

ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific ESD Programme under the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust for the Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development



## 2006-2010 ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific COE Programme for ESD

### PROSPECTUS

#### 1. BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNDESD, 2005-2014) - THE GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has its roots in the history of two distinct areas of core interest for the United Nations: (1) quality basic education; and (2) sustainable development. On these critical foundations the establishment of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) was proposed and endorsed at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, and in December of the same year, adopted by the UN General Assembly with UNESCO designated as the lead agency.

According to the UNDESD International Implementation Scheme (UNESCO, 2005), it is noted that the overall goal of the Decade is:

*“...to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning. This education effort will encourage change in behaviour that will create a more sustainable future in terms of environmental integrity, economic viability, and a just society for present and future generations”.*

(UNESCO: 2005, UNDESD International Implementation Scheme)

Further, the objectives of the UNDESD are to (1) facilitate networking, linkages, exchange and interaction among stakeholders in ESD; (2) foster an increased quality of teaching and learning in education for sustainable development; (3) help countries make progress towards, and attain, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through ESD efforts; and to (4) provide countries with new opportunities to incorporate ESD into education reform efforts.

#### 2. BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAMME

The Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) is a non-profit organisation which works, in line with the principles of UNESCO, for the promotion of mutual understanding and cultural cooperation among the peoples of the Asia-Pacific Region.

ACCU was established in 1971 in Tokyo, Japan, through joint efforts of both public and private sectors within the country. ACCU has since been implementing various Asia-Pacific Regional cooperative programmes in the fields of culture, education and personnel exchange in close collaboration with UNESCO and its Member States. In retrospect, almost all the

activities of ACCU since its foundation have been geared towards the realization of a sustainable future, through such areas as contribution to mutual understanding of different cultures, meeting the needs for materials development and capacity building for education, especially for the marginalized. In the field of educational cooperation, special focus has been placed on literacy, Non-Formal Education (NFE) and environmental education for the contribution to Education for All (EFA).

In the year of 2005, with the launch of the UNDESD, ACCU was entrusted by UNESCO to implement an ESD-related Programme in Asia and the Pacific Region entitled “*ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific ESD Programme under UNESCO/Japan Fund-in-Trust for the Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development*” (hereinafter referred to as “ACCU-UNESCO ESD Programme”).

**The ACCU-UNESCO COE Programme for ESD** is to be implemented, within the framework of the ACCU-UNESCO ESD Programme in close co-operation with UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau of Education in Bangkok, Thailand (UNESCO Bangkok).

For the purpose of this Programme, a COE (Centre of Excellence) is defined as an organization which works for the promotion of ESD.

The Programme will be built on the four major thrusts of ESD, underscored by the International Implementation Scheme: (1) improving access to quality basic education, (2) reorienting existing education programmes, (3) developing public understanding and awareness, and (4) providing training.

### **3. OVERALL OBJECTIVE**

The overall objective of the Programme is to support existing institutions working in related fields of ESD, with a sound Non-Formal Education (NFE) approach, in order to foster and promote them as good examples for ESD in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Further, the Programme aims to accumulate and share the experiences of various institutions working for the principles of sustainability, thus contributing to the achievement of the goals of UNDESD.

### **4. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Programme are to:

- (1) contribute to orient/re-orient implementation mechanisms for the promotion of ESD through the Non-Formal Education (NFE) approach,
- (2) contribute to the development of quality education through institutional capacity building, institutional arrangements and project implementation,
- (3) contribute to strengthening institutional ESD networks at national, sub-regional and the Asia-Pacific Regional level, and
- (4) accumulate, share and disseminate the experience of COE to further strengthen the Regional efforts for ESD.

### **5. PROGRAMME AREAS**

The specific project(s) are to be implemented by each COE in close coordination /co-operation with ACCU.

It is expected that the COE, which may be governmental and non-governmental, at least executes a national level guiding role, and preferably in neighbouring countries (at sub-regional level) as well, in respective fields of expertise in thematic areas of ESD.

The COE will be encouraged to provide the Implementing Organizations of the ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific Innovation Programme for ESD with technical assistance, which is elaborated in the complementary Prospectus of the ACCU-UNESCO ESD Programme.

A special focus of the projects implemented by each COE is expected to be given to those who are marginalized: illiterate/semi-illiterate population, girls and women, out-of-school children, people with disabilities, and others with special needs, with Non-Formal Education (NFE) approach.

## **6. CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATE ORGANIZATIONS/INSTITUTIONS**

Organisations/institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, that meet the following criteria will be considered as prospective COE. They must:

- (1) have proven high effectiveness and social impact in terms of project implementation and management in ESD-related activities for a minimum of ten years,
  - (2) have experience and expertise in ESD-related activities, most preferably with Non-Formal Education (NFE) approach,
  - (3) have a functioning national and, preferably, sub-regional, Asia-Pacific Regional and international network to multiply the effects of being a COE under this Programme,
  - (4) have a willingness and capability, with appropriate institutional support system, to contribute to ESD, either as a whole or to one or more thematic areas of ESD by being a COE, and continue to do so after the project term expires,
  - (5) have sufficient English capability in communication, documentation and reporting,
- and
- (6) be physically located in one of the following countries:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

## **7. SELECTION OF COE**

- (1) ACCU will request relevant organizations/institutions and individuals, including National Commissions for UNESCO, UNESCO Offices, research institutions, experts, for information on candidate organizations/institutions (including self-recommendation). The information has to be provided to ACCU **no later than Monday 8 May 2006**.
- (2) Pre-application forms will be sent to ACCU from those recommended organizations/

institutions.

- (3) Based on assessment of ACCU and Selection Committee, a limited number of Candidate COE will be invited to make applications to ACCU with a COE project proposal.
- (4) In addition to evaluations of the application and COE project proposals, mission-based interviews, discussions and research will be conducted by the Selection Committee Members, ACCU and UNESCO.
- (5) Five COE will be selected by the Selection Committee based on the result of the above (4). The selection of COE will be made in due consideration of thematic area, working mechanism, and geographical balance of the five COE, with the endorsement of the Steering Committee.
- (6) The selection process will be due in around September 2006 and the COE will start implementing the project.

## 8. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

ACCU shall provide each COE with financial assistance toward meeting the expenses for implementation of the project(s). The amount of the fund is no more than 32,000 USD per COE per project year for the duration of five years. The COE activities will be monitored and reviewed on a yearly basis for continuation of the COE activities.

The following expenses are to be covered with the fund provided by ACCU:

- Workshops/training sessions/meetings expenses
- Daily Subsistence allowance (DSA) of workshop/meeting participants, facilitators/lectures and resource persons
- Remuneration for lecturers and resource persons
- Printing/production cost
- Purchase of teaching/learning materials
- Rental costs
- Domestic travel cost to attend workshops/training sessions/meetings
- International travel cost for resource persons from outside of the country
- Administrative support costs

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

All inquiries and correspondence concerning the Programme should be addressed to:

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For downloadable Prospectus and related information