

# GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES PARTNERSHIP ON ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

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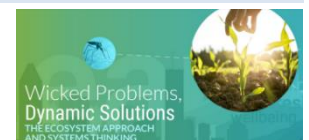
## UNEA2: Governments Agree to 25 Landmark Resolutions to Drive Sustainability Agenda and Paris Climate Agreement, 19 – 27 May 2016

The world's environment ministers, recently gathered at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in Nairobi, Kenya and passed 25 far reaching decisions on issues such as marine litter, the illegal trade in wildlife, air pollution, environmental education, chemicals and waste, and sustainable consumption and production - which are an integral part of the global action needed to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement.



**UNEA2 Green Room Event: Sustainability Innovations and Solutions: Environmental Education for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, 26 May, 2016. UNEP's Environmental Education and Training Unit held a green room event that built awareness, interest and support for UNEP's role in building capacity for Environmental Education, a key recipe to the achievement of a sustainable future, as articulated by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event appreciated the [UNEA2/3 Resolution](#): *"Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training"*. The green room event recognised UNEP's **innovative approaches for disseminating knowledge** including massive open online courses (MOOCs); emphasized the **need for increased environmental education partnerships and networks** through the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES), increased South-South and South-North partnerships amongst higher education institutions, and enabling conditions for academic exchanges and knowledge sharing; and the **need for Sustainability assessments** that take into consideration best indicators and methodologies.

The green room attended by the UNEA-1 President and GUPES Chair culminated with the call of registration for UNEP's new MOOC: *Wicked Problems, Dynamic Solutions: The Ecosystem Approach and Systems Thinking*: <http://www.environmentacademy.org/>, designed to develop capacity on how ecosystems function and identify potential solutions to a myriad of environmental problems. **Summary**: [UNEA2 Green Room 22 - Sustainability Innovations and Solutions Summary](#)



UNEA-2 sessions were attended by UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson; the President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta; UN Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos; and Vice-President of Iran and Minister of Environment Masoumeh Ebtekar. The sessions were presided over by Costa Rica's Minister of Environment Edgar Gutiérrez, who took over from Oyun Sanjaasuren, former Minister of Environment and Green Development for Mongolia.

**About UNEA:** UNEA is the world's most authoritative decision-making body on the environment, tasked with tackling some of the most critical issues of our time. The Assembly means that the environment is now considered amongst the world's key concerns alongside other major global issues such as peace, security, finance and health.

### More info:

- [UNEA 2 Press Release](#)
- [UNEA 2 Website](#)
- List of UNEA 2 Resolutions - <http://web.unep.org/unea/list-resolutions-adopted-unea-2>

### UNEP Executive Director, Kenyan Foreign Secretary Engage Students, Civil Society ahead of UN Environment Assembly, 9 May, 2016.

Strathmore Business School's Green Building hosted a public lecture on "*Green Pathways towards a Sustainable Future*". Graced by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director Achim Steiner, who delivered a lecture, entitled "**Green Pathways to a Sustainable Future**". The lecture highlighted the role of the upcoming UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. Students, scholars and civil society representatives assembled at Strathmore Business School also heard an address and introduction by Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Amina Mohamed, who highlighted the benefits that UNEA's decisions can bring for Kenya and for the world. Website: [Public Lecture](#).



### Launch of the Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP) Africa, 27 May 2016

The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies recently hosted the launch of Global Environmental Education Partnership Africa (GEEP) event on. The launch underscored the Institute's credentials as a global front-runner in environmental education. This prestigious event was meant to create a vibrant learning network designed to build capacity in member countries and hence strengthening, sustaining, and institutionalizing environmental education. It brought together leaders from various countries around the world to leverage the power of environmental education for a healthier environment for all. Website: [Launch of GEEP Africa](#)



### International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability, 3 – 5 June 2016

Over 300 students from 30 countries recently convened at the 129 Hall of Tongji for the "*Sustainable Consumption and Production*" Summit during the International Student Conference on Environment and Sustainability 2016. The summit which corresponded with the World Environment Day offered a platform that promoted innovative thinking and best practices on the topics of energy transition and climate change, ecosystem and wildlife, eco-city and green lifestyle. This Conference was co-hosted by Tongji University, the United Nations Environment Programme, Xinhua News Agency and Beijing Environment Foundation for Young Talents from June 3rd to June 8th to celebrate World Environment Day. More info: [Website](#)



