



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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Prologue

Dear colleagues,

The recent programme developments at the Regional Science Bureau for Asia and Pacific are included in this newsletter for your reference and feedback.

The activities presented here are result of combined efforts of UNESCO family (HQ, field offices, National Commissions, UNESCO Chairs, Category 2 Centres and networks).

This newsletter also highlights activities related to Post 2015 Development Agenda in this region in the context of Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015.

Happy reading!

Shahbaz Khan
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Sustainability Science 2015: Sustainability Science for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

UNESCO Office, Jakarta in partnership with the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) organized an international workshop on sustainability science under the topic “Sustainability Science for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” March 2015 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

UNESCO family in Asia-Pacific was highly represented at the workshop through Category-2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO such as HTC-Kuala Lumpur, ICHARM, ISTIC and RCUWM-Teheran; Category-1 centre Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development and ten senior staffs from UNESCO field offices from Asia and the Pacific region.



They contributed to the workshop through oral presentations and posters showcasing their work in several aspects, on how sustainability science is implemented in the field for the benefit of local communities.

This workshop is part of follow up initiatives to the dialogue initiated in 2013 during a workshop on sustainability science in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to support UNESCO initiative on Sustainability Science. The event aims to develop a common understanding of "sustainability science" concept in the Asia Pacific region, to strengthen the link between science and policy and to develop a regional framework and tools to implement sustainability science, also within UNESCO-ASEAN framework agreement and lastly to position sustainability science as part of a national and regional science and technology policy.

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This activity was jointly supported by Malaysia Funds-in-Trust and Japan Funds-in-Trust

UN Post 2015 Development Agenda, 25 - 27 May 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In collaboration with the National Commission of UNESCO Malaysia, the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC), the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP) and the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia; UNESCO Office, Jakarta contributed to a series of International Conference / Forum / Seminar on the UN Post 2015 Development Agenda, from 24 to 27 May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

These events brought together a number of resource persons and experts from UNESCO Natural Sciences family from Asia and the Pacific Latin America, Europe and Africa. High level personalities such as the Director General of UNESCO, the Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO (ADG/SC), and the Director of ISESCO were present at the events.

These events included

- The International Forum on “Harnessing Women’s Talents in Science Technology and Innovation”,
- The ISTIC Governing Board Meeting, the International Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) High Level Policy Forum in Evidence Based Science Education in Developing Countries and
- The UNESCO - ISTIC - FEIAP “High Level Policy Seminar on Accreditation of Engineering Education Qualification to International Standards and Mobility of Engineers and Technologists in Asia and the Pacific”.



While addressing the audience, the Director General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova, reminded that Women are in the heart of UNESCO programmes and activities, and she highlighted to the audience that “Gender” and “Africa” are the two global priorities of UNESCO. She also encouraged the youngest generation of women, specifically those in the domain of Science, Technology and Innovation to work hard and overcome all barriers and stereotypes that are against the promotion of women in scientific domain, including research and development.



Handover ceremony © Sharizad Sulaiman/UNESCO Jakarta

One of the main outcomes of this series of events is the adoption of the “Kuala Lumpur Declaration, 27 May 2015” ([Click here to download](#))

The seminar ended with the acknowledgement that “Engineering Education Guidelines” such as the one developed by FEIAP could help to remove barriers to professional mobility of engineers. [Click here to download the document on engineering education.](#)

[Click here to read more](#)

UNESCO brings together its Natural Sciences Category 2 Centres and Chairs to promote interaction and knowledge exchange in Asia and the Pacific region



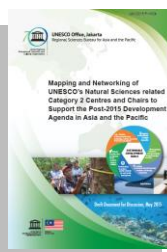
The workshop held on 26 and 27 May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was attended by 15 representatives of Category 2 Centers and Chairs from Asia-Pacific and Africa and brought together a total of 61 international and Malaysian participants.

UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC) and the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), organized a workshop on the promotion of interaction and knowledge exchange for strengthening South-South cooperation between Natural Sciences Category 2 Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific region, linking with Africa.

This effort was supported by Malaysian Funds-in-Trust



UNESCO Category 2 Centres and Chairs perform research and training, contribute to the execution of UNESCO's objectives and priorities as stated in the UNESCO Medium Term Strategy, and increase the participation of national and regional institutions in UNESCO's work.



