GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Background
The United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD: 2005-2014) has been a powerful unifying force of different initiatives which ultimately pursue a more just, sustainable and peaceful society.

Thus far, the idea of ESD has been integrated into various educational curricula both in formal and non-formal education in most countries. Despite the spread of the concept, as ESD is sometimes treated as a new and ambiguous educational concept, ESD educators and facilitators are facing difficulties in promoting it.

Building upon its past experiences in educational cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, ACCU was entrusted by UNESCO, the lead agency of UNDESD, to implement the ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific ESD Programme, supported by UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for ESD. It consists of two sub-programmes: 1) Innovation Programme for ESD (project-based), and 2) COE Programme for ESD (institutional-based). In addition, ACCU organised the International Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Dialogue 2008 together with UNESCO, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO in Tokyo. ACCU has also developed a methodology called ‘HOPE’, framework for evaluation, and conducted a survey on ESD practices in Japanese primary and lower secondary schools.

After marking its first half of UNDESD, this forum aims to provide the opportunity for ESD educators and facilitators from different backgrounds, especially from the Asia and Pacific region, to share their knowledge and discuss key issues taking stock from various international forum including "UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development – Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade" (Bonn, 31 March-2 April, 2009) so that participants can consider how to further promote ESD for the remaining years of the decade, and beyond.

2. Organisers
Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

In cooperation with
UNESCO and Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

With the support of
Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUnivNet), Development Education Association and Resource Centre (DEAR), Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J), Japan Holistic Education Society (JHES), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan NGO Network for Education (JNNE), National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ), Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University (UNU-IAS)

3. Objectives
The overall objective of the forum is
1) To promote the contribution of ESD in achieving quality education in both formal and non-formal education based on good practices
2) To share effective approaches of ESD in development of pedagogical approaches, teaching practice, curricula, learning materials, and evaluation of learning outcomes.

As an output, “Tokyo declaration of ESD educators and facilitators working towards peace and sustainable future” will be adopted at the end of the forum based on the discussion. Moreover, “ESD best practices and issues in Asia-Pacific settings” will be prepared and distributed as a report after the forum.

In addition, the forum will also serve as a platform for dialogues among participants, to strategise their further actions to accelerate the promotion of ESD in the region as well as strengthening their partnerships and to help forge networks of ESD educators and facilitators.

4. Expected Outcomes
1) Participants can take effective approaches of ESD in developing pedagogical approaches, teaching practice, curricula, learning materials, and evaluation of learning outcomes by their own context
2) Participants will reflect the idea of “Tokyo declaration of ESD educators and facilitators working towards peace and sustainable future” in promoting ESD

5. Date and Venue
Saturday, 22 – Monday, 24 August, 2009
Keio Plaza Hotel, Tokyo, Japan

6. Participants
1) Around 100 ESD educators and facilitators from formal and non-formal education sectors
2) Policy Makers
3) Researchers
4) Around 20 invited international speakers/facilitators/moderators including representatives of partner organisations of the Innovation and COE programmes under ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific ESD Project

7. Provisional Programme

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<td>&quot;Evaluation of ESD Practices&quot;</td>
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<td>2) Evaluation of ESD Practices</td>
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8. Financial Arrangements
ACCU will provide each of the international participants with a round-trip air ticket (economy class) between the nearest international airport to his/her residence and Tokyo with the most reasonable routing and accommodation fee.

9. Working Language
The working language of the forum will be English and Japanese. Simultaneous translation will be provided in all sessions.

10. Accommodation
ACCU has made a reservation for a single room including breakfast for each invited foreign participant during the period indicated below. Participants are requested to stay at this accommodation during the Programme.

   The night of 21 to 25 August (4 nights in Tokyo, Japan)  
   Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo  
   2-2-1, Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku-Ku, Tokyo, 160-8330 Japan  
   Tel: +81-3-3344-0111  
   Fax: +81-3-3345-8269  
   http://www.keioplaza.com/index.html

11. Correspondence
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For other matters, please contact

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