

THE ENSI ANNUAL REPORT 2006 to mid-2007

1. Staff and members 2006/2007

Executives

Günther Pfaffenwimmer, National Co-ordinator, Austria, President
Christine Affolter, National Co-ordinator, Switzerland, Vice-president
Rainer Mathar, National Co-ordinator, Germany, Treasurer
Ton Remmers, National Co-ordinator, the Netherlands, Secretariat
Cam Mackenzie, Systems Representative, Australia
Daniella Tilbury, Pedagogical/ Research Representative, Australia

National Representatives

Willy Sleurs, National Co-ordinator, Belgium (Flemish Community)
Soren Breiting, National co-ordinator, Denmark
Finn Mogensen, National co-ordinator, Denmark
Michel Ricard, National Co-ordinator, France
Lea Houtsonen, National Co-ordinator, Finland
Attila Varga, National Co-ordinator, Hungary
Martin Whyte, National Co-ordinator, Ireland
Michela Mayer, National Co-ordinator, Italy
Pascale Petry, National Co-ordinator, Luxembourg
Astrid Sandas, National Co-ordinator, Norway
Karen Junker, National Co-ordinator, Norway

ENSI's friends and main partners

Sun Kyung Lee, Korea
Mariona Espinet, Spain,
Regula Kyburz-Graber, Switzerland
Majda Naji, Slovenia
John Elliott, United Kingdom
Paul Hart, Canada
Charles Hopkins, Canada
Peter Posch, Austria
Ian Robottom, Australia
Johannes Tschapka, Austria, Former SEED Co-ordinator

In attendance

Adry Nienhaus van Lint, the Netherlands, Secretariat

Grietje Braams, the Netherlands, financial affairs

2. Institutional partnerships

OECD/CERI:

ENSI is a decentralised international network set up in 1986 under the umbrella of OECD's Centre for Educational Research & Innovation (CERI)

The official umbrella function of OECD ended in December 2004. In its 2005 official reports on Sustainable Development and Education for Sustainable Development activities, OECD quotes its ENSI activities.

UNESCO

On UNESCO Bangkok's recommendation and by official letter from Director General Matsuura, ENSI has been in an institutional partnership with UNESCO in the UN Decade for ESD since 2004.

ENSI continues to enjoy a very good relationship with UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris, with regular correspondence. UNESCO representatives were present during the ENSI-SEED conference in Esbjerg/Denmark, May 2005. At the Asia-Pacific meeting in Australia, October 2006, ENSI was invited to collaborate with UNESCO Bangkok and to contribute to the 10th APEID conference, Bangkok, December 2006.

UNECE

ENSI country co-ordinators were involved in the development of the UNECE strategy for ESD. In December 2005 ENSI was invited to be one of three observers in the then newly-created UNECE bureau of the ESD steering committee, which supports the UNECE ESD secretariat in Geneva in implementation the UNECE-strategy and meets there on a regular basis.

Michela Mayer, Italian ENSI country co-ordinator, is member of the Expert Group for the development of Quality Indicators on ESD for the implementation of the UNECE strategy. This guarantees the knowledge transfer from ENSI to the Experts Group and vice versa. The final version of indicators was adopted by the UNECE steering group in December 2006.

UNEP-Carpathian convention

ENSI has cooperated with the UNEP-Carpathian convention since 2004 in the segment of education. ENSI Hungary organises an ESD expert meeting to develop a cooperation project in the autumn of 2006.

EUROPEAN UNION

The EU Presidency Conference on ESD in Vienna, Austria, March 2006

This three-day meeting convened 180 ministerial representatives from 37 countries (European

Union, neighbouring countries, and some representatives from other UNECE countries).

The meeting was recognised as a significant milestone in the journey towards Education for Sustainable Development.

ENSI leaders were well represented during the meeting, and important dialogue took place in regards to ENSI's continuing contribution to the Decade and ESD policy development in its member countries.

