

Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES)

Newsletter, January 2013

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I. Global Updates:

27th Session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

The first universal session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 18-22 February 2013. The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) constitutes the ministerial-level global environmental forum in which participants gather to review important and emerging policy issues in the field of the environment. Among other matters, this first-ever universal session of the UNEP GC/GMEF is expected to discuss: the new Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Executive Director's report on financing options for chemicals and wastes; enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster; sustainable consumption and production; and justice, governance and law for environmental sustainability.

GUPES Green Room Event

The GUPES Green Room event is being organized by EETU and is scheduled for 20 February 2013, on the margins of the next session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which is scheduled for February 2013 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

II. Regional updates

Africa

Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability into Ethiopian Universities (MESE) Workshop

The MESA Reflection and Planning workshop was held from 19-20 Nov 2012 and it brought together over 30 participants from universities across Africa. It was also attended by participants drawn from Non-Governmental Organizations that have been working with universities in Africa. The MESE Planning Workshop was attended by over 50 participants from universities in Ethiopia, of which 4 were University Presidents, 3 were Deputy University Presidents, and others were Directors and Senior Managers of Environment and Sustainability institutes in their respective Universities. Achievements/outcomes, challenges and lessons learned from the first 2 phases of MESA were shared and some critical issues were flagged out for consideration in the MESA strategy for phase 3 (2013 – 2018).

Asia

Tongji Board Meeting report

On December 14, 2012, the 9th board meeting of UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) was held in Beijing. Members of the Board, Prof. WANG Guangtao, Director of Environment and Resource Conservation Committee of NPCC and Chairman of IESD Board, Prof. WAN Gang, Vice Chairman of CPPCC, Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology of China (MoST), Mr. Achim Steiner, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. ZHENG Guoguang, Administrator of China Meteorological Administration (CMA), Prof. WU Qidi, Member of Standing Committee, National People's Congress of China, Mr. MENG Wei, President of Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Science, Mr. Johannes M. Dietsch, President of Bayer Group, Greater China, Prof. XU Jianmin, China's National Satellite Meteorological Center, Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific of UNEP, Prof. PEI Gang, President of Tongji University, Prof. WU Jiang, Vice President of Tongji University and Dean of IESD, Prof. DAI Xiaohu, Dean of College of Environmental Science and Engineering, Prof. LI Fengting, Deputy Dean of IESD and Deputy Dean of College of Environmental Science and Engineering of Tongji University attended the meeting.

UNEP South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism

UNEP's South-South Cooperation Exchange Mechanism (<http://www.unep.org/south-south-cooperation>) is as an interactive online platform that promotes the role of South-South Cooperation in UNEP's Programme of Work and facilitates the identification, development, and promotion of opportunities for collaboration amongst countries in the South. The Exchange Mechanism provides case studies and examples of best practices and lessons on a wide range of environmental and sustainable development topics, including water, energy, agriculture, biodiversity, waste management and many others. It is also a useful resource for news, events, and online discussion concerning South-South Cooperation. Case materials are sourced from UN organizations, governments, academic research, civil society groups, online databases, and fieldwork.

GUPES member universities are warmly welcome to join the Exchange Mechanism and to share your knowledge, information and expertise through case studies, discussion forums and other formats. The contact person for this is Ms. Rui Zhang E-mail: Rui.Zhang@unep.org

Latin America & Caribbean

GUPES Launch for the LAC region

The GUPES Launch for Latin America region was held in Bogota, Colombia from 5 – 7 December 2012. This was done in partnership with Alliance of Latin American Universities Network for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA) in partnership with the Environment Training Network (ETN) and UNEP ROLAC.

III. UNEP Reports

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IV. Upcoming Events/Announcements

MESA National Seminar organized at the University of Zambia

Under EETU's networking pillar, the Zambia University will be organizing the first National MESA Seminar in Lusaka from 23 – 25 February 2013. This seeks to have active discussions with the new SAARC University on introducing sustainability courses in their new curriculum, as well as development of a pilot course on sustainability for Indian Administrative College. EETU will also further explore further collaboration for subsequent Leadership Programmes with Asian Development Bank and TERI University in India.

Sustainability Communities Course, in partnership with Aalto University (Finland), UNHABITAT and UONGOZI Institute in Tanzania

This will be held in Dar es salaam, Tanzania from 12 to 22 March 2013. Under EETU's Training Pillar, the partnership with Aalto University has been ongoing for several years. This training course is funded by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and targets for mid-career professionals primarily from East Africa. The workshop is intended for experienced individuals from academia, local or central government, business life and civil society with experience in urban and environmental planning. S/m will serve as resource person at the training workshop, while also introducing the GUPES initiatives to participants.

World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC), Marrakesh, Morocco

The WEEC will be held in partnership with the Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) of UNEP, in Marrakesh, Morocco from 9 – 14 June 2013. The conference theme is Environmental Education in Cities and Rural Areas: Seeking Greater Harmony. In addition, there will be 11 thematic niches, namely:

1. Promoting Environmental Education and Networking
2. Intercultural dialogues
3. Social Movements and building ecological societies
4. Communications and the impact of social media
5. Ecological economics and green economies
6. Ethics, eco-philosophy, human-nature relationships
7. Greening education.
8. Creative impulses i.e. Arts, imagination and emotional understanding
9. Pedagogy and learning
10. Research in environmental education
11. Risk, health, and environment

The Congress will also feature two UNEP side events, namely the MESA and GUPES, and a workshop on Environment, Disasters and Ecosystems co-organized by UNEP Post Conflict & Disasters Management Branch and the Partnership of Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR). More information can be found at: www.weec2013.org/.

Engineering Education for Sustainable Development (EESD 13), Cambridge, UK

The above event will be held in partnership with the Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) of UNEP, in Cambridge, UK from 22nd through 25th September 2013. On June 5, 2012 the Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU) launched the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) in the lead up to the Rio+20 Conference and the joint UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI). The event was hosted by Tongji University at the UNEP-Tongji Institute for Environment and Sustainability in Shanghai, China.

More information on the EESD 13 can be found at: www-eesd13@eng.cam.ac.uk

Youth Encounter for Sustainability (YES), Japan

The YES organized in partnership with Activating Talent in Sustainability (ACTIS) will be held in Tokyo, Japan from 22 – 26 March 2013. This will be their fourth joint event and many consultations will be held with different stakeholders like the United Nations University

(UNU), the Japanese Ministry of Environment and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) on strategic collaborative programmes.

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

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