

Education for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific

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

Minutes

- Chair:** Mr Peter Woods, Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH), Australia
- Attendees:** *International delegates*
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
ENSI Executive
Mr Güenther Paffenwimmer, 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 9.30am and welcomed delegates. He outlined the objective of the meeting which was to discuss the potential for further collaboration between the Asia-Pacific and Europe, and within the Asia-Pacific, 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); and
- 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 organisation's ESD activities. A copy of all the presentations and written reports can be viewed at 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 and discussed projects currently being undertaken that allowed for further collaboration between Europe and the Asia-Pacific, and within the region.

It was noted that:

- ENSI has developed considerable expertise over an extended period of time and there were benefits for the Asia-Pacific region in making use of this expertise;
- the Asia-Pacific is a diverse region with a number of networks already in existence;

- the global nature of the challenges facing the world meant that there was intrinsic merit in countries working together to address these problems, specifically in this context by sharing knowledge and learnings 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 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 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 organisations 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, linking also 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 during 6-8 December in Bangkok, provides an opportunity to continue discussions on cooperation and encourage broader participation and should 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.

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 5pm.

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