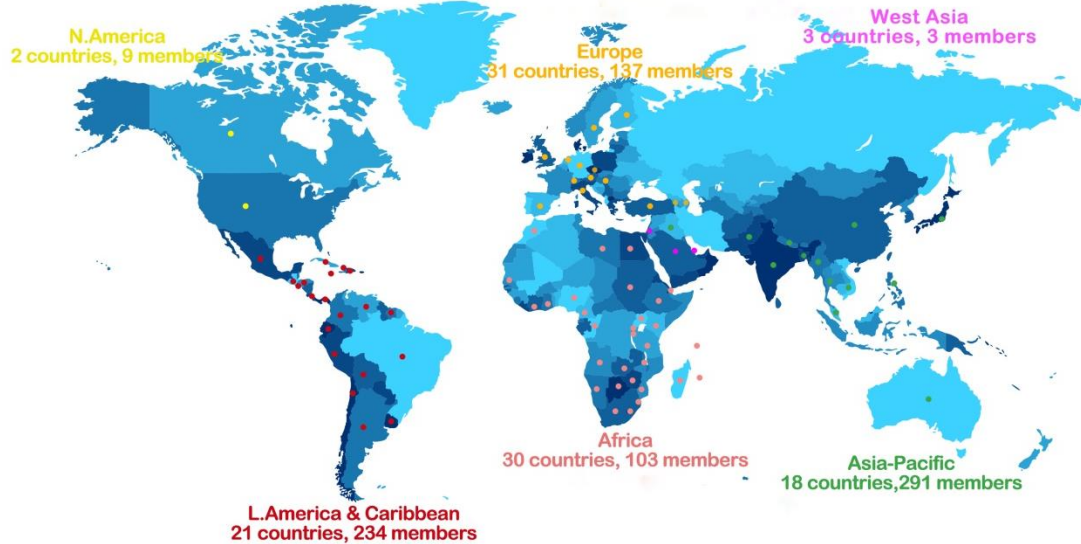
The Student Conference concluded with a Global Youth Tongji Declaration, which called for Sustainable Consumption and Production as a guiding principle for daily lives, and youth readiness to be the example and commit to a life of environmental protection and sustainable development. More info: [link](#).

### Announcement of the GUPES Green Gown Awards 2016 Finalists

14 finalists have been shortlisted for the inaugural GUPES Green Gown Awards. The GUPES Green Gown Awards are a joint initiative supported by the [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#) and the [Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges \(EAUC\)](#) that seeks to expand the Green Gown Awards further across the globe through the [Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability \(GUPES\)](#) network of over 800 universities and colleges, with an emphasis on profiling and sharing best sustainability initiatives in Higher Education Institutions. The winners will be announced at the GUPES Green Gown Awards Ceremony at MIT, Boston on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Website: [GUPES Green Gown Awards 2016](#)







## PRESENT REGIONAL GUPES STATISTICS – [Download Membership List](#)





### Upcoming Events

- World Youth Skills Day**, 15 July 2016. **Theme:** Skills Development to Improve Youth Employment. Young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and continuously exposed to lower quality of jobs, greater labor market inequalities, and longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions. In addition, women are more likely to be underemployed and under-paid, and to undertake part-time jobs or work under temporary contracts. That is why education and training are key determinants of success in the labor market. The event will also be streamed LIVE on UN Web TV, starting at 10:00 a.m. EDT: <http://webtv.un.org/>.
- Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa Conference**, 22 - 26, August, Nairobi, Kenya. The Society for the Advancement of Science in Africa (SASA) will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> International Annual Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. It will draw scientists, academic institutions, research institutions, government agencies, philanthropists and funding agencies dedicated to building an African scientific knowledge base and advancing the frontiers of science in Africa. Website: [SASA Science Conference 2016](#)
- 6<sup>th</sup> African Regional Centre of Expertise Conference**, 24 - 25 August, Nairobi, Kenya. **Theme:** “Developing Capacities of African RCEs for the implementation of the Global Action Programme on ESD and the achievement of the SDGs”. The 6<sup>th</sup> African RCE Conference schedule to be held in Kenyatta University, Nairobi, will be hosted by RCE Greater Nairobi and the National Environment Management Authority of Kenya (NEMA) in collaboration with other Kenyan RCEs. It will focus on capacity building within African RCEs in relation to these international frameworks. A youth conference will also be held parallel. Website: [6<sup>th</sup> African RCE Conference](#)
- TICAD VI Side Event: “Strengthening the role of African RCEs to deliver the SDGs through ESD”**, 10:00am - 12:00pm, Friday 26 August, 2016, Nairobi, Kenya. UNU-IAS/ Global RCE Service Centre will organize a side event on Strengthening the Role of African Regional Centres of Expertise to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals in Nairobi, Kenya prior to the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI (link is external)). The event is jointly organized by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), RCE Greater Nairobi and the African Regional Centres of Expertise network. Website: [TIVAD VI](#).
- National Conference on Education for Sustainability**, 30 – 31 August 2016, Seychelles. This conference is an initiative of the Environmental Education Association of Seychelles; a professional body for environmental educators established in 2013 to maximize the potential role environmental education can play to bring about a peaceful and sustainable future for Seychelles and the planet. The conference has been organised in collaboration with partners from the Ministry of Education, the media, the MEECC and with funding support from the GEF Small Grants Programme. More info: Email [brenda\\_andimignon@hotmail.com](mailto:brenda_andimignon@hotmail.com)



