

UNESCO International Seminar on Climate Change Education 27-29 July 2009 at UNESCO, Paris

Climate change is a truly global challenge. It will impact all ecosystems and human societies, but in different ways and to different degrees. Addressing climate change requires involvement and action at the local, regional and global level, and **Education** has a central role to play in understanding, mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Recognizing the increasing rate of climate change and the severity of its impacts, and in advance of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 15) to be held in Copenhagen (7-18 December 2009), UNESCO will - with financial support from Denmark - organize a three day international seminar on climate change education from 27 to 29 July 2009 in Paris.

The Seminar will focus on **the role of education in addressing climate change, linking the local, regional and global contexts with particular emphasis on the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS).**

Seminar Objectives

- Promote the effective integration of climate change education into educational programmes and school curricula;
- Mobilize support for teacher training on climate change education;
- Enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices on climate change education among ministries, teachers, practitioners and young people;
- Identify opportunities for using various networks (such as the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, World Heritage sites, biosphere reserves and the International Hydrological Programme networks) to encourage local field-based education on climate change.

Expected Seminar Outputs

- Initiation of a process for the development of guidelines for the effective integration of climate change education into educational programmes and school curricula;
- Awareness-raising among decision makers on the need to support teacher training on climate change education;
- Improved networking for exchange of experiences and good practices on climate change education;
- Suggestions for how various relevant networks and programmes can best be used for piloting and testing

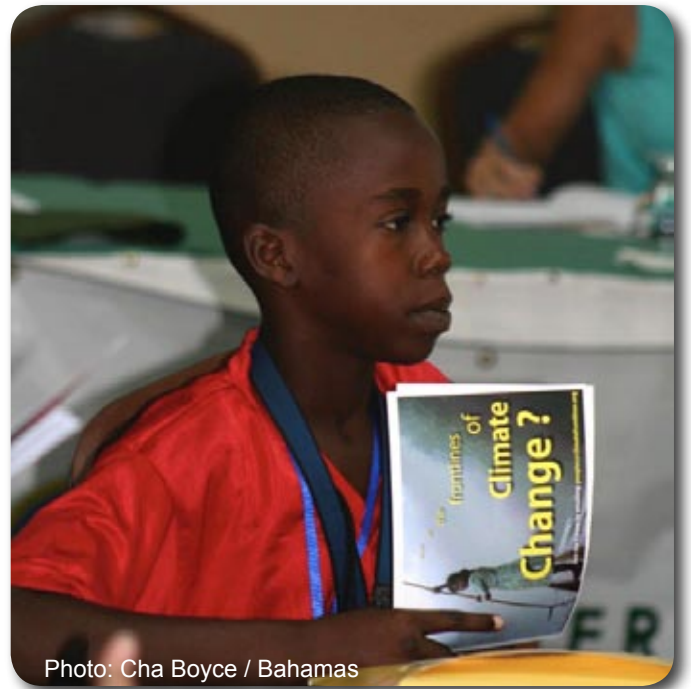


Photo: Cha Boyce / Bahamas

- educational tools relating to climate change;
- Identification of learning materials and good practices on climate change education, and enhancement of their dissemination via suitable ICT tools and other means; and
- Contributions and inputs into other events leading to the COP 15, and for the preparation of a side-event at COP 15 on climate change education.

Participants and format of the Seminar

The Seminar will bring together some 60 participants representing a multi-disciplinary and diverse group of stakeholders including: teachers and educators, national education representatives/curricula development experts, representatives of school and education networks, scientists and climate change experts, as well as individuals from the private sector and civil society. Presentations and discussions will be held both in plenary and working group sessions. The Seminar will be conducted in English, French and Spanish.

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