ENSI president Günther Pfaffenwimmer played a key role in organising the meeting and facilitating the space and opportunity for ENSI to contribute in a meaningful way.

ENSI country co-ordinators chaired and/or reported four of six working groups and thus contributed significantly to the success of this conference. Prof. Hopkins cited ENSI in his keynote as a good example for international co-operation.

For a copy of the individual presentations made during the conference and working groups please visit the conference website www.bmbwk.gv.at/bine-edd-esd.

The EU Presidency Conference on Biodiversity in Helsinki, Finland, November 2006

Representatives from ENSI (Norway and Austria) ran a workshop on educational approaches. Based on the results, the co-operation of research and education has been integrated in the European Programme on Biodiversity Research Scheme.

The EU Presidency Conference on ESD in Berlin, Germany, May 2007

Representatives from ENSI (Austria and France) chaired and/or reported two working groups and thus contributed to the success of this conference.

The conference provided a show-case for ENSI and a platform for networking.

For ENSI's EU-Educational Projects see below "ENSI Network activities"

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Publication project (2007): "Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development":

ENSI was charged by the Council of Europe, Directorate of Culture, Cultural and Natural Heritage, to elaborate ESD examples and educational concepts. *Engaging Youth in Sustainable Development* is a collection of good practices in relation to learning about Sustainable Development in lower secondary schools, which address the need of 10 to 14 year-old citizens to understand their role and opportunity to contribute toward a sustainable tomorrow. The stories of student activities from grades 5 to 9 from schools across 13 European countries and Canada aim to inspire teachers and students to engage toward the ecological, economic and social improvement of their respective community. Thus teaching practices presented in this booklet illustrate how education for sustainable development can have implications beyond the classroom through empowering students in their lives as young global citizens. ENSI contributed to this

project through the editorial efforts of the two ENSI experts Michela Mayer and Johannes Tschapka, and through several ENSI-related authors from at least nine ENSI member countries.

ENSI's first College of Young Researchers on Education for Sustainable Development

This project was elected by an admission by the Council of Europe. It will harness the energy and enthusiasm of a new generation of researchers who are committed to education for sustainable development and will involve them in ENSI in an active and meaningful way. In this way ENSI will be revitalised and sustained in order to meet new challenges in linking ESD with democratic citizenship. The added value for the Council of Europe is the intrinsic and tangible links this project has with both the UNECE strategy and the Council of Europe's work on democratic citizenship.

During a three-day 'college', 12 young researchers who have worked in a local environment and come from culturally, politically and economically diverse parts of Europe will assess the key research challenges for ENSI in relation to the current prevailing environment. In addition they will assess the prerequisites to develop innovative ESD and EDC projects based on action research in schools and local communities.

The project is scheduled to take place in 2007 and 2008.

3. Governance Meetings

A brief overview of the ENSI AGM (Vienna, March 2006, Budapest, January 2007) and Executive Meetings (Vienna, June 2006 and Bunbury/Australia, October 2006)

Key results from these four meetings

a) Administration and Organisation:

- Two new ENSI country co-ordinators were welcomed: Ton Remmers, representing the Netherlands, and Michel Ricard, representing France. A special welcome was given to Ms. Sun Kyung Lee and Mr. Mr. Seon Du Choe from Korea who attended as special guests, co-operation partners and observers.
- Contacts have been built up with potential new members such as Canada, Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, India, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Slovenia, and the French-speaking community in Belgium.
- It was announced that Nicola Bedlington would leave ENSI at the beginning of June 2006 to become the executive director of the European Patients' Forum.
- SLO / Stichting Leerplanontwikkeling, Netherlands, will take over the administration by the end of September 2006. A part-time secretariat (20%) is well-situated at SLO with Adry Nienhaus van Lint (A.Nienhausvanlint@slo.nl), who is supervised by Ton Remmers and financed by ENSI. The contact person for financial affairs is Mrs. Grietje Braam, G.Braam@slo.nl.
- ENSI is a financially healthy organisation. It was agreed that the financial reserve would

be partially used for further professional development in the near future as well as for concrete projects.

