



Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES)

Newsletter, Issue No. 7

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www.unep.org/publications



I. Global Updates:

Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) Kenya 2014 – 28 January to 14 February 2014

Mahesh Pradhan, Chief, Environmental Education and Training Unit, UNEP opened the training and highlighted UNEP's role in promoting Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Various high level speakers from the MyClimate organization, International Water Association, the Aga Khan University, the World Bank, among others, made presentations centering on the themes of Education, Sustainable Community Development, Water & Sanitation, Nature conservation and Land Use, among others.

II. Regional updates

Africa:

McGill University - CFSIA Program visit, UNEP Complex, 16 February 2014

On 16 February 2014, a group of 26 undergraduate students from McGill University Canadian Field Studies in Africa Program (CFSIA) visited UNEP headquarters. CFSIA is a 10-week long interdisciplinary program that brings together students from both natural and social sciences. The program examines both social change and development, and environmental conservation and management, with a specific focus on Eastern Africa. Colleagues from DEPI, DEWA and UNDP gave several presentations to the students on climate change, environmental conservation and challenges in Africa.

Asia:

Training of Trainers Workshop on Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability – 5 to 6 January 2014

UNEP had earlier signed a MoU to mainstream environment and sustainability in the Institute of Management for Government's (IMG) 1,200 civil service training programmes bringing together over 25,000 participants annually. This initial Training of Trainers' workshop was held to develop and finalize a Training Manual on mainstreaming environment and sustainability in IMG's courses, while also developing a core group of trainers at IMG. UNEP-EETU delivered the keynote address at the International Meet on Higher Education, focusing on the GUPES partnership. The meeting attracted Universities from across the globe, under the theme of cross-border and transnational education, where sustainability education has been identified as one of the emerging priorities.



Europe:

Copernicus Alliance Conference – 8 to 12 January 2014

The Copernicus Alliance Conference on Leadership in a Changing World – Higher Education, Sustainability, and the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development, organized under the Rio+20 Treaty on Higher Education, was held in Cheltenham, London in January 2014. UNEP-EETU was invited to deliver the opening Keynote Address, together with UNESCO colleagues, and provide an update on the GUPES partnership. The meet provided a good opportunity to engage European Universities and the Copernicus Alliance.

Latin America:

Advisory Board Meeting of the Inter-University Centre for Natural and Development (CNRD) – 20 to 25 November 2013

CNRD is an inter-university network comprising of 10 Universities, with the Cologne University of Applied Sciences (CUAS) serving as its Secretariat. Based on a previous MoU signed between CUAS and UNEP, the EETU has been involved in the development of a Masters curriculum on Disasters Risk Reduction. UNEP-EETU participated in the Advisory Board of CNRD, where discussions focused on developing an online Massive Online Open Course as follow-up to the Masters Module. UNEP-EETU also participated in the opening day of the 1st Conference on Natural Resources and Development, held in conjunction with the Advisory Board Meeting.

Latin American Forum on Universities and Sustainability – 9 to 11 December 2013

Launched in December 2012 in partnership with ARIUSA, the Alliance of Ibero-american Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment, GUPES Latin America has quickly become a key actor for environmental education in the region. Organized by ARIUSA and Valparaíso University, in collaboration with UNEP, the Latin American Forum on Universities and Sustainability seeks to establish the basis for better collaboration between ministries of the environment and universities, as well as to develop specific actions for cooperation among universities. S/m will represent EETU and give a keynote address at the Forum. S/m will also participate on the different discussions on the integration of environmental policies into higher education, and the ongoing project to develop a set of sustainability indicators for universities in the region. S/m will participate as well on the planning of activities for GUPES Latin America in the next coming year.



North America:

Annual Conference of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) – Baltimore, USA, 9 to 12 October 2013

NAAEE is the largest and most established environmental education association in North America, with a history of 41 years. UNEP-EETU was invited to deliver a keynote address focusing on international partnerships as well as the GUPES initiative, together with the Chair of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC). The annual forum provided an excellent opportunity to develop partnerships and joint initiatives with North American environmental educators, as well as disseminate information on UNEP's EE initiatives.

III. Upcoming Events

- Wangari Maathai Day and World Wildlife Day celebrations, UNEP Hdqs., 3 March 2014

IV. Useful UNEP Resources

Useful UNEP reports, references and new publications can be found at the following links:

- www.unep.org/publications
- www.unep.org/training
- Greening Universities Toolkit
http://www.unep.org/Training/docs/Greening_University_Toolkit.pdf

For more information and/or to submit articles/information, please contact:

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