

**ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE GLOBAL ACTION PROGRAMME
ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD) AND CITIES
28-30 NOVEMBER, 2017
NEW DELHI, INDIA**

**UNESCO JFIT Component 6 / GAP Priority Area on Accelerating Sustainable Solutions at Local
Level**

CONCEPT NOTE

“The kind of change required by sustainability implicates each community, each household, and each individual. Successful solutions to problems at this level of society will need to be rooted in the cultural specificity of the town or region if the people are to be supportive of and involved in such change.” (Source: UNESCO - EPD (1997) Educating for a Sustainable Future, paragraph 114.)

People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership: 5 critical areas of importance for humanity and the planet -- “If we realize our ambitions in these areas and across the full extent of the new Agenda, the lives of millions of human beings will be profoundly altered and our world will be transformed for the better.” (Source: UN (2015) Preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)

1. Introduction

In 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Summit, Rio+10), a proposal for the Decade of ESD was included in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The proposal was adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly at its 57th session in December 2002 and the UN Decade of ESD was launched in 2005 to enhance the role of education in promoting sustainable development. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20) further saw the international community agree to “promote education for sustainable development, and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” (UNESCO Roadmap for implementing the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, 2014).

Both the Muscat Agreement adopted at the Global Education For All Meeting (GEM) in 2014 and the proposal for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the Open Working Group of the UN General Assembly on SDGs (OWG) included ESD in the proposed targets for the post-2015 agenda. ESD has been recognized as an integral element of quality education and a key enabler for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is included in the

SDG 4 on education under target 4.7 and is considered crucial for empowering everyone to make informed decisions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations.

In 2013, the 37th session of the General Conference of UNESCO endorsed the Global Action Programme on ESD as a follow-up to the Decade. Building on the achievements of the Decade, the Global Action Programme aims to generate and scale up concrete actions in ESD at all levels and in all areas of education, and in all sustainable development sectors. Further, one of the five Priority Action Areas of the Global Action Programme focuses on mainstreaming ESD at local level and aims to mobilize local municipalities and communities, ensure they have sufficient capacities in ESD, strengthen learning opportunities for citizens in various settings, and promote collaboration among relevant local stakeholders in different sectors.

When we look at the Asia-Pacific region, the region accounted for almost 40% of the world's economic output and two thirds of annual global growth in 2014. Countries in the region have taken remarkable strides in economic and social development in recent decades and the region has been at the forefront of global poverty reduction. However, there is a need for a balanced and integrated approach towards social, economic, and environmental dimensions of development in the region to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its commitment of 'leaving no one behind'. As per the latest estimates, around 400 million people continue to live in extreme poverty. Further, up to 70% of the population lacks reliable access to good-quality and affordable health-care services and 1.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation. In addition, less than one third of the working-age population are eligible for a pension in many countries of the region.

The growing disparities in income, wealth and inequality of opportunity further disproportionately affect women and vulnerable groups. Despite the region's success of gender parity in primary education enrolment, and near parity at secondary and tertiary levels, the overall labour force participation for women remains low at 48%. The region also accounts for 650 million persons with disabilities, only 30 per cent of all whom have enough income for self-support (Sustainable Social Development in Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP, 2017).

When we look at the environmental challenges, the region recorded almost 60% of total global deaths, 80% of affected people and 45% of total economic damage due to disasters. Over 500 million poor people live in medium or high disaster risk areas currently. The region consumes more than half of the world's natural resources with increasing rates of absolute resource use and increasing resource use per person. This combined with higher temperatures, rise in sea level and extreme weather events related to climate change is also likely to further impact the region, increasing risks to economies, natural and physical assets and compounding development challenges (Report of the Fourth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, 2017).

Against this background, UNESCO as the lead agency for ESD is organizing a regional workshop for Asia-Pacific with a focus on cities as key centres of thought and action when it comes to

education and learning about sustainable development. The regional workshop on ESD and cities in Asia-Pacific will be organized in New Delhi, India from 28-30 November 2017 with an aim to raise awareness on the role of ESD in the addressing socio-cultural, economic and environmental challenges in the Asia Pacific region.

