



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Bangkok

The Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational
Innovation for Development
Education for Sustainable Development



Sharing Progress towards
National DESD Monitoring Systems in the Asia-Pacific:

Country Updates

Progress Reports 1 - 4

April 2007 – April 2008

Asia-Pacific ESD Monitoring Project

INTRODUCTION

*Country Updates*¹ offer a platform for learning and sharing information among countries in the Asia-Pacific region about processes for developing national monitoring systems to assess progress during the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) and beyond. Every three months, beginning in June 2007, UNESCO Member States in the Asia-Pacific were invited to submit *Country Update* progress reports to UNESCO Bangkok outlining their achievements, challenges, lessons learned and tentative next steps toward the development of their national ESD indicators, data collection and reporting mechanisms. Responses were compiled and distributed in report form to UNESCO National Commissions in the region for the purposes of sharing learning.

Country Update Progress Reports 1-4 are a final compilation of the four Country Update reports compiled and shared throughout the Asia-Pacific region for the purposes of learning. This report is divided into sub-regions to depict the key national ESD monitoring system development trends, lessons learned and challenges at the sub-regional level during the initial stages of national ESD monitoring system development. In addition, the core trends, lessons learned and challenges at the regional level have also been synthesized to provide further guidance to all Member States in the region as countries continue to move forward with the development and identification of their national ESD indicators, data collection and reporting mechanisms.

To date, Member States have yet to develop a full set of national ESD indicators for measuring progress throughout the DESD; however, several lessons have been learned throughout the initial stages of the process, including core trends for initiating indicator development. Among these core trends, in particular, is an underlying notion that an enabling environment is necessary to pave the way for the development of a national monitoring system. This enabling environment seems to involve, in many cases, the establishment of a national ESD committee, the engagement of stakeholders from across sectors in ESD, the development of a national plan for ESD and the creation of a working group that focus specifically on ESD indicator development and monitoring.

In addition these core trends, some core challenges need to be overcome in order to move the development of ESD indicators and monitoring systems further. Two of the most notable challenges include: 1) the need to coordinate the wide range and scope of ESD activities and actors at the national level; and 2) raising awareness among potential key partners that ESD is an intersectoral platform that goes beyond the education and the environment to also engage other sectors such as science, culture, communications, etc. To assist UNESCO Member States in addressing these immediate challenges in implementing the DESD at the national level, UNESCO Bangkok, in collaboration with UNESCO Offices and UNESCO National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region are conducting a series of subregional coordination and capacity building workshops, sponsored by the Japanese Funds in Trust, in an effort to assist Member States in:

- Building capacity for ESD leadership and coordination in the Asia-Pacific region in an effort to strengthen political will, link and establish support for new and ongoing ESD initiatives;
- Establishing conceptual and practical linkages between ESD, ongoing education initiatives such as EFA and national sustainable development strategies; and
- Mapping national and subregional ESD resources, activities (e.g. curricula/materials development, teacher training and private sector, media and youth initiatives, etc.), actors and their scale of involvement in ESD and needs for moving ESD forward.

As a result, the subregional workshops are intended to assist UNESCO Member States in establishing an enabling environment for developing national ESD monitoring systems and assessing progress and achievements at the national level. As the development and identification of national ESD indicators continues, the trends, lessons learned and challenges shared throughout the Country Update process, and synthesized in this report, will provide a potential basis for further learning and guidance towards national monitoring system development as ESD in the Asia-Pacific region moves into the second half of the Decade towards *The World Conference on ESD: Moving Into the Second Half of the UN Decade* in Bonn, Germany (31 March – 2 April 2009), and beyond

¹ The Country Update process evolved from discussions during the *Workshop for the Development of Asia-Pacific National DESD Monitoring Systems* held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2-4 April 2007, as a means to collaborate on the development of national ESD indicators and monitoring systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

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NATIONAL DESD MONITORING SYSTEMS: PROGRESS AS OF APRIL 2008

The chart below reflects the most up-to-date information received on the status of national DESD monitoring system development in the Asia-Pacific region. Twenty countries provided information on the progress of their monitoring systems during the Country Update process. Information was obtained from progress reports submitted in April 2008, September and December 2007, in addition to the *Workshop for the Development of Asia-Pacific National DESD Monitoring Systems* held in April 2007.

As of April 2008, several Member States participating in the process were finalizing their national ESD action plans with ESD goals and priorities, which will provide a basis for developing national ESD indicators. Several countries were also at the stage of formulating working groups with stakeholders from across sectors to collaborate on indicator development; a few countries completed this process and were beginning to conduct research on national ESD indicator development and data collection processes. In light of the core challenges facing the development of national ESD indicators and monitoring systems, the 2008 ESD coordination and capacity building workshops, sponsored by the Japanese Funds in Trust, will provide an opportunity for Member States to reflect on the next steps in national ESD monitoring system development in conjunction with the coordination and future monitoring of national ESD activities.