- Switzerland decided to invest a substantial amount in the development and implementation of ESD and will promote a strong relation with ENSI by officially paying a contribution to the vice-presidency of ENSI (30% working time).
- It was agreed that ENSI should become an international non-profit organisation, recognised under Belgian Law. Willi Sleurs has organised the process in Brussels. The statutes of ENSI were revised to accommodate the Belgian legal requirements.
- It was decided to increase the ENSI membership fees to 4000 EUR and to formally enlarge the membership status as “Associate Members,” thereby providing opportunities for research centres and universities, and as “Friends of ENSI” for invited individual persons.
- It was decided to re-launch the ENSI web site by the summer of 2007 through a contract with Mr. Samuel Bucher, Switzerland.

4) ENSI Project Reports

Project ‘Quality Criteria’

The research-based set on Quality Criteria on ESD Schools was developed to a main tool for the implementation of ESD in schools. By the end of 2006 the publication was published in the following languages: English, German, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Finish, Norwegian, Hungarian, Danish, French; and with Portuguese, Romanian, Korean and Thai in preparation. ENSI will provide technical and financial support for the publication of versions in other languages.

The “Comparative study on ECO-schools” as well as the “Quality Criteria” publication have been reviewed by probably the most influential international research journal in the field of EE/ESD: Environmental Education Research. The review, which is presented in the volume 12, November 2006 issue of the journal was done by Greg Mannion from the University of Stirling, Scotland. It is a very positive review in many ways! In it he concludes that, “*the criteria are quite powerful and there is much ‘meat’ here for readers who are familiar with the field of ESD/EfS.*” In addition he finds that “*these two texts offer much to a wide range of potential readers.*” And he ends by claiming that “*it brings some new and some old issues such as complexity, democratic participation and school-community relations into relief in useful ways and it sets out a range of topics that are now in need of further exploration via the action research approaches advocated.... to see if there is evidence that these or different criteria are emerging in school cultures.*” Thus the author anticipates the second proposed phase of the Quality Criteria-ESD research programme launched at the AGM of ENSI in Vienna 2006 and further discussed in Budapest 2007.

Project “Teacher Education”

ENSI members Regula Kyburz-Graber (Switzerland), Paul Hart (Canada), Ian Robottom (Australia) and Peter Posch (Austria) published *Reflective Practice in Teacher Education*. The

book was warmly welcomed by teacher training universities because it facilitates access to ESD and discusses how learning can happen by looking at case studies of Environmental Education.

This book focuses on 10 action-research and evaluative case studies on environmental education carried out by teacher educators and teachers. The case studies come from five European countries: Austria, Hungary, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland. They are followed by cross-case comparisons which explore issues emerging from the documented reflective practice: aims of environmental education in the educational policy context of the countries, each country's relationship to the disciplines and the traditional knowledge transmission position, the role of action research approaches for innovation and reflection, and institutional conditions of collaboration in teacher education.

This international case study project is research based in that it adopts professional development approaches that are informed by action research principles. It represents examples of innovation that challenge established practices in schools and teacher education institutions. It provides study material for all who attempt to describe, change and improve their own education practices and who want to adopt an action research approach to professional or programme development.

Project 'ENSI goes public'

The "*Strategic plan for ENSI*" is printed and available at the secretariat and will be on the new web site.

Web site: The new web site will be constructed by Samuel Bucher, Switzerland.

Timeframe: Main information (inactive part of the web site) by end of June 2007

Forums for discussions and working rooms (interactive part of the web site) by end of 2007

Samuel Bucher will host the web site and develop it step-by-step in collaboration with Reiner Mathar, Johannes Tschapka and Christine Affolter. The next step is the review of content, which will be done by the responsible country co-ordinators and the executive committee.