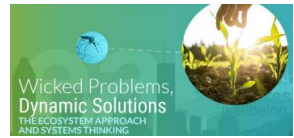


- **3<sup>rd</sup> World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities (WSSD-U-2016)**, 14 - 16 September 2016, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA. **Theme:** “Designing Tomorrow’s Campus: Resiliency, Vulnerability, and Adaptation”. Website: [WSSD-U-2016](http://www.wssd-u-2016.org).
- **International Conference on ESD for Transforming Education for Education for Children and Youth**, 16 – 18 September 2016, Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, India. The proposed International Conference will discuss the outcomes of Goal 4 from the ESDG Conference specifically focusing on good practice examples highlighting innovative strategies and methodologies in pedagogy and curriculum in both formal and non-formal settings to engage children and youth. The deliberations from this conference will further enhance cooperation and action around Goal 4.7. Website: <http://ceeindia.org/esdconf/>

- **34<sup>th</sup> Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA)**, 3 – 6 October 2016, Gauteng, South Africa. **Theme:** “Environment and Sustainability Education and Training to meet the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals”. The conference is a very important annual event for environmental learning and education for sustainable development in Southern Africa. It presents an ideal opportunity for all practitioners of environmental education to showcase and open up for discussion their projects, programmes and practices with regional and international partners, and highlight the importance of sustained support for this work to institutions and agencies in South Africa, including local, provincial and national government. Website: [EEASA Conference2016](http://eeasa.org.za/EEASA_Conference2016)

- **Habitat III**, 17 – 20 October 2016, Quito, Ecuador. The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development will reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization, to focus on the implementation of a [New Urban Agenda](http://www.unhabitat.org/new-urban-agenda), building on the [Habitat Agenda of Istanbul](http://www.unhabitat.org/habitat-agenda-istanbul) in 1996. Website: [Habitat 3](http://www.unhabitat.org/habitat-3).
- **Sustainable Development Through Multilingual Education**, 19 – 21 October 2016. The Asia Pacific Multilingual Education Working Group (MLE WG) will be organizing the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Language and Education in October. During the event participants will take stock of recent developments in MLE policies and practices in the Asia-Pacific region, with a special focus on multilingual education in early childhood and primary education; look at innovative pedagogies in the training of MLE teachers; and examine challenges and lesson learned from the EFA experience and give opportunities for forward-looking discussions. Website: [Multi-Lingual conf.](http://www.mleconf.org)

- **18<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) Conference**, 26-28 October 2016, Bangkok, Thailand. The UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok, Thailand, is organizing the 18th UNESCO-APEID International Conference, In Pursuit of Quality Education: The Past, Present and Future to facilitate leading-edge discussions about the quality of education, and to identify gaps where more research and efforts are needed to achieve inclusive and quality education by 2030. Website: [APEID International Conference 2016](http://www.unesco.org/education/apecid)

- **10<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference**, 23 - 25 November 2016, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Mark your calendar for the 10<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference hosted with RCE Yogyakarta. Website: [10<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference](http://www.rce-yogyakarta.org).

## Youth

- **Global Youth Video Competition on Climate Change.** *Win a Trip to COP22!* Young people (18 – 30) are invited to tell the world how they are shaping a more sustainable future by entering the second annual [Global Youth Video Competition on Climate Change](http://www.tvbiomovies.org).
 
- **The [Film4Climate](http://www.film4climate.org) Global Video Competition** invites filmmakers between the ages of 14-35 years old from all over the world to showcase their talents and create a Public Service Advertisement (PSA) (less than 1 min) or a Short Film (1-5 minutes) about climate action. The videos should show a personal climate change narrative: What does climate change mean to you? What are you doing to solve the climate challenge? What is your climate message to the world?
 

## Online Environmental Training Opportunities

- E-WASTE CHALLENGE.** What happens to your mobile phone, your refrigerator, your computer, or your old batteries once you've finished with them? Every year we are throwing away more and more. At current rates, an estimated 50 million metric tonnes of e-waste will be generated worldwide in 2018. The MOOC will offer insight on how you and I can manage our e-waste. Website: <http://learning.climate-kic.org/courses/e-waste-mooc>.
 