	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally
Afghanistan	█	█							
Australia	█	█	█	█					
Cambodia	█	█	█	█					
China	█	█	█	█					
India	█	█	█	█					
*Indonesia	█	█							
*Iran	█	█	█						
*Japan	█	█	█	█					
Kazakhstan	█	█	█	█					
*Kyrgyzstan	█	█	█	█					
***Mongolia	█	█	█						
New Zealand	█	█	█	█					
***Pakistan	█	█							
*Palau	█	█	█	█					
Philippines	█	█	█	█					
**Rep. of Korea	█	█	█						
Sri Lanka	█	█	█	█	█				
***Thailand	█								
Uzbekistan	█	█	█	█	█				
Viet Nam	█	█	█	█	█				

* based on the latest information received from the December 2007 Country Update

** based on the latest information received from the September 2007 Country Update

*** based on the latest information received during the April 2007 workshop

COUNTRY UPDATE FINDINGS: ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Throughout the Country Update process, Member States in the Asia-Pacific region were asked to share their challenges, lessons learned and next steps towards the development of their national ESD monitoring systems. The following information provides a synthesis of the national responses in Country Update Progress Reports 1-4, presenting the core trends, lessons learned and challenges towards national ESD monitoring system development in the region. Information has been synthesized here for the general context to provide suggestions and on ongoing guidance to all Asia-Pacific Member States as the development of national ESD indicators continues to progress.

CORE TRENDS towards national ESD monitoring system development

1. Establishing a National Committee for ESD

Such as...

- A National ESD Committee comprised of high-ranking government leaders and ministers with representation among the 4 pillars of sustainable development;
- A national ESD sub-committee with participation of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations at the high ranking level;
- A national ESD Coordination Council with experts from state committees, government Ministries (Ministries for Nature Protection, Higher and Secondary Education, Public Education, etc.), universities, NGOs and international organizations; and
- A National EFA-ESD Committee with members from both EFA and ESD constituents;

Which...

- Works in close collaboration with stakeholders to identify key sustainable development issues and national ESD priorities and implement the Decade and monitoring system development;
- Is supported by the national government and maintains legal status and functions; and
- Reviews the composition of its membership over time to enhance effectiveness.

2. Promoting intersectoral collaboration and cooperation on ESD, by...

- Receiving ideas from legislative bodies, government, NGOs and civil society, religious institutions, communities, educators and others on how to approach ESD;
- Creating a network of individuals, representing all stakeholders, to create interlinkages between the environmental, social and economic aspects of ESD and harmonize activities;
- Engaging stakeholders at different levels, particularly the private sector, local governments, NGOs, civil society and other government bodies in planning, implementation and monitoring; and
- Establishing partnership agreement between the UNESCO National Commission and an NGO to share the responsibility for coordinating and administrating the Decade, such as:
 - Finalising a national ESD plan;
 - Identify networks of key stakeholders; and
 - Developing ESD indicators and formalizing a monitoring and reporting framework.

3. Developing a National ESD Plan (National ESD Action Plan, National ESD Strategy), which ...

- Identifies national ESD goals and priorities;
- Maintains and extended scope beyond the environment;
- Guides and enables indicators and other measures to be developed;
- Encourages a wide range of activities, including research; and
- Is drafted by a national body such as the National ESD Committee and finalised in consultation with stakeholders.

4. Nominating a national ESD coordinator, who has...

- An affiliation with a key ESD line ministry (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment, ...); and
- Clear Terms of Reference established in consultation with the relevant, high-level committees.

5. Formulating a Working Group on ESD Monitoring, which is...

- Comprised of representatives from state committees, government Ministries (Ministries for Nature Protection, Higher and Secondary Education, Public Education, etc.), universities, NGOs and international organizations;
- Coordinated by a National ESD Monitoring Focal point;
- Responsible for the development of national indicators on ESD, including the identification of indicator criteria in accordance with the national context; and
- Coordinates the gathering of information on education trends and ESD, analyzing information and identifying challenges and difficulties of data collection.

6. Incorporating ESD monitoring into policy, by...

- Putting ESD monitoring and evaluation onto the policy agenda;
- Raising awareness among the Ministry of Education and relevant line ministries about the importance of ESD policies and monitoring.

7. Building intersectoral capacity for ESD monitoring, by...

- Conducting a high level forum to identify deliverables for the Decade and related indicators and monitoring;
- Conducting workshops, meetings and round table discussions with inter-ministerial representatives, experts and technical agencies to share information on national ESD indicator development;
- Publishing or translating resources in the national language, such as the *Asia Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators*, to coach stakeholders on steps for monitoring and evaluating ESD; and
- Building capacity of the Working Group on ESD (for indicator development and building knowledge of data collection and reporting strategies).

8. Initiating the development of a national DESD monitoring system, by...

- Allocating financial support for the development of a national ESD monitoring system;
- Identifying all stakeholders, including experts, that can contribute to a national ESD monitoring program;
- Organising workshops to develop partnerships among indicator development experts and study mechanisms for developing indicators and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and
- Formulating an ESD monitoring and indicator development plan in consultation with national stakeholders.

9. Securing financial support, for...

- Activities of the National Committee on ESD and implementation of the National ESD Action Plan; and
- Projects to engage stakeholders on researching and linking ESD to existing monitoring systems and developing new indicators for ESD at the national level.

