Innovations for Environmental Education: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

- UNEP and CNRD partners have developed a 50-hour Master’s Module on Disasters, Ecosystems and Risk Reduction, which is currently being implemented in more than 30 universities around the world. However, there is a high demand outside academia for training on this topic. To reach a larger global audience, UNEP, CNRD and GUPES are partnering to develop the first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), through an innovative open, online format. This is composed of two tracks:
  - **Leadership Track** that contains four hours of learning for policymakers, decision makers and senior professionals who need to obtain an overview of the topic in order for them to factor this concept into their planning and programming and;
  - **Experts Track** that comprises sixteen hours of instruction for professionals and students who seek more in-depth learning.

- 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 the ongoing UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UN-DESD) 2005-2014. As UNEP’s flagship programme on environmental education in higher education, the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) is one of several projects which has received seed funding from EAD, and seeks to mainstream environmental education. EoEESI includes the development and delivery of a MOOC, with focus on data access, curriculum innovation, capacity building and networking.

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**In the last 20 years the impact of disasters has been devastating:**
- 4.4 billion people affected
- 1.3 million people killed
- USD $2 trillion in economic losses

“Development cannot be sustainable if the disaster risk reduction approach is not fully integrated into development planning and investments… Development investment that does not consider disaster risk will lead to the accumulation of more risk.”
Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General
More than a MOOC

UNEP, CNRD and GUPES will leverage its global presence to provide additional support to the participants in the course, going beyond what traditional MOOC courses will offer. There will be 10 regional centers around the world, who will be following the MOOC implementation and be providing tutorial support. The course will also have a 24/7 virtual center which will be active throughout the course, facilitating discussions and providing opportunity for participants to interact with real professionals.

KEY SPEAKERS

Neville Ash  
Deputy Director,  
Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP

Sylvia Heuchemer  
Vice-President,  
Academic Affairs,  
Cologne University of Applied Science (CUAS), Germany

Lars Ribbe  
Center for Natural Resources and Development (CNRD), CUAS, Germany

Keith Alverson  
Coordinator, Climate Change Adaptation & Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch, UNEP/DEPI

Mahesh Pradhan  
Chief, Environmental Education and Training Unit, UNEP/DEPI

PROGRAMME (Tentative)

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<td>16:00 - 16:05</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Neville Ash, UNEP/DEPI</td>
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<td>16:05 - 16:10</td>
<td>Eye on Earth/GUPES/EETU</td>
<td>Mahesh Pradhan + intro video</td>
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<td>16:10 - 16:25</td>
<td>MOOC - eco DRR</td>
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<td>Conclusion</td>
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RVSP:
Please confirm participation by/before Wednesday 18 June, 2014 to:

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