops on In-Service ICT Training for Environmental mid-career Professionals to access and use Environmental Information (ISEPEI).

The International Training Program (ITP) on “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Higher Education”:

The fourth phase of the Regional Programme in Asia was inaugurated at UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) on 28 October 2013. This program is in support of the ongoing UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-14.

Dr. JIANG Bo, Vice President of Tongji University and Ms. Viktoria LI, Consul General of the Consulate General of Sweden in Shanghai delivered welcome remarks. Prof. WU Jiang, Vice President of Tongji University, Dean of IESD and Chair of Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability, provided a keynote speech on sustainable urban development. As an expert of western architectural history and theory, Prof. WU Jiang has conducted extensive research on the history and protection of Shanghai's modern cities and architecture. Using Shanghai as a case study, Prof. WU Jiang discussed how urban planning can be implemented in a sustainable manner, so as to achieve harmonious co-existence between environment and society.

The ITP ESD is financed by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and is organized jointly by UNEP and NIRAS Natura AB, in partnership with IESD in Asia and Rhodes University in Africa. This is a one-year program, consisting of five phases. During the program, participants design and implement “Change Projects” in Education for Sustainable

Development. Prof. Fengting LI and Dr. Ping FANG of IESD are responsible for the mentoring of Asian participants and the organization of the fourth phase of the program in Asia.

The 2013 regional training program consists of 30 participants and co-participants from the governmental and educational sectors of Bangladesh, Cambodia, China and Indonesia.

In two weeks' training, lectures on different dimensions of sustainable development were arranged for the participants. In addition, Tongji's practices for a sustainability-oriented university in education, research, community service and campus management were demonstrated, analyzed and discussed. These sessions were designed to be participatory, critical thinking and reflective.

Study trips focusing on green campus practices of Tongji University and Shanghai sustainable urban development were arranged for the participants to complement the classroom lectures.

A key goal of the regional training program, as well as the ITP as a whole, is to create a network of ESD practitioners, as well as to promote South-South collaboration. Hence, in this year's program, sessions for experience sharing had been specifically included. ITP alumni from 2011 and 2012, Prof. Zhou Jin of Tongji University and Mr. Zhu Zhenxu of CEEC, Ministry of Environmental Protection joined the participants to provide an update on their achievements and challenges in the implementation of their change projects. Interested participants also had opportunities to present their experience of promoting education for sustainable development concepts and practices in their respective organizations.

This year's program lasted for two weeks and ended on Nov. 8.

II. Regional updates

Africa:

Global South-South Development Expo, Nairobi

The Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo was a United Nations system-wide global high-profile event for South-South Cooperation which took place in Nairobi from 28 – 31 October 2013. Slightly over 1,200 participants participated in the Expo. Within the Expo, many Fora with different themes took place, one of them being the Academia Partnership Forum which was hosted by Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU). It focused on environmental education synergies in higher education articulated around 4 main components: presentation of the REDD+ Curriculum Sourcebook within the context of the UN-REDD Programme and the work of EETU; a presentation of the Capacity Development for Climate Change Programme (C3D+); a panel discussion on sustainability indicators for universities; and a round table on South-South Cooperation. Among high-profile speakers at the Forum were the DEPI Officer in Charge, Ms. Elizabeth Mrema and Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka, Rhodes University, among many others.

Summary document:

www.unep.org/training/docs/Academia_Partnership_Forum_Global_South-South_Development_Expo_2013.pdf



Asia:

The 4th Central Asia Leadership Programme on Environment and Sustainable Development (CALPESD)

The 4th CALPESD was organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 18 – 24 September 2013, in partnership with UNEP, under EETU's Training Pillar. UNEP provided catalytic support for CALPESD, whereas additional support was mobilized from partners such as NORAD, OSCE and UNECE. UNEP was represented by Mahesh Pradhan who served as a resource person and interacted with other participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

North America:

Annual Conference of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), Baltimore, USA

For over four decades, NAAEE has been a leader in promoting excellence in environmental education throughout North America. NAAEE is the only North American membership organization dedicated to strengthening environmental education and increasing the visibility and effectiveness of the field since 1971. With over 16,000 members and supporters, including affiliations with 54 state and provincial environmental education organizations and members in 30 countries, NAAEE's influence stretches across the US, Canada and Mexico, as well as other parts of the world. NAAEE has actively participated in the US National Training Consortium since 1990: As part of the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, the Office of Environmental Education in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awards a five-year national training grant to a consortium of organizations. Over the last 22 years, NAAEE has been an integral partner in each consortium and are part of the current EE Capacity project.

The 2013 NAAEE Conference brought together nearly over 1,000 participants, mainly from the US, but also from Europe, Japan, South Korea and Oceania. NAAEE has convened annual professional conferences for environmental education professionals since 1971, averaging more than 900 participants each year. NAAEE conferences are designed to promote innovation in the field, networking, new tools and resources, and dissemination of best practices. The theme for this year's NAAEE conference was "Celebrating the Power of Environmental Education."

Europe:

Joensuu Course

Enhanced capacity of negotiators through the **10th University of Eastern Finland – UNEP Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements** was held at the Joensuu Campus of the University of Eastern Finland, from 4 – 16 August 2013. The theme of this year's course was on Natural Resource Management. UNEP was represented by the DEPI Officer in Charge, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema.

Engineering Education for Sustainable Development

EESD13 brings together nearly 500 participants to Robinson College, Cambridge University. A special session on GUPES was organized between EETU and Cambridge University. The GUPES session provided a useful opportunity to disseminate information on GUPES, and explore new partnerships with the UK-based Environmental Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC). Discussions were also held with WCMC colleagues at Cambridge on potential joint projects and activities.

III. Upcoming Events/Announcements

- Global Regional Centres of Expertise Conference, Nairobi, 25 – 29 November 2013 (http://rce-network.org/portal/Global_Conference)
- First Latin American Forum on Sustainability and Environment in Higher Education, Chile, 9 - 11 December 2013 (www.foro-latinoamericano-sostenibilidad-universidad-2013.cl/)
- Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) Kenya 2014, Elsamere, Naivasha, 28 January – 14 February (www.myclimate.org/yes)
- Southern African Young Scientists Summer Program, South Africa, 24 November 2013 - 22 February 2014 (<http://start.org/announcements/southern-african-young-scientists-summer-program>)
- Development and Mitigation, Cape Town, South Africa, 27 – 29 January 2014, http://devmitforum.ercresources.org.za/?page_id=182

IV. Useful UNEP Resources

Useful UNEP and EETU reports, references and new publications can be found at the following link: www.unep.org/publications and http://unep.org/training/publication_page.asp

For more information and/or to submit articles/information, please contact:

**United Nations Environment Programme
Environmental Education and Training Unit
Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
P.O. Box 30552-00100, Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel: +254-20-7624101
Fax: +254-20-7623917
Email: env.edu@unep.org
www.unep.org/training/**