10. Conducting a baseline evaluation, to...

- Research ongoing M&E activities and tools for data collection and reporting;
- Identify steps for formulating indicators and monitoring instruments; and
- Study the current status of ESD in the country (current programmes, resources, actors and their scale of involvement in ESD);

CORE LESSONS LEARNED towards national ESD monitoring system development

Monitoring System and Indicator Insight

- You cannot progress work on a National DESD Monitoring System until a detailed strategic plan (inclusive of goals, objectives and deliverables) has been agreed.
- Indicators are the key to DESD monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems and are the first step to be taken for an effective monitoring and reporting system; appropriate processes and mechanisms for indicator development will be decisive factors for success.
- There are many types of indicators collected for many different purposes. In addition, there is a difference between a single index, such as the Human Development Index (HDI) and a suite of indicators. This is not a very clear distinction in most cases. While Indicators and an Index are not the same thing they are often referred to and compared as if they are interchangeable.
- It is important to remain focused on ESD indicators that are relevant to a country's national context. Staying aware of other indicator projects for separate purposes and being able to identify linkages with these initiatives, where appropriate, is helpful, but it is important to avoid becoming overly side-tracked by other indicator initiatives that are less relevant.
- The monitoring system development process must be well defined with practical activities. The documentation and identification of detailed processes for each and every step is a must to ensure proper follow-up on ESD indicator development.
- Monitoring progress with focus on a multi-stage approach can be useful. For example:
 - In the Medium Term, measure the implementation of two (or more) DESD Strategic Plan work streams; and
 - In the Longer Term, identify and remove barriers to the development and promotion of effective progress measures.

Stakeholder Involvement

- The strong will of the government to lead and participate in ESD activities is the single most important factor related to the development of the DESD monitoring system; involvement of high level government officials and education experts is key.
- The involvement of the field implementers and stakeholders in the indicator development process, including cooperation and support from all agencies, is necessary to ensure a sense of ownership and concern for the success of the DESD.
- A need exists to establish a network and partnerships among indicator development experts.
- Frequent consultations between different stakeholders and those coordinating the indicator development process (e.g., the National Commission, relevant Ministries, etc.) will ensure speedy implementation.
- In order for the collection and analysis of data to be effective, stakeholders must be involved in the collection of a variety of data. These must include output as well as outcome-focused measures with respect to the timeframes involved in achieving systems level change.

Advocacy

- Raising awareness among national partners about the national DESD monitoring system is important to pull together ESD efforts and develop national synergy for the Decade; therefore, translating guidelines and materials for indicator development into the local language can be useful.
- More awareness about ESD is essential for developing an effective national DESD monitoring system; devoting a section of a national periodical to the DESD is beneficial for raising people's awareness of ESD and national monitoring.

CORE CHALLENGES towards national ESD monitoring system development

- Awareness of ESD – For many stakeholders, the focus on ESD is still perceived to be centred on the environment. If continued, this perspective could neglect the interlinkages between the environmental, social and economic aspects of ESD and create less incentive for key stakeholders to participate actively. For example, agency heads with a limited understanding of ESD may feel that ESD activities are well underway and already integrated into the curriculum. Convincing them that it is important to monitor progress, therefore, is difficult.
- Coordination – As ESD is a cross-sectoral initiative, many government ministries and departments, in addition to NGOs and IGOs are involved in ESD-related activities. It is not only difficult to coordinate ESD activities among the various sectors, but it is also challenging to harmonize existing M&E systems. As various sectors have already prepared policies and indicators for monitoring and assessment of their current activities. These systems need to be streamlined for ESD.
- Collaboration – Measures for gathering national partners and experts to initiate a network for developing national ESD indicators is a challenge. For example, mobilizing stakeholders, especially the private sector and civil society, to participate in discussions on the planning and implementation and monitoring of ESD, and synergizing ESD activities and achievements, takes time and is not easy.
- Practicality – Determining the best process for developing indicators that will be manageable and engages relevant stakeholders across a large number of sectors is challenging.
- Financing – Raising funds for ESD activities and projects, including funds for indicator development, is key to ensure successful achievement of the DESD. Especially in larger countries, a large budget allocation is required to develop indicators and initiate the monitoring and assessment process.

Sharing Progress towards
National DESD Monitoring Systems in the Asia-Pacific:

Country Update Progress Reports

April 2007 – April 2008

TOWARDS MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: CENTRAL ASIA

The Central Asian subregion, for the purposes of this compilation, includes the UNESCO Almaty Cluster countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan; and the UNESCO Tehran Cluster countries – Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. Throughout the Country Update process, Member States were asked to share their challenges, lessons learned and next steps toward the development of their national ESD monitoring systems. The key trends, lessons learned and challenges towards monitoring system development among those Central Asian Member States participating in the country update process are listed below and have been adapted here for the general context (see the Country Updates on pp. 10-19 for actual responses).