A Document list on ESD was prepared by Nicola Bedlington for UNESCO Switzerland and will be available at the new ENSI-web site.

Project 'CSCT' on Core Competences in Teacher Education

The Comenius 2 Project CSCT developed core competencies for ESD and implemented them in the authors' organisations. In order to learn about the challenges and opportunities present in transferring these core competencies into teacher education, all members of the project team delivered a case study about their experiences. The case studies will be published in the summer of 2007 and are edited by Franz Rauch, University of Klagenfurt (A). A final workshop of the project CSCT will be held in Leuven (B) in the autumn of 2007. For details see: www.csct-project.org

5) Networking of ENSI members

- Michel Ricard was thanked for his initiative to provide opportunities for ENSI members to

attend a first international major conference on ESD in the French-speaking world in Paris, June 2006.

- Peter Woods from the Australian Ministry of Environment and Heritage was thanked for his initiative and support in inviting ENSI to the AAEE conference in Bunbury and for organising the Asia-Pacific meeting in Perth, October 2006.

6) New Developments

- Daniella Tillbury gave an overview of a new funding programme called FEAST, that aims to enhance co-operation between Australian and European research and is structured through the Seventh Framework Programme on Research and Development. For more information please contact the secretariat for a detailed paper on the initiative.

- A discussion took place on ENSI offering services, drawing on the current example of the reference list drawn up for the Swiss UNESCO Commission's web site on ESD. It was agreed that this should be explored further in the working group on the status of ENSI.

- ENSI Award: Daniella Tillbury proposed to create an ENSI award as a way to do broad outreach to (young) researchers, but also to schools and teacher education institutions. To this end, a template for innovative school projects and for innovative research projects would be helpful.

Submissions should be selected by ENSI-fellows. Selected submitters would be asked to prepare a more detailed presentation / study. The best ones would be offered a (web) space to present their research as well as an invitation to an ENSI conference to present. Daniella Tillbury offered to draft a proposal, which will be discussed at the next AGM.

7) ENSI Network activities

Follow up of EU COMENIUS 3 Network project "School Development through Environmental Education" SEED

- Publication of *Quality Criteria*, versions in other languages and dissemination (see above)
- Publication of *Reflective Practice in Teacher Education (2006, see above)*
- Publication of *Action Research Tool Box (2007)*
- COMENIUS 1 Action Research workshops:

ENSI decided to continue to offer Action Research (AR) workshops for COMENIUS 1 school partnerships as a means of mainstreaming. In order to be able to fulfil this commitment it is necessary to establish a second AR lecturer team to support these workshops.

Application for a new COMENIUS network "Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow" SUPPORT

Norway took the lead in developing this project with the full support of the ENSI network. There were four preparatory meetings:

- January 2006, Norway: focus on the use of ICT in ESD
- June 2006, Austria: development of the general outline of the project

- September 2006, Norway: 1st meeting of project partners and development of pre-proposal
- January 2007, Hungary: 2nd meeting of project partners and development of full-proposal

The Comenius network “Partnership and Participation for a Sustainable Tomorrow” SUPPORT was established in order to address the need to enhance the quality of educational practices and material in line with the challenges of sustainable development (SD). The overall objective is to promote education for sustainable development (ESD) in European schools. The project will bring concepts and issues of SD into the educational system by linking schools, research institutions and communities in a web-based network. Learning opportunities will be provided that stimulate and empower individuals to acquire relevant experiences, knowledge, skills, values and understanding, and to reflect critically on their role in creating a sustainable tomorrow. In doing so, the project will contribute to lifelong learning for an active and responsible citizenry. SUPPORT will generate and spread knowledge about how ESD can be effectively supported through co-operation with actors outside the school using ICT. The project is expected to enhance the status of schools through greater involvement in the local community and participation in democratic processes.

