



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

ESD: A Sound Investment to Accelerate African Development

PART I OF A SPECIAL TWO-PART EVENT ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TIME & DATE: 1 June 2013 , 5:30-6:40pm

VENUE: Room D, Annex Hall, Pacifico Yokohama

ORGANIZER: UNESCO

CO-ORGANIZERS: Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, UNU-IAS

BACKGROUND

The fight against poverty continues to be high on the international agenda with more than 1 billion people living in extreme poverty, while human impacts on the environment have reached alarming levels. Looming climate change challenges and accelerating environmental, geopolitical and demographic change—and associated risks and disasters—threaten to reverse development gains in Africa and pose new challenges to African development.

Moving towards sustainable development in Africa cannot be achieved by political agreements, financial incentives or technological solutions alone. Sustainable development requires changes in how we think and act. This is where Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has a crucial role to play. More and more governments have started investing in Education for Sustainable Development as a strategy to build sustainable and resilient societies.

Education for Sustainable Development empowers everyone to make informed decisions for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. In the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”, governments agreed “to promote education for sustainable development and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” (paragraph 233). The UNESCO World Conference on ESD to be held in November 2014 in Japan will showcase the good practices in this field and launch future work in ESD.

This side event will reinforce ESD as a sound investment in education. ESD promotes the quality and relevance of education to impact the lives, livelihoods and dignity of African people today and tomorrow.



PROGRAMME AGENDA

WELCOME

Takayuki Miyashita (Special Advisor to Secretary-General, TICADV Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

OPENING ADDRESS

Shigeharu Kato (Secretary-General, Japanese National Commission for UNESCO)

PANEL DISCUSSION

- Osman Mahomed (Executive Chairman, Maurice Ile Durable, Mauritius)
- Roleen Ellman (Deputy Director, Biodiversity Education and Empowerment Directorate, South African National Biodiversity Institute, South Africa)
- Michaela Reithinger (GIZ, Germany)
- Masahisa Sato (Associate Professor, Tokyo City University, Japan)
- Zinaida Fadeeva (Research Fellow, ESD Programme, UNU-IAS)

CLOSING

Moderator: Alexander Leicht (Chief, Section of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



United Nations
Decade of Education
for Sustainable Development
2005-2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION

UNESCO
Education for Sustainable Development
Email: esddecade@unesco.org
Website: www.unesco.org/education/desd

Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies in Africa through ESD



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-IAS

Institute of Advanced Studies

PART II OF A SPECIAL TWO-PART EVENT ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TIME & DATE: 1 June 2013 , 6:50-8:00pm

VENUE: Room D, Annex Hall, Pacifico Yokohama

ORGANIZER: UNU-IAS

CO-ORGANIZERS: UNESCO, UNICEF, Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs)

SUPPORTED BY: The Ministry of the Environment - Japan

BACKGROUND

African societies are among the most vulnerable in the world to natural disasters caused by climate change-induced hazards such as droughts and floods. Responding to the challenges of climate change in Africa will involve many different sectors and approaches, according to the circumstances of each country. But there is one approach that will prove necessary in every region, and that is in the realm of education. Achieving sustainable development goals and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) requires equipping education systems and infrastructures with capacities to prepare for climate change and disaster risk reduction. It also requires forging strategic partnerships across geographic, knowledge and interdisciplinary boundaries to support learning. The UN University Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) initiative in partnership with other UN agencies actively participating in ESD efforts provide a useful global framework for enhancing collaborative partnerships on education for sustainable development.

At the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), a side event will be held to highlight the role of ESD in building inclusive and resilient societies in Africa through strategic partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration in education and development planning. The side event will be organized by UNU-IAS in close collaboration with other UN agencies, namely UNESCO and UNICEF, as well as ESD experts from African RCEs.

ESD is central to increasing the adaptation capacity of societies and nations in regard to climate change by enabling communities to make informed decisions. African RCEs and their partners are pooling together capacities, expertise, resources and education experiences to support governments in enhancing mitigation and adaptation to climate change. By sharing successful examples of the work being done, this side event will explore the characteristics of learning systems that are required for developing sustainable development and ESD competencies in Africa, as well as actions required for development and support of such systems.



PROGRAMME AGENDA

Programme Chair: Kazuhiko Takemoto (UNU-IAS)

18:50 - 18:55: Opening Remarks
Govindan Parayil (Vice-Rector, UNU)

18:55 - 19:00: Welcome Remarks
Shunsuke Miyazawa (Director, Office of Environmental Education, Environmental Policy Bureau, Ministry of the Environment - Japan)

19:00 - 20:00: Panel and Open Discussion
Moderator: Zinaida Fadeeva (Research Fellow, UNU-IAS)

Alexander Leicht (Chief, Section of ESD, UNESCO)
Stephanie Hodge (Programme Specialist for Cross-Sector Coordination, Education Division, UNICEF)
Ayub Macharia Ndaruga (Director, Environmental Education, Information & Public Participation, National Environment Management Authority, Kenya/ RCE Greater Nairobi)
Victor Tichaona Pesanayi (Programme Manager, SADC Regional Environmental Education Programme/ RCE KwaZulu-Natal)
Abel Barasa Atiti (Research Fellow, UNU-IAS)

20:00: Closing



FOR MORE INFORMATION

ESD Programme, UNU-IAS
Email: rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu

UNU-IAS, 6F, International Organizations Center
Pacifico Yokohama
1-1-1 Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku
Yokohama 220-8502
JAPAN

Tel: +45-221-2300/2301
Fax: +45-221-2302
Website: www.ias.unu.edu/efsd