- Food and Our Future: Sustainable Food Systems in Southeast Asia.** Explore how to make food systems more sustainable and resource-smart for our environment, health and food security. Registration: [Food Systems Southeast Asia](#). Starts: 8 August 2016
 
- Wicked Problems, Dynamic Solutions: The Ecosystem Approach and Systems Thinking.** The MOOC is designed to develop capacity on how ecosystems function and identify potential solutions to a myriad of environmental problems. <http://www.environmentacademy.org/>. Starts: 12 September 2016
 
- Executive Summer School - UNIGE-UNEP Global Environmental Policy Programme Summary, 28 August - 7 September 2016,** Geneva. Organised in partnership with UNEP, the Executive Summer School (ESS) on Global Environmental Policy will provide professionals with a broad training programme in order to bridge the common gap between scientific knowledge and professional expertise related to core environmental themes. The modules provide an intensive immersion in the latest political and scientific issues on the global environmental agenda. They link scientific knowledge, political sensitivity and practical negotiation techniques relevant to the development and implementation of both legal and voluntary international agreements. Website: [GEPP Executive Summer School](#)
- 68<sup>th</sup> UNEP/UNESCO/BMUB International Short Course on Integrated Water Resource Management and Health,** 31 August - 23 September 2016, TU Dresden, Germany. This course is especially designed to meet the professional demand of experts and decision makers working in environment protection with special focus on safeguarding water resources. Website: [SC68](#)
- Youth Encounter on Sustainability YES Costa Rica 2016, 10 – 22 September 2016,** San José and Talamanca, Costa Rica. Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) is the impact lab for agents of sustainable change. Set in a truly diverse environment, YES offers a unique learning experience for students and young professionals from all fields and countries. Website: [YES Costa Rica 2016](#).
- 7<sup>th</sup> Central Asian Leadership Program for Sustainable Development, 19 – 30 September 2016,** San José and Talamanca, Costa Rica. Central Asian Leadership Program for Sustainable Development (CALP) is the flagship initiative of the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), and a unique example of multi-partner and cross-sectoral project in the region of Central Asia and Afghanistan, successfully operating since 2010 to the present time, with the support of UNEP, CAREC, the Government of Norway and the Program Office of the OSCE in Astana. Target group: Decision-makers of Central Asia. Website: [7th CALPESD 2016](#)
- 69<sup>th</sup> UNEP/UNESCO/BMUB International Short Course on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency,** 5 October - 2 November 2016, TU Dresden, Germany. The course will be most beneficial to specialists at upper managerial level with a profound professional experience in energy management, urban infrastructure development, public utilities as well as the power industry. Website: [SC69](#)
- 70<sup>th</sup> UNEP/UNESCO/BMUB International Short Course on Sustainable Cities,** 17 November - 13 December 2016, TU Dresden, Germany. This course is designed mainly for managers and decision-makers with pertinent professional experience in urban land use management and planning. Website: [SC70](#)
- 40<sup>th</sup> UNEP/UNESCO/BMUB International Postgraduate Course on Environmental Management for Developing and Emerging Countries (EM40),** 10 January - 11 July 2017, TU Dresden, Germany. This course is particularly designed for decision-makers of public administration both at national and local level requiring an overall-competence in environmental matters. Website: [EM40](#)

## Useful UNEP Resources, Reports, References and New Publications

- UNEP EETU Website: <http://unep.org/training>
- UNEP Training Opportunities: [http://unep.org/training/news\\_events/eet\\_related.asp](http://unep.org/training/news_events/eet_related.asp)
- Greening Universities Toolkit: [http://unep.org/Training/docs/Greening\\_University\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://unep.org/Training/docs/Greening_University_Toolkit.pdf)
- Forests in a Changing Climate: A Sourcebook for Integrating REDD+ into Academic Programmes: [http://unep.org/Training/docs/Forest in a Changing Climate.pdf](http://unep.org/Training/docs/Forest_in_a_Changing_Climate.pdf)
- Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities Stories of Change 2015 [http://unep.org/Training/docs/Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities Stories of Change 2015.pdf](http://unep.org/Training/docs/Mainstreaming_Environment_and_Sustainability_in_African_Universities_Stories_of_Change_2015.pdf)
- UNEP Publications: [www.unep.org/publications](http://www.unep.org/publications)

*Thank you for taking your time to read the GUPES e-newsletter. If you wish to contribute to the quarterly GUPES bulletin or have news, upcoming events, or publications, you would like to share, please use this [GUPES Articles Submission Form](#). You can email it to the GUPES Centre: [env.edu@unep.org](mailto:env.edu@unep.org). Submissions must be made by the 15th of every month. In addition, we encourage you to continue using the GUPES portal to exchange ideas, share expertise and resources and deliberate emerging sustainability issues towards EE implementation at a global level.*

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

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