2. Purpose and Objectives of the Meeting

The workshop will contribute to the implementation of the Global Action Programme on ESD with a particular focus on priority action area of 'accelerating sustainable solutions at local level'. It aims to initiate better awareness on ESD at local level and strengthen capacities in ESD in cities and municipalities in the Asia-Pacific region. It will provide a platform for discussion and identification of key areas for regional collaboration and promote partnerships/networking among relevant local stakeholders in different sectors. The workshop will be structured around addressing the 5 Ps (Planet, People, Peace, Prosperity, Partnership) at local level through ESD.

3. Expected Outcomes of the Meeting

The workshop is expected to have the following main outcomes:

- a) It will promote better awareness on integrating ESD at local level, support the implementation of the SDGs through ESD, and initiate the process of building ESD capacities in cities and municipalities;
- b) It will help identify key opportunities for regional cooperation and introduce and promote policy and action plans;
- c) It will facilitate sharing of good practices and policies in urban contexts relevant for the region; and
- d) The workshop will provide an opportunity for relevant local stakeholders to develop new partnerships and initiate/establish regional cities networks.

4. Outcome Document

The workshop will result in an outcome document (report) that will summarize key results of the workshop and consolidate recommendations identified for integrating ESD in cities in the Asia-Pacific region.

5. Follow-up

As follow-up to the regional workshop, focus will be placed on:

- Providing training support to facilitate integrating ESD in urban contexts,
- Promoting signing of the ESD Policy & Action Pact,
- Encouraging participants to engage communities in taking ownership of local ESD scenarios, and mobilizing other stakeholders,
- Creating partnerships of peer-2-peer support,
- Encouraging expansion of multi-stakeholder ESD platforms,
- Reinforcing exchange of good practices.

6. Participating Members

The Asia-Pacific regional workshop will bring together 25 cities/municipalities from 16 countries each represented by 2 persons. Participants will be drawn, as appropriate, from lists provided by different Global Action Programme key partners, based on their own interactions with cities/municipalities in the concerned regions.

5. Venue and Format of the Meeting

A three-day workshop will be held in New Delhi, India from 28–30 November 2017. The workshop will be organized by UNESCO New Delhi and supported by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, India.

The workshop language will be English.

AGENDA	
Day 1: Tuesday, 28 November 2017	
9:00 – 9:30	Registration
9:30 – 10:00	1. Opening Welcome remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), India • Japanese Embassy in India (TBD) • Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, UNESCO New Delhi
10:00 – 10:30	2. Introductory session Objectives of the workshop: importance of ESD and the SDGs for cities Global goals, local actions: Towards lifelong learning for all in 2030 – outcomes of the third International Conference on Learning Cities
10:30 – 11:00	Group photo and tea break
11:00 – 12:30	3. Panel discussion <i>How education can foster sustainable, inclusive and prosperous cities and how cities can contribute to creation of more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous societies through education?</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:15	4. Interactive session: Discuss and exchange on ESD Good Practices and localizing the SDGs in cities
15:15 – 15:30	Tea break
15:30 – 17:00	5. Partnership: Strengthen global solidarity to achieve the SDGs <i>> Ensure adequate financing, policy coherence and multisector capacity</i> Q&A Discussion on regional recommendations
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up Day 1
18:00 –	Reception Dinner
Day 2: Wednesday, 29 November 2017	
9:15 – 9:30	Introduction to Day 2
9:30 – 11:00	6. Planet: Respect and safeguard our common home <i>> Link with education to lessen environmental degradation and the impact of climate change</i> Discussion & Q&A

11:00 – 11:15	Tea break
11:15 – 13:00	7. People: Leave no one behind and attain sustainable livelihood and lifestyles <i>> Include education in plans to help people fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment</i> Q&A Discussion on regional recommendations
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	8. Peace: Live in peaceful, diverse, harmonious societies, free from fear and violence <i>> Maximize education's potential to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies</i> Q&A Discussion on regional recommendations
15:30 – 15:45	Tea break
15:45 – 17:15	9. Prosperity: Transform societies to have sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and sustainable lifestyles <i>> Utilize education to reduce poverty and stimulate green and inclusive economies</i> Q&A Discussion on regional recommendations
17:15 – 17:30	Wrap-up Day 2
Day 3: Thursday, 30 November 2017	
9:00 – 12:00	10. Field visit Participants will be divided into two groups to visit either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TERI Campus; or • Delhi School
12:00 – 13:00	11. Next steps and conclusion (At UNESCO New Delhi) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESD Policy & Action Pact • Regional Recommendations on ESD and Cities • Next steps
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch