

## Action Plan on Schools

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Thematic Group on School discussion was conducted in two sessions. The first session was sharing of experience and best practices of RCEs and partners. The second session tried to find common ground for collaborations to strengthen ESD programs in schools.

Examples of some best practices highlighted during group discussion:

- RCE Bohol is focusing on organic agriculture and rainfed agriculture research to promote ESD in schools and university students.
- WWF Thailand is partner to 3 RCEs in Thailand and conducting ESD program “Green Young Investigator” in schools in 5 provinces in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The program is a 3 year program and is expanding to other provinces after the 3 year program ended.
- RCE Beijing has many programs in schools in collaboration with Ministry of Education (e.g. Geography textbook, teachers training, Olympiad and environmental map competition at national and international level).
- Bangkok Municipality is involved in training students from the public schools in its municipality. Visits to local ecotourism areas are conducted to learn about local wisdom. The Mayor himself is fully committed in promoting ESD in the municipal.
- RCE Trang is actively conducting ESD programs in 7 schools in its municipality. The program is two pronged, increase awareness on ESD and teaching English to the local people.
- RCE South Vietnam is new but has been mainstreaming SD into the university courses.
- RCE Srinagar has just been awarded as a RCE recently, and among the main ESD activities is the “Hand Print” program in collaboration with the Ministry of Forest Environment and Ministry of Education. The program is now implemented in all schools across India.
- RCE Penang is conduction non-formal and informal education and awareness on sustainable lifestyle (recycling and composting), biodiversity (local herbal plants) and disaster management (flood) in schools in Penang and the northern part of Malaysia.

In conclusion, the participants agreed that ESD programs in schools should be action-based activities to ensure transfer of knowledge to the students. Collaborations among RCEs and RCE partners are important in strengthening ESD programs through sharing of experiences, resources and also training modules (best practices). It is also pertinent to acquire the commitment of the Ministry of Education in mainstreaming ESD into the formal curriculum.

### Strategic actions

1. Advocacy to mainstream ESD into the formal education system - Ministry of Education, universities’ top management
2. Collection and sharing of ESD best practices (training materials) among RCEs to strengthen implementation.
3. Student exchange between RCEs (RCE Trang – RCE Penang)