[Click here to download the draft document on UNESCO Natural Sciences Category 2 Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific](#)

The event was closed by Dr Roseli (HTC-KL) and Ms Flavia Schlegel, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences. Ms Schlegel acknowledged and congratulated the excellent cooperation by the Government of Malaysia, Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO, ISTIC, HTC, UTM, and other Centers and Chairs leading to the successful event.

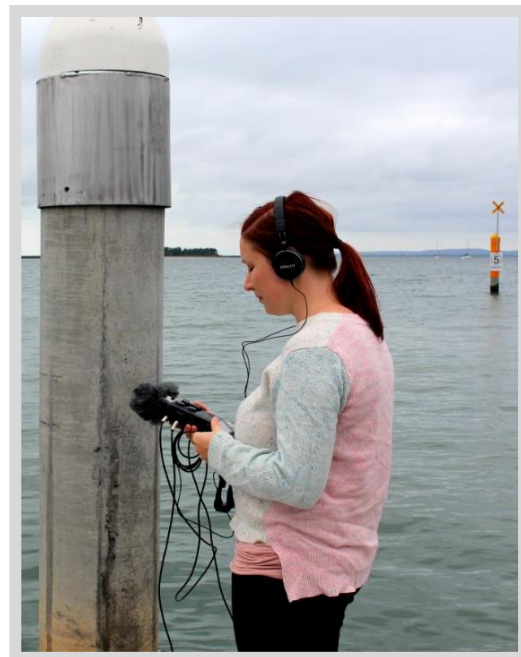
The UNESCO Natural Sciences Family, strengthened by the active networking during the workshop, will play a critical role in the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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UNESCO Biosphere Reserves as Learning Laboratories for Sustainability

In February 2015 a new UNESCO masterclass was delivered as a dynamic blended learning experience for the Asia-Pacific region. Titled “UNESCO Biosphere Reserves as Learning Laboratories for Sustainability”, the program involved immersive masterclasses occurring in Australian Biosphere Reserves accompanied by lectures streamed live online.

This masterclass identified a clear need to develop accessible tools that enable biosphere reserves to share their experiences. The Asia-Pacific region could act as a catalyst in inspiring international biosphere reserves to take climate action and one of the most critical tools will be the ability to creatively and collaboratively share advice, ideas and actions from other communities who have had similar experiences. Through this masterclass, the value and future possibilities of UNESCO biosphere reserves was deeply explored to showcase how these sites could have a significant impact in shaping local, national and international climate adaptation responses by engaging communities in interdisciplinary projects.



This UNESCO masterclass showcased the local and global value of biosphere reserves as learning laboratories for sustainability. It highlighted a series of projects and innovative ideas uniting the conservation of biological and cultural diversity. The initial modules focused on local issues exploring community engagement, partnerships and projects, while the concluding modules focused on global issues across the Asia-Pacific and introduced the opportunities for knowledge sharing, virtual collaborations and the future possibilities of creative technology in responding to climate change.

This Master Class Series is supported by Japan Funds-in-Trust

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Water Seminar 2015

UNESCO Office, Jakarta at the Water Seminar 2015 Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam 27 April 2015



The event brought together 4 international speakers and 2 speakers from local institutions.

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On 27 April 2015, the Department of Water Services of the Public Works Department, Ministry of Development of Brunei Darussalam organized the “Water Seminar 2015”, in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital city of the country. The training ended with participants’ anticipation of an enhanced revised training manual on post-disaster psychosocial support for secondary school students.

One key element of the event was the Water Dialogue between speakers and students from local tertiary education institutions (Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Institut Teknologi Brunei, Politeknik Brunei and Sekolah Vokasional Nakhoda Ragam), organized to engage students in discussion for a better understanding of sustainable development and water issue. The event also saw a prize presentation ceremony for the winners of World Water Day essay, poster and name the mascot competitions.

Lesson Learnt from the Regional Workshop in Refining the Tsunami Policy Support and Exercise Modules held in Jakarta, 15-17 June



The Intergovernmental Coordination Group of Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System of IOC UNESCO (ICG/IOTWS) and the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC) organized a Regional Workshop on Training Modules for Tsunami Exercises Policy Support at Grand Kemang Hotel Jakarta, 15 to 17 June 2015.

Thirty nine participants from 19 Indian Ocean countries attended this workshop. The participants represented Disaster Management Office, Meteorology Department, and other disaster management related institution and agencies of their country.

The objectives of this workshop were to:

1. Introduce the two training modules developed under the same project: Tsunami Risk Reduction Policy Support and Tsunami Exercise. Through this project these modules have been piloted in Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Timor Leste;
2. Share lessons learned from the three pilot countries; and
3. To get input on the follow up activities to be done after the project ends.