KEY TRENDS

1. Establishing a National Committee for ESD, such as...

- A national DESD Coordination Board;
- A national ESD sub-committee with participation of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations at the high ranking level; and
- A national DESD Coordination Council with experts from state committees, government Ministries (Ministries for Nature Protection, Higher and Secondary Education, Public Education, etc.), universities, NGOs and international organizations.

2. Improving intersectoral collaboration and cooperation on ESD, by...

- Identifying a National Coordinator for ESD and establishing their clear Terms of Reference;
- Reviewing the stakeholders from each governmental and non-governmental organization who are members of the National ESD Committee and identifying who else should be represented;
- Creating a network of contact persons representing all stakeholders to create interlinkages between the environmental, social and economic aspects of ESD and harmonize activities;
- Holding regular meetings on ESD with participation from interministerial experts and vice-ministers; and
- Continuing to raise awareness among Ministries and NGOs about the significance and importance of ESD.

3. Developing a National ESD Plan (National ESD Action Plan, National ESD Strategy), which is...

- Drafted by a core ESD group or “Task Force” of experts;
- Complete with clear national goals and priorities for ESD; and
- Nationally endorsed through a national consensus.

4. Formulating a working group on ESD monitoring, which is...

- Coordinated by a National ESD Monitoring Focal point;
- Comprised of representatives from state committees, government Ministries (Ministries for Nature Protection, Higher and Secondary Education, Public Education, etc.), universities, NGOs and international organizations;
- Responsible for the development of national indicators on ESD, including the identification of indicator criteria in accordance with the national context; and
- Coordinating the gathering of information on education trends and ESD, analyzing information and identifying challenges and difficulties of data collection.

5. Incorporating ESD into national policy, by...

- Nominating an expert to participate in committee discussions on new education legislation in the national assembly.

6. Securing financial support, for...

- Activities of the National Committee on ESD and the implementation of the National Action Plan for the ESD; and
- Projects on elaborating new indicators and monitoring and assessment.

LESSONS LEARNED

Stakeholder Involvement

- The Presidential Office and/or other high-level office could be approached in order to achieve more constructive involvement and participation of stakeholders in ESD.
- The importance of developing ESD activities should not only take place in the school system, but also at the grass roots level in a country.
- Devoting a section of a national periodical to the DESD is beneficial for raising people's awareness of ESD and national monitoring.

Advocacy

- High levels of enthusiasm and a desire to promote the DESD in the country can offer extra support and incentive for the DESD among policy makers.
- Without participation and joint efforts by all circles in the DESD, including professional experts and government stakeholders, no success can be assured on the Decade.

Financing

- Attracting international/bilateral funding agencies would be a timely action once the national Action Plan for ESD and its indicators are developed.

CHALLENGES

- Creating an enabling environment for ESD – Establishing the appropriate official conditions for a National ESD Committee is difficult when there is high turnover within the government.
- ESD is perceived as an environmental initiative – With a central focus on education on the environment, if continued, this perspective could neglect the interlinkages between the environmental, social and economic aspects of ESD and create less incentive for other stakeholders to participate actively.
- Limited financing – Raising funds for indicator development and monitoring and evaluation projects may be necessary.
- Financial coordination – Until financing is overseen by a central body, such as the National Planning and Management Commission, the sharing of finances by stakeholders may be difficult.
- Lack of information on ESD and ESD monitoring – Limited resources on ESD and ESD indicators can result, not only in limited capacity to develop indicators and collect appropriate data, but also difficulty in delegating responsibilities to members of an evaluation Working Group.

Afghanistan – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Education Strategic Plan (NESP/2006-2010) with no specific referencing to ESD 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (April 2008)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Summary of progress	N/A
Achievements	N/A
Challenges	N/A
Lessons learned	N/A
Next steps (next 3 months)	N/A
Inquiries	Since Education for Sustainable Development is not addressed specifically, other countries are encouraged to offer technical assistance and help the Afghan education institutions to formalize the principles in its overall education system.
Additional comments	N/A

Iran – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National ESD body established • National strategic plan for the DESD developed 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally	



– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Additional vision	<p>Prior to identification of the national DESD priorities and goals, it was felt necessary to develop a road map for activities. Currently, the main objective of the Sub-committee for Education on Sustainable Development is <i>how to reach consensus amongst different stakeholders with different mandates on common priorities and goals in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts</i>. By the Summer 2008, it is expected to have achieved consensus on the DESD priorities and goals as well as the development of ESD indicators. While developing ESD indicators in accordance with national circumstances is the main objective, the experience of other countries will also be taken into consideration. The financial modularities for implementation of the prioritised activities will have to be finalized by June 2008</p>
Summary of progress	<p>In accordance with the Rules of Procedures for implementation of Article 64, subitem (a) of the Forth Five Year National Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the auspices of the National Committee for Sustainable Development, the Sub-committee for Education on Sustainable Development was established in early 2007. So far nine national meetings have been conducted by the Sub-committee with participation of relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations at the high ranking level in order to develop a national strategy for ESD. The last meeting, conducted in October 2007, aimed at further improvement in the identification of stakeholders, harmonization of activities and establishment of the Core Group/Task Force Team in order to develop the National Action Plan for ESD. However, the task has not been completed yet and there is still room for improvement of inter-sectoral collaboration and cooperation</p>
Achievements	<p>A series of national meetings on ESD with participation of the most relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations and establishing constructive dialogue amongst stakeholders.</p>
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most important challenge faced so far is the fact that ESD is seen as environmentally oriented and basically all efforts are focused on environmental aspects of ESD. While this is a point to be appreciated as far as the environment is concerned there is a lack of synergy between the environmental, social and economic aspects of the Sustainable Development. The main focus of education being on the environment, if continued, might neglect the interlinkages between the environmental, social and economic aspects of the ESD and create less incentive for other stakeholders to participate actively. • At the implementation phase of the National Action Plan for ESD, we will certainly face a lack of adequate sharing of finances by stakeholders until, and unless, it is overseen by the Planning and Management Organization. Initiation on attracting