- Specific objectives of SUPPORT are to increase participation in science studies by making these more attractive, reduce the gender imbalance in science education and promote entrepreneurship by supporting a school culture of innovation and responsibility. Interaction and co-operation among key stakeholders and best practice exchange will be facilitated by thematic conferences, workshops, a Comenius mobility seminar, Comenius school partnership contact seminars, Arion visits, and a web-based campaign on schools’ ecological footprints. The activities will be managed and co-ordinated through annual steering group and partner meetings. Outcomes of SUPPORT will include trans-national comparative studies, guidelines for collaboration between schools, research institutions and the local community, annual reports on the state of innovation in education for sustainable development (ESD), reports on network activities, development of new teaching material and pedagogical approaches, development of the existing educational web site www.sustain.no, quality criteria for use of ICT in ESD, and a web site for the SUPPORT network. Activities will be monitored and evaluated based on indicators. Network results will be distributed to partner organisations, participants and national educational systems.
- A COMENIUS 1 contact seminar for schools is planned for November 2007 in Austria in order to involve schools in the SUPPORT-project.

EU-Specific Support Project “Form-it – Take Part in Research”

In this project ENSI-Experts are also involved.

The future position of the European Research Area obviously depends on successful building of excellence. The key competencies needed today are self-motivated and self-directed learning strategies, teamwork and communication skills, and above all the ability to differentiate, select, apply and replace information from the immense and daily growing global knowledge base. Excellence building in science has a very central function for successfully positioning Europe in international research activities and for ensuring economic progress and wealth.

The plurality of national school systems, didactic traditions and curricula produces a diversity of

knowledge levels and skill profiles. Reform and harmonisation programmes are being pressed, since it has become obvious that one of the essential factors for the prosperity of the European Economy will be to equip the generations of tomorrow with adequate knowledge resources and learning skills.

One very promising model to test and improve such new learning designs is Research-Education-Cooperation (RECs). This model improves the teaching quality by applying up-to-date didactic approaches. In doing so, student motivation and performances are significantly raised. Research institutions engage in these kinds of collaborative projects and programmes because close cooperation with schools results in attracting talented and motivated students. For details, please see www.form-it.eu

- **ARION study visit**

Austria offers an ARION study visit for school directors, school inspectors and administrators on the topic of the cooperation between schools and research, thus using and mainstreaming the results of the EU-Specific Support Project "Form-it – Take Part in Research". (See www.form-it.eu)

8) ENSI's outreach to Asia Pacific

ENSI's visit to Australia

During its Annual General Meeting in May 2005, ENSI agreed to further develop its global outreach. It was highlighted that this process must be managed extremely carefully and that international meetings are required to foster synergies and a global identity.

Australia, with its historical and current engagement and commitment to ENSI, offered to support this process for the Asia Pacific region. Peter Woods, Chief Information Officer at the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage and Chair of the National Environmental Education Network invited the ENSI Executive Committee

- to take part in the National Conference of the Australian Association of Environmental Education AAEE under the title "Sharing Wisdom For Our Future: Environmental Education in Action" in Bunbury, Western Australia from October 3-6, 2006;
- to give a presentation on ENSI to the National Environmental Education Council / NEEC in order help to strengthen the knowledge of Council members in terms of international education for sustainable development initiatives (October 6, 2006);
- to hold the executive meeting for the first time in Australia by also providing organisational and substantial financial support (October 8 and 10, 2006);
- to take part in the meeting with representatives from educational and environmental bodies in Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan and New Zealand, as well as UNEP, UNESCO and SPREP (October 9, 2006).

Reflections on the AAEE conference

The AAEE conference was a great experience! We enjoyed a warm welcome, mutual openness and interest, as well as interesting exchanges and good networking contacts. The conference programme provided a rich and wide scope of inspiring and informative lectures and presentations, and a huge number of workshops. As ENSI delegates from Europe, we got a first-hand

impression of Australia's approach to Environmental Education and Education for Sustainable Development.

Out of the conference arose a variety of project ideas, which will be discussed in the ENSI community in the near future.