[Click here to read more](#)

The workshop is the final activity under the Project "Enhancing Tsunami Risk Assessment and Management, Strengthening Policy Support and Developing Guidelines for Tsunami Exercises in Indian Ocean Countries" funded by the United Nations for Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

National Workshop

National Workshop on the Role of Broadcasting Media in Tsunami Early Warning System



The Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre in UNESCO Office Jakarta, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (KEMKOMINFO) and the Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics (BMKG) jointly held a national workshop on the role of broadcasting media in tsunami early warning system on 12 May 2015 in Jakarta.

The objective of the workshop was to strengthen the link between the government institutions and national broadcasting media especially on the role of the broadcasting media as part of the dissemination chain of the tsunami early warning information. 93 participants took part in the workshop representing the national and local broadcasting media, Association of Television and Radio in Indonesia, Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI), and National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB).

The workshop is part of an activity funded by the Indonesia Funds-in-Trust (IFIT) on strengthening the capacity of Local Disaster Management Agency (BPBD) and electronic media on tsunami early warning chain.

[Click here to read more](#)

1 Student, 1 Book: UNESCO Holds Progress Meeting for KOICA Funded Timor-Leste Quality Education Project

UNESCO Jakarta Office, in partnership with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and in cooperation with Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO and Ministry of Education, organized a progress meeting for the project “Timor-Leste Quality Education - the 3rd Cycle of Mathematics and Science Curriculum: Provision of National Textbooks’ Student Workbook, Teacher Guidebooks and Teacher Trainings for Mathematics and Science.” The meeting was held on 25-26 June 2015 at Bali, Indonesia.

The 8th grade science and mathematics practical manual was developed by the teachers’ working group. It was piloted and reviewed by teachers through a series of seminars and consultation meetings. The steering committee approved the practical manual and it was endorsed by the Timor-Leste Ministry of Education. Furthermore, it has been read by the copy the editor and it is now ready for printing and distribution throughout the country.

[Click here to read more](#)



The progress meeting participants taking a closer look at the project outputs

Training

UNESCO Holds Post-Disaster Psychosocial Support Teachers’ Training in the Philippines

The UNESCO Jakarta Office, in cooperation with the Philippines’ Department of Education (DepEd) and Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP), conducted a pilot Teachers’ Training on Post-Disaster Psychosocial Support for the “Emergency Psychosocial Support for Secondary-aged Students Affected by Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines” project held on 19-21 March 2015 at Tierra de Milagros Resort, Tacloban City, Philippines.

The training ended with participants’ anticipation of an enhanced revised training manual on post-disaster psychosocial support for secondary school students.

[Click here to read more](#)



This effort is supported by the Government of Japan as follow-up actions to Super Typhoon Haiyan which devastated Philippines

UNESCO Joins the Ceremony for the designation of Pekalongan as a member of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network



Jakarta, 1 April 2015, UNESCO Office, Jakarta participated in an event to celebrate the success of Pekalongan in joining the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, in the category Crafts and Folk Arts. The celebration was organized along with the 109th anniversary of Pekalongan, which added to the significance of the event.

The Mayor expressed his commitment to support and help other Indonesian cities who wish to join the network and invited all parties to support Pekalongan as a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. To close the ceremony, the letter of the Director General of UNESCO nominating Pekalongan was officially transmitted by UNESCO representative to the National commission and to the Mayor.

On December 1st, 2014, UNESCO designated Pekalongan as one of the new members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, in the category Crafts and Folk Arts.

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Borobudur Youth Forum

UNESCO Collaborates with Borobudur Conservation Office and Indonesia International Work Camp to Jointly Host Borobudur Youth Forum 2015

Borobudur Conservation Office of the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, UNESCO Jakarta, and Indonesia International Work Camp (IIWC) jointly conducted the Borobudur Youth Forum 2015 in Borobudur, Magelang, Central Java from 5-8 June 2015.

The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia; PT. Taman Wisata Candi Borobudur, Prambanan, and Ratu Boko (Persero); and the Panasonic Corporation jointly hosted a collaborative project entitled "Supporting Sustainable Development at the Borobudur and Prambanan World Heritage Sites through Youth Livelihood Development and Green Technologies," which was launched on 9 October 2014.

The Forum aimed to increase public awareness about the importance of safeguarding efforts for the World Heritage sites, as well as support the development of sustainable tourism and creative industries for youth groups and local communities.