	international/bilateral funding agencies would be a timely action once the national Action Plan for ESD and its indicators are developed.
Lessons learned	The Presidential Office should be approached in order to achieve more constructive involvement and participation of stakeholders.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify a National Focal Point for ESD; 2. Develop Terms of Reference for the National Focal Point; 3. Review and revisit the list of stakeholders and contact persons in each governmental and non-governmental organization who are members of the National Committee on ESD 4. Improve intersectoral collaboration and cooperation by creating a network of contact persons representing all stakeholders; and creating interlinkages between environmental, social and economic aspects of ESD 5. Develop a nationally endorsed Action Plan on ESD (National Consensus on the work plan as well as on ESD priorities and goals is a must); 6. Develop criteria for the identification and development of ESD indicators in accordance with national circumstances; 7. Secure financial support for the activities of the National Committee on ESD and the implementation of the National Action Plan for the ESD.
Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have the financial requirements for implementing a National Action Plan for ESD been tackled by other countries? • How has intersectoral consensus on national priorities and goals for ESD been achieved? • Has there been a need to formally endorse the National Action Plan on ESD? If not, how far has voluntary adherence to the National Action Plan on ESD been successful, as far as its implementation is concerned? • What types of criteria have been developed so far to identify indicators?
Additional comments	Without appropriate institutional and financial arrangement precisely designed for ESD, implementation of the National Action Plan seems to be a far reaching goal.

K a z a k h s t a n – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •National Action Plan for ESD developed •National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (April 2008)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Additional Background	Participated in courses about sustainability strategy, methodology, policy and action for Kazakhstan, organised by the Regional Ecological Center of Central Eastern Europe in Kazakhstan (April, July and September 2008).
Summary of progress	N/A
Achievements	The State Pedagogical Institute of Pavlodar carried out the project "Promotion of ESD into a system of higher formal education of Kazakhstan" covering eight bachelors and two masters programs, and increased the capacity for the institute of advancement of qualification of pedagogical personnel to disseminate project methodology and implementation into education.
Challenges	N/A
Lessons learned	N/A
Next steps	We are now working on preparing a methodical study grant on bachelors programs to introduce special 'rates' for ESD at the bachelor and masters degree levels.
Inquiries	N/A

Kyrgyzstan – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National ESD body established • UNECE ESD strategy translated into Kyrgyz • DESD launch held • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Summary of progress	We have just started work on the development of the national DESD Monitoring System. We are now at stage 1 - identifying national DESD goals and targets. We also started to form a working group on ESD indicators and are searching for appropriate methodology to develop such a system, and funds.
Achievements	The most significant achievement was the development of the RCE Kyrgyzstan and participation in the two international RCE Conferences in Penang, Malaysia. The United Nations University in Japan has been implementing the programme on education for sustainable development (ESD) through its Institute of Advance Studies (UNU-IAS www.ias.unu.edu) since 2003 to promote the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) 2005-2014. Nowadays a network of already 50 RCEs have been established, including RCE Kyrgyzstan which was launched at the end of May 2007. The RCE is a platform for mobilizing existing educational organizations and institutions to promote ESD and sustainable development principles in the local and global agenda.
Challenges	The most significant challenge was difficulty in creating appropriate official conditions for a DESD coordination board in our country. Due to political unsustainability in Kyrgyzstan the past two years, people in both the Ministry of Education and State Agency have often changed. This has influenced the work of the DESD coordination board strongly. The other challenge is an absence of financial resources.
Lessons learned	Nevertheless, for the rationale of decision makers, enthusiasm and wishes to promote the DESD in the country is very high, and we have obtained appropriate results on ESD implementation.
Next steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To achieve appropriate official status of a DESD coordination board in Kyrgyzstan 2. To complete the formation of a working group on developing ESD indicators 3. To complete identification of national goals and priorities on ESD 4. To develop a national DESD monitoring system in Kyrgyzstan 5. To share our progress with other countries and start collecting data throughout the country
Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any web-resources, for obtaining the necessary knowledge and experience to develop national monitoring systems on ESD? • Do you know of any opportunities for expert and financial support where our DESD council can apply? • What kind of support can the government receive from the UNESCO National Committee? • How can the UNESCO Cluster office cooperate more with governmental agencies responsible for ESD implementation in Kyrgyzstan?

