

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION PROJECT

MISSION AND BACKGROUND

Enhancing peoples' knowledge, catalysing behavioural changes and developing social capacity for improving environmental performance and promoting sustainability

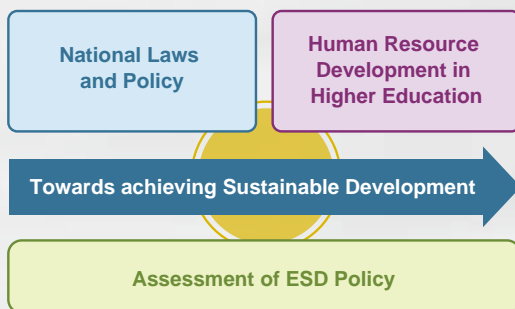
To achieve sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, capacity development and education are two of the key factors as outlined in the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in 2002. In the same year, world-wide consensus to build a sustainable society within a strengthened political framework was also supported at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The Capacity Development and Education Project conducts research which focus on capacity development, ESD and the political scheme in these contexts at regional, national and local levels respectively.



RESEARCH OUTLINE

Education and Capacity Development: Actions and Impacts



The project conducts research with the following three components in these contexts at regional, national and local levels respectively:

- **Political Scheme - National Laws and Policies:** To review the current national laws and policies promoting environmental education/ESD in the Asia-Pacific region.
- **Capacity Development - Human Resource Development in Higher Education:** To propose a sustainable mechanism of capacity development in higher education.
- **Education - Assessment of ESD Programmes:** To develop ESD indicators at local level to provide a clear guidance to ESD decision-makers including policy researchers in relevant sectors, school governors, practitioners in actual fields.

RESEARCH COMPONENTS

☑ National Laws and Policies

This research component aims at reviewing the current national laws and policies promoting environmental education/ESD in the Asia-Pacific region. In conducting this critical review, effective and practical policies at regional level will be recommended to the governors in relevant sectors.



Human Resource Development in Higher Education

One of the main purposes of universities is to educate the future human resources leading a sustainable society. Implicated by this social need, the ultimate goal of this research component is to propose a sustainable mechanism of capacity development in higher education, with the special focus on multi-stakeholder collaboration at national level.



Assessment of ESD Programmes

This research component ultimately aims at developing ESD indicators at local level. Therefore, this research is expected to provide a clear guidance to ESD decision-makers including policy researchers in relevant sectors, school governors, and practitioners in actual fields. This research therefore can be a foundation stage to identify the critical qualitative features of achievements in ESD.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL / REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Vision for Environmental Leadership Initiatives for Asian Sustainability in Higher Education

The IGES Capacity Development and Education project has supported the Japanese Ministry of the Environment's activity in developing a new policy targeted on higher education sector. By facilitating committee member' discussions and reviewing and analysing various opinions and expectations from universities, business and industry sectors, NGOs and local governments, "Vision for Environmental Leadership Initiatives for Asian Sustainability in Higher Education" was finally developed in March 2008 and it was disseminated widely through open symposiums and publications. The Vision shows several important concepts which needed to promote environmental education widely through higher education and to have cooperation between universities, and business and industry sectors for introducing actual experimental opportunities through field works and internships.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & CONTACT

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