Reflections on the Asia-Pacific meeting

The Asia-Pacific meeting was very fruitful. Partners from the Asian regions and ENSI got to know each other, and agreed to develop communication and co-operation among the networks. ENSI is very interested in a knowledge transfer and exchange with Asia. It was decided to situate ENSI in the office of UNESCO Bangkok. It was further agreed to ask a partner from Asia to represent ENSI in the region (suggested was Korea) and to allocate some budget for this development. For further information, see the minutes of the meeting in the annex.

Bangkok – 10th APEID Conference, Dec. 2006

Following an invitation by UNESCO Bangkok, members of the ENSI Executive took part in the 10th APEID Conference, Bangkok, December 6-8, 2006. An ENSI workshop was run by Sun Kyung Lee (Korea) and Christine Affolter (Switzerland) with the title: *ENSI as a working and learning organisation, possibilities of co-operation*. About 30 participants appreciated the inputs and discussion in this workshop. Daniella Tilbury (Australia) took part in a panel discussion on the UNESCO-IUCN Asia Pacific DESD Indicators Project. For more information, see ENSI newsletter May 2007.

Korea

ENSI and Korea have been sharing a very fruitful collaboration since 2003.

Invited by Prof. Michela Mayer, Prof. Sun-Kyung Lee has also been taking part in the ENSI AGMs and she is also a member of the EU COMENIUS 3 Network project "School Development through Environmental Education" SEED.

In 2004 Dr. Johannes Tschapka, co-ordinator of SEED, and Prof. Mayer visited Korea following the invitation of Prof. Sun Kyung Lee. In the same year Prof. Lee visited Austria with a group of her teacher students.

In January 2007 Ms. Sun Kyung Lee and Mr. Seon Du Choe took part in the SUPPORT-planning meeting (see above) and in the ENSI-AGM.

Based on these experiences a full membership of Korea is being discussed and is very welcomed.

In May 2007 the Korean Ministry of Environment invited the President and Vice-president of ENSI to visit Korea.

ANNEX:

Education for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

Monday, October 9, 2006
Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre
Perth, Western Australia, Australia

Minutes

Chair:	Mr Peter Woods, Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH), Australia
Attendees:	<i>International delegates</i> Dr Derek Elias, UNESCO Bangkok, Thailand Mr Mahesh Pradhan, UNEP Regional Office for Asia- Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand Dr Kanayathu Koshy, PACE – SD, USP, Suva, Fiji Ms Tamara Logan, SPREP, Samoa Ms Prithi Nambiar, Centre for Environmental Education Australia, Australia Ms Madhavi Joshi, Centre for Environmental Education India, India Ms Sun-Kyung Lee, Cheongju National University of Education, Korea Ms Sushma Paul, Honorary Consul of India Ms Birgit Karre, Forum of Environmental Education, Austria <i>ENSI Executive</i> Mr Günther Pfaffenwimmer, ENSI President, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Austria Ms Christine Affolter, EDK, Switzerland Mr Reiner Mathar, State Institute of Teacher Education, Germany Mr Ton Remmers, SLO Netherlands Associate Professor Daniella Tilbury, Australian Research Institute of Education for Sustainability, Australia Mr Cam Mackenzie, Education Queensland, Australia

Apologies:	Institute for Global Environment Strategies, Japan; New Zealand Ministry of Education and New Zealand Ministry of Environment, Indonesian Ministry of Environment, Department of Education, Science and Training, Australia.
Secretariat:	Ms Kim Forbes, Department of the Environment and Heritage, Australia Ms Joan Cornish, Department of the Environment and Heritage, Australia

Agenda Item 1: Introductions and Welcomes

Mr Peter Woods opened the meeting at 9:30 am and welcomed the delegates. He outlined the objective of the meeting, which was to discuss the potential for further collaboration between the Asia-Pacific region and Europe, and within the Asia-Pacific region, in the area of education for sustainable development (ESD).