U z b e k i s t a n – J u n e 2 0 0 7

National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress

Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (June 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(April – June 2007)

Summary of progress	We have not yet officially established a national DESD monitoring system in Uzbekistan. During the Board of Coordination Council of DESD held on 31 May 2007, members discussed the development of a National DESD Monitoring System; and the development of National Action Plan and Strategy for the DESD. The establishment of a national DESD monitoring system for Uzbekistan was also proposed to the Coordination Council.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2005, we have had an agreement to implement the UNECE Strategy on ESD in Uzbekistan between the State Committee for Nature Protection, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education and the Ministry of Public Education. The Coordination Council of DESD, including experts from the State Committee for Nature Protection, Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education, Ministry of Public Education, Center on DESD at the National University of Uzbekistan, NGOs and International organizations. The Coordination Council on DESD is mainly responsible for DESD issues in Uzbekistan. <i>Mr. Ravshanjon Mamatkulov</i>, Head of Information Service of the State Committee for Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Chairman of Coordination Council on DESD of the Republic of Uzbekistan, organizes monthly meetings of the Coordination Council on the DESD. At present, the "Bioekosan" Center under the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan is elaborating the monitoring system of ecological education in the general education system for the 2007-2008 academic years.
Challenges	We have a shortage of information on national ESD indicators. In Uzbekistan, we have data collection and reporting mechanism challenges.
Lessons learned	In order to raise awareness of ESD among people, the State Committee for Nature Protection has devoted one section its periodical journal "Ecological bulletin" to the issue of the DESD.
Next steps (next 3 months)	1. Creation of a working group on a National DESD Monitoring system.
Inquiries	N/A
Additional comments	N/A

U z b e k i s t a n – September 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National strategic plan for the DESD developed • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sep. 2007)

Summary of progress	The meeting of Coordination Council on DESD of Uzbekistan was held on 8 September 2007. Representatives from Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education, State Committee for Nature Protection, Educational Centre "Sustainable Development and Information Technologies", National University of Uzbekistan, NGOs participated in this meeting. During the meeting participants discussed how to manage the national ESD monitoring system. The Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education, State Committee for Nature Protection, Educational Centre "Sustainable Development and Information Technologies" at the National University of Uzbekistan and NGOs appointed one person from each organization who will elaborate mechanism of ESD monitoring system in Working group on National ESD Monitoring. Members of WG on National ESD Monitoring participated in the meetings of Coordination Council on DESD and will provide ESD National Focal Point with information about ESD. The NGO "Bioekosan" under the Ministry of Public Education elaborated mechanism on Ecological Education.
Achievements	Establishing a Working Group on evaluation, monitoring and elaboration of new indicators under Coordination Council on DESD was the most significant achievement.
Challenges	
Lessons learned	
Next steps (next 3 months)	1. Meeting of Experts on DESD will discuss how reinforce and improve activities of WG on evaluation, monitoring and elaboration of new indicators.;
Inquiries	Sharing information on DESD evaluation and monitoring.

U z b e k i s t a n – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National strategic plan for the DESD developed • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Summary of progress	<p>The ordinary meeting of the Coordination Council on DESD of Uzbekistan was held on 29 December 2007. Representatives from the Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education, State Committee for Nature Protection, Educational Centre "Sustainable Development and Information Technologies", National University of Uzbekistan and NGOs participated in this meeting. Ms. Guzal Salikhova, the National ESD Monitoring focal point prepared a report on the progress of the national ESD monitoring system and how to reinforce the activities of the WG on monitoring. During the meeting participants discussed how to evaluate and manage the ESD monitoring system. The WG on national ESD monitoring includes representatives from the Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education, State Committee for Nature Protection, Educational Centre "Sustainable Development and Information Technologies" at the National University of Uzbekistan and NGOs. The interministerial WG on ESD evaluation and monitoring, responsible for the development of new national indicators on ESD, will prepare a report on ESD activities in Uzbekistan for a meeting on the DESD in February.</p>
Achievements	<p>The WG on evaluation and monitoring (representatives from the Ministry of Public Education, Ministry of Higher and Special Secondary Education, State Committee for Nature Protection and NGOs) identified their ESD objectives.</p>
Challenges	<p>Gathering data and information, encouraging the responsibility of members of the WG on evaluation, monitoring and elaboration of new indicators, and raising funds for a project on evaluation and monitoring, also for elaborating new indicators.</p>
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WG on DESD (on indicators, evaluation and monitoring) identified their objectives. • Ministries, professors of the Educational Centre "Sustainable Development and Information Technologies" at the National University of Uzbekistan and NGOs prepared a manual on ESD for teachers (how to integrate ESD into curriculum) and students. They are planning to organize several meetings, workshops and trainings for policy makers, teachers and students for raising awareness among people on ESD.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ordinary meeting on DESD will be organized in February with participation from interministerial experts and vice-ministers; 2. The WG on monitoring (also responsible for national indicators and evaluation) will nominate one expert to the legislative chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) WG on education. As Oliy Majlis is discussing the draft of the new edition of the Law "On education", experts of the WG on ESD are planning to include ESD in this new edition; 3. Continue to raise awareness among Ministries and NGOs about the significance and importance of ESD; and 4. Raise funds for a project on evaluation and monitoring, also for elaborating new indicators.
Inquiries	<p>We would like to share information on indicators, evaluation and monitoring on ESD.</p>