Youth: Inspire and Be Inspired!

The youth forum was joined by 50 (fifty) participants from different parts of Indonesia including Yogyakarta, Central Java, Jakarta, West Java and Sumatra.

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UNESCO Organised a National Workshop to Promote Social Inclusion of People Living with Disabilities in Indonesia



The Disability Project in Indonesia started in 2013 and is funded by the UNPRPD (United Nations Partnership for the Promotion of the Rights Persons with Disability). It is jointly implemented by UNESCO, ILO, WHO and UNFPA.

Deputy Mayor of Banjarmasin, Mr. Irwan Anshari presented improvements that have been made since the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO in 2013.

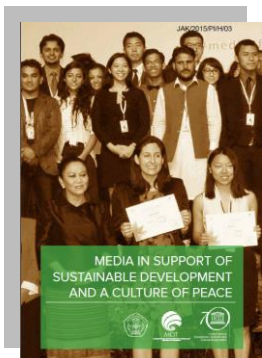
The city shows its commitment to fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities by developing a local law on disability (Perda no. 9 tahun 2013), establishing an action plan for inclusive cities, improving accessibilities for public space as well as increasing its budget for persons with disability.

The workshop, which was organised on 25 March 2015, was attended by around fifty persons, consisting of beneficiaries, disability partners, development partners, UN agencies, Disabled People Organisations, and government officials from both local and national level.

[Click here to read more](#)

Celebration of World Press Freedom Day in Indonesia and Launch of the Publication ‘Media in Support of Sustainable Development and a Culture of Peace’

UNESCO and the Alliance of Independent Journalists (AJI), in cooperation with the Indonesian Press Council and Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, have held a seminar to celebrate World Press Freedom Day (WPF) in Indonesia and launch the Publication Media in Support of Sustainable Development and a Culture of Peace. The seminar took place on the 18th of May 2015 at the Indonesian Press Council building and involved over thirty journalists, academics and members of the public.



The half day program also included the launch of the publication Media in Support of Sustainable Development and a Culture of Peace that brings together the key papers delivered at the [“Global Media Forum: the role of media in realizing the future we want for all”](#) (GMF) , co-organised by UNESCO and the Government of Indonesia in Bali, in August 2014.



[Click here to read more](#)



[The Regional Bureau's Science Support Strategy 2014-2021: Promoting Science for Peace and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific through South-South Cooperation](#)



[Policies and Processes for Social Inclusion. Volume 1: Possibilities from South-East Asia](#)



[Mapping and Networking of UNESCO's Natural Sciences related Category 2 Centres and Chairs to Support the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Asia and the Pacific](#)



[Process for integrating local and indigenous knowledge with science for hydro-meteorological disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in coastal and small island communities](#)



[The Youth Newsroom at the Global Media Forum](#)



[Nafas baru kota bersejarah: Penjelasan tentang pendekatan lanskap kota bersejarah](#)

[Click here for more publications](#)

Media Coverage

ASEAN

- [Advancing human rights after the AAC and the ASEAN Summit. The Jakarta Post 7-5-2015](#)

Australia

- [Great Barrier Reef facing serious threat, but 'in danger' Unesco listing not warranted, scientists say](#)

Brunei

- [Stop wasting water, says minister. The Brunei Times 28 April 2015](#)
- [UNESCO keen to help Brunei solve water issues. The Brunei Times 29 April 2015](#)
- [Water conservation key to sustainable development. Borneo Bulletin 28 April 2015](#)

China

- [Hanma biosphere in UNESCO network. ChinaDaily Asia 10-6-2015](#)

Indonesia

- [RI biosphere reserves recognized by UNESCO. The Jakarta Post 10-6-2015](#)
- [Indonesia committed to ensuring equitable quality education. Antaranews.com 25-5-2015](#)
- [Education Report Shows Indonesia Losing Ground. JakartaGlobe.com 14-4-2015](#)
- [Managing Sumatra's rainforest heritage through integrated landscapes. Jakarta Post 25-5-2015](#)

Malaysia

- [Malaysia First Country To Launch YESPeace](#)

Pakistan

- [Dialogue stresses engineers' role in sustainable development. The Dailytimes.pk 11-1-2015](#)

Philippines

- [Half of countries miss 2015 goal of primary schooling for all: UNESCO. Business Insider 8 April 2015](#)
- [State of PH environment: Good conservation efforts, bad air quality](#)
- [Philippines: Why it's deadly for journalists. CNN 5 May 2015](#)