Mr Woods also described the drivers that had instigated the meeting, including:

- The Environment and School Initiatives (ENSI) proposal for Australia to sponsor an ENSI Asia-Pacific regional secretariat;
- Encouragement of international collaboration as part of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD);
- The global nature of environmental issues and solutions.

The anticipated outcomes of the meeting were discussed and included:

- confirming the value of sharing information and knowledge on ESD; and
- identifying the best mechanism for progressing international cooperation.

Agenda Item 2: Presentations by Participants

Participants gave a short presentation on their organization's ESD activities. A copy of all the presentations and written reports can be viewed in Attachments 2.1 and 2.2.

Discussions generated from the presentations highlighted the importance of infusing ESD into existing networks and programmes. It was also agreed that it was necessary to utilise and build on existing initiatives.

Action 1: UNESCO to distribute information of the ASP-net youth competition and the UNESCO media programme to meeting participants.

Agenda Item 3: Proposal to Establish an Asia-Pacific Education for Sustainable Development Network

Participants explored the value of establishing a new network in the Asia-Pacific region and discussed projects currently being undertaken that allowed for further collaboration between Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, and within the region.

It was noted that:

- ENSI has developed considerable expertise over an extended period of time and there are benefits for the Asia-Pacific region in making use of this expertise;

- the Asia-Pacific region is a diverse region with a number of networks already in place;
- the global nature of the challenges facing the world means that there is intrinsic merit in countries working together to address these problems, specifically in this context by sharing knowledge and experiences in ESD.

Following considerable discussion it was agreed that it would be premature at this point to pursue the establishment of a formal Asia-Pacific network based on the ENSI or another model, but that there were advantages in sharing knowledge and building upon activities through shared learning.

It was noted that this decision would not preclude individual countries establishing a formal connection directly with ENSI, and this was encouraged.

The concept of an ESD information portal was also supported by the participants.

It was agreed that the existence of green schools programmes in many countries provided an opportunity for relationships to be developed between countries and for these green schools programmes to form the basis of broader community sustainability initiatives.

It was also agreed that the participants would begin to build connections between them, and with other countries and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region not represented at the meeting, by sharing information and identifying specific projects on which there might be collaboration.

Action 2: UNESCO to progress work on its ESD portal and include information on the resources available and the work being done by existing Asia-Pacific networks.

Action 3: ENSI to consider ways in which it might promote its activities and expertise to the Asia-Pacific region, with the cooperation of the participants at the meeting.

Action 4: Participants to exchange views on their perception of Asia-Pacific needs in ESD and further consideration given to how these needs might be met.

Action 5: Participants to promote within their own networks the concept of a green schools network among countries in the Asia-Pacific region, also linking to green schools outside the region.

Action 6: ENSI to provide more information on the Comenius 3 projects and identify how Asia-Pacific bodies might be involved.

Action 7: SPREP to circulate information on its Pacific Schools for a Sustainable Future project.

Action 8: DEH/CEE to distribute information on their joint schools project.

Action 9: UNESCO/DEH to liaise on their respective ESD indicators projects.

Action 10: CEE to provide information of their e-newsletter for Asia-Pacific communities, and meeting participants to forward information to CEE to be included in the e-newsletter.

Agenda Item 4: Other Business

Participants agreed that the APEID Conference, being held December 6-8, 2006, in Bangkok, provides an opportunity to continue discussions on cooperation and encourage broader participation and should thus be supported.

Participants acknowledged ENSI's contribution to the meeting and in particular Mr Cam Mackenzie's organisation of the meeting facilities at Piney Lake Environmental Education Centre.

Action 11: Participants to encourage support within their organisations for attendance at the APEID Conference being held in Bangkok in December 2006.

Action 12: Information to be conveyed to other countries within the Asia-Pacific region and networks on the outcomes of the meeting. DEH to discuss with UNESCO how best to achieve this.

Meeting closed at 5 pm of the same day (Monday, October 9, 2006).