U z b e k i s t a n – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DESD considered by government •National strategic plan for the DESD developed •National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally
	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

– Progress to date (April 2008)
 – Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Additional Background	<p>A meeting with the new coordinator on the DESD was organized at the State Committee for Nature Protection. Issues relating to the increase in the number of members of the Coordination Council and strengthening ESD were discussed.</p> <p>The International Conference on “Problems of Aral Sea and its influence to the genofond of the population, fauna and flora and measures of international cooperation for reduction of its consequences” was held on 11-12 March 2008 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan with support of the Charitable Fund for Preservation of genofond of the Aral Sea, UNDP, World Bank, UNESCO, Asian Development Bank, WHO and others.</p> <p>The Scholars of the National University of Uzbekistan elaborated the manual, "Education for Sustainable Development," for teachers (universities, teacher training institutes, lyceums, colleges and secondary schools) and students (lyceums and colleges, grades 8-9 in schools) on the integration of ESD into curriculum, in collaboration with the UNESCO Tashkent Office and the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO.</p> <p>A three-day teacher training seminar was organized at the National University on 25-27 March, 2008 with the authors of the manual "Education for Sustainable Development." The next activities on ESD will be held at the Avloniy Republican Teacher Training Institute, the Teacher Training Institute at the National University, the Tashkent Region Teacher Training Institute, the Pedagogical University in Tashkent, the Academy of State and Social Construction and member-schools of the ASPnet Project in Tashkent.</p> <p>The project “Promotion of ESD programs through adaptation and utilization of the Planet 1 ‘Water pollution,’ Planet 2 ‘Forest conservation’ and Planet 3 ‘Waste management’ in Uzbekistan” for the year 2008, supported by ACCU, is moving forward. Target beneficiaries of the projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adult learners, school-going children in urban areas, trainers of CLCs (Community Learning Centers) and experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations, working in the field of environmental education and ASPnet Schools of UNESCO in Uzbekistan. - Two kindergartens in Tashkent involved in the ACCU-UNESCO Asia-Pacific Innovation Programme for ESD on “Creation of experimental special groups in kindergartens and secondary schools for introduction of inclusive education” in the Republic of Uzbekistan.
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Summary of progress	The National ESD Focal Point on ESD monitoring, Mrs.Guzal Salikhova, gathered information on ecological education and ESD.
Achievements	<p>The National Coordinator on ESD, Mrs.Guzal Salikhova, in collaboration with the Coordination Council on DESD of Uzbekistan, gathered information on ecological education and ESD.</p> <p>The Working Group on ESD analyzed the information and identified challenges and difficulties of data collection mechanisms. During the meeting at the State Committee for Nature Protection held on 19 April 2008, participants decided to increase the number of members of the Coordination Council in order to broaden representation among society, to include members such as the Committee on Religious Affairs of Uzbekistan, Spirituality and Advocacy Republican Center, mass media, "Ecosan" International Foundation, "For Healthy Generation" International Foundation and others.</p>
Challenges	Some problems exist in data collection because of the lack of information on ESD.
Lessons learned	<p>The National Focal Point on ESD, Mrs. Guzal Salikhova, organized a presentation on the book "From Ecological Education into Sustainable Development" at the National Press Center.</p> <p>The NGO "Environment for Healthy Life" in collaboration with experts elaborated a manual on Climate Change for students of lyceums, colleges and secondary schools in the 9th grade.</p>
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening of the DESD Coordination Council of Uzbekistan; 2. Organization of more activities on ESD for awareness raising among the public; 3. Strenthening of the Working Group on ESD (for development of indicators, data collection and monitoring); and 4. Training seminars on the integration of ESD into curricula.
Inquiries	We would like to share information about the elaboration of national monitoring mechanisms for ESD.

TOWARDS MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: EAST ASIA

The East Asia subregion, for the purposes of this compilation, includes the UNESCO Beijing Cluster countries – China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea. Throughout the Country Update process, Member States were asked to share their challenges, lessons learned and next steps toward the development of their national ESD monitoring systems. The key trends, lessons learned and challenges towards monitoring system development provided by participating Member States from East Asia are listed below and have been adapted here for the general context (see the Country Updates on pp. 21-26 for actual responses).

