



Regional Workshop on the Thematic Issues in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) under the Mobile Training Team (MTT) Project

Co-organized by
APEID, UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO Jakarta and Thai National Commission for
UNESCO
1-5 June 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

General Information Note

Introduction

The Mobile Training Team (MTT) Project, funded by Japanese Funds-in-Trust, aims at reorienting education to address sustainability in accordance with the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), responding, in particular, to the overwhelming need to initiate the reorientation of curricula for pre-service teacher education programmes and the development of teaching and learning materials for ESD in the Asia-Pacific region. The project intends to facilitate a collaborative effort among teacher education networks in the Asia-Pacific, involving deans/directors of teacher education institutions (TEIs), teacher educators, teachers, in sharing challenges and lessons learned toward incorporating ESD into specific school subjects, namely, science and social studies.

In 2006, the Asia-Pacific Regional Network of TEIs for ESD (ESD-Net) was established. The main goal of the ESD-Net is to coordinate efforts by member TEIs to reorient their curricula to address sustainable development. Through the Project, TEIs from ESD-Net and countries in South, East and Southeast Asia will take part in action research to identify 'good practices' for reorienting pre-service teacher education programmes for ESD, including processes of enhancing curricula, utilizing ESD-related pedagogy and establishing institutional policies for ESD. Project activities consist of a series of capacity building workshops at regional and national level and the collaborative development of curricula materials for ESD teaching and learning in the region.

This project recognizes that the institutionalization of ESD in the Asia-Pacific region requires concrete interventions at the ministerial, teacher education, and school level involving policy makers, teacher educators, and teachers in the development of appropriate curricula and teaching/learning materials for science and social studies subjects.

Objectives

Based on requests from member states in the Asia-Pacific region, there is a need to identify a number of thematic issues in ESD and to examine how these thematic issues can be incorporated into specific schools subjects such as science and social studies. The thematic issues that have been identified include climate change, natural disaster preparedness, environmental protection, human and food security, HIV/AIDS prevention, gender sensitizing, peace education and inter-cultural understanding.

The objectives of the Regional Workshop are:

1. To engage TEIs involving deans/directors of TEIs, teacher educators and teachers in reorienting teacher education programmes to address sustainability, and to expand the ESD-Net network.
2. To expose to teacher educators and teachers the issues, content, skills and values relating to a number of the thematic issues mentioned above.
3. To examine how these issues, knowledge, perspectives, skills and values can be incorporated into the teaching and learning of science and social studies.
4. To promote action research so as to document 'good practices' of curriculum development, pedagogical approaches and institutional policies for ESD.
5. To facilitate collaboration in the development of educational resources on these thematic issues as an integral part of science education and social studies.

Tentative Programme

- Day 1 Overview of MTT Project on "Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability" (*Molly*)
Introduction to the Education for Sustainable Development (*Chan Lean Heng and Robert Steele*)
Reports from member TEIs of ESD-Net on their work on ESD
- Day 2 Natural Disaster Preparedness for participants interested in science (*Lucille Gregorio*)
Inter-cultural Understanding for participants interested in social studies (*Joy de Leo*)
- Day 3 Environmental Protection for participants interested in science (*Robert Steele*)
Gender Sensitizing for participants interested in social studies (*Chan Lean Heng*)
- Day 4 HIV/AIDS Prevention Education for participants interested in science (*Simon Baker*)
Peace Education for participants interested in social studies (*Virginia Cawagas*)
- Day 5 Research on ESD (*Elwyn Thomas*)
Curriculum development on ESD (*Renato Opertti*)
Action Plans by participants

Participants

The participants will be Deans, teacher educators from countries in South, East and Southeast Asia, delegates from Ministries of Education, nominees from teacher education networks, teachers from ASPnet and staff from UNESCO Field Offices. TEIs from ESD-Net will be invited to participate.

Dates and Venue

1-5 June 2009, National Institute for the Development of Teachers and Education Personnel, Ministry of Education, Puttamonton, Raiking, Nakon Prathom, Thailand

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