KEY TRENDS

- 1. Raising awareness of ESD on different levels, by...**
 - Organizing field visits for experts to project sites to monitor processes, identify issues and provide practical advice to improve ESD implementation;
 - Publishing guidelines to coach educators and other stakeholders on steps for conducting research on ESD; and
 - Holding international forums on ESD with stakeholders and those moving ESD forward to introduce and share good practices on ESD at the national level.
- 2. Building intersectoral capacity for ESD monitoring, by...**
 - Publishing guidelines to coach stakeholders on steps for conducting baseline studies to measure the current status of ESD; and
 - Conduct workshops, meetings and round table discussions with inter-ministerial representatives and experts to share information (e.g., the *Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators*) and build capacity for developing national ESD indicators.
- 3. Incorporating ESD monitoring into policy, by...**
 - Putting ESD monitoring and evaluation onto the policy the agenda in 2008 to move action forward.
- 4. Initiating the development of a national DESD monitoring system, by...**
 - Consulting with the relevant, high-level committees to identify a national ESD coordinator or focal point;
 - Holding inter-ministerial meetings with experts to discuss ways to monitor and evaluate ESD, including the establishment of relevant working groups;
 - Forming a working group on ESD indicators; and
 - Conducting research and consultations with government institutions and organizations who are capable of developing a national DESD monitoring system.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Strong will of the government to lead and participate in ESD activities is the single most important factor related to the development of the DESD monitoring system.
- ESD stakeholders are interested in resources for guiding ESD indicator development, such as the *Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators*.
- To ensure proper follow-up on the development of ESD indicators requires proper documentation and identification of steps.

KEY CHALLENGES

- A lack of interest by the government – Even if the importance of sustainable development has been recognized by the government, ESD may not yet be a priority of key line Ministries.
- Understanding how to monitor and evaluate the process of ESD – Developing a new integrated strategy for monitoring and assessing learning processes has yet to be done before.

C h i n a – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DESD considered by government •National ESD body established •DESD launch held •National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (April 2008)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Additional Background	<p>The main goal of the China ESD Project is to implement the DESD and carry out innovative ESD practices with Chinese characteristics, taking education with the value of sustainable development as the core, and education on environment-resources and culture-society as two main parts.</p> <p>The main tasks of the China ESD Project are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through education on the value of sustainable development, foster students' values and lifestyles of respecting the contemporary and future generations, respecting excellent traditional culture as well as world culture, and respecting the environment and resources. • Through education on the environment and resources, help students to gain knowledge about protecting the environment, caring for nature saving resources, circular economies, sustainable lifestyles and improving their relevant ability. • Through education on culture and society, help students to inherit excellent Chinese traditional culture as well as world culture, grasp scientific knowledge and strengthen their ability so that they will love their country and the people, work for society and have a global view.
Additional Vision	<p>Annual goals for 2005 through 2010 have been set up as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005: Advocate and publicize, set up strategies to implement the DESD and explore approaches and methods. • In 2006: Strengthen the system in place, build partnership networks, set up key projects and initiate research projects on ESD. • In 2007: Carry out innovative practices on ESD in an all-round way, revise "Guidelines of the China ESD Project" and develop an ESD Activity Base for students. • In 2008: Promote communication and exchange on ESD at different levels, find out good practices, adjust implementation strategies and approaches, prepare to build the first batch of ESD Demonstrative Schools. • In 2009: Disseminate good practices on ESD, build and award 50 ESD Demonstrative Schools, construct more ESD Activity Bases for students. • In 2010: Systematically review and evaluate the previous five-years of experience with ESD.

Summary of progress	<p>Organized field visits for experts to project sites in Beijing, Hu Bei, Inner Mongolia, Shang Hai, Guang Dong, etc. to monitor processes, determine problems and give advice for improvement.</p> <p>Issued the "Guidelines for Applying for ESD Projects" to instruct educators to carry out research on ESD and, through the numbers and content of the applied projects, to monitor the status quo of ESD research.</p> <p>Held the Third Int'l Forum on ESD and invited educators of project member schools to introduce good practices on ESD to get to know the project process in schools.</p>
Achievements	<p>Monitoring and evaluation of the DESD was put on the agenda in 2008 and should be initiated as soon as possible.</p>
Challenges	<p>How to monitor and evaluate the process of the China ESD Project.</p>
Lessons learned	<p>A need exists to carry out research on monitoring and evaluation of the China ESD Project.</p>
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forming a working group on ESD indicators; and 2. Developing and identifying ESD indicators.
Inquiries	<p>We would like to study ESD indicators for monitoring and evaluation of other countries such as South Korea, Japan, etc.</p>
Additional information	<p>The China ESD Project has been carried out for ten years and has had positive outcomes in all aspects. We, therefore, suggest holding seminars for communicating and exchanging good practices on ESD in China.</p>

National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress

Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework; integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collecting data and interpreting results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (June 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(April – June 2007)

Summary of progress	In June 2007, a workshop on ESD was held with the participation of staff and experts from the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, among others (NPO representatives also participated in the workshop). At the meeting, Prof. Shuichi Nakayama from the Hiroshima University of Economics and Prof. Masahisa Sato, a full-time instructor at the Musashi Institute of Technology, presented their reports on the Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators.
Achievements	The information on the <i>Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators</i> was presented to the ministries and agencies dealing with ESD, experts from the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and NPO representatives.
Challenges	N/A
Lessons learned	It became obvious that experts from the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies and NPO representatives have a great interest in the <i>Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators</i> . It also became obvious that the research on the impact of DESD is important.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An Inter-ministerial Meeting on the DESD will be held, and the information on the development of ESD indicators by UNESCO (including the <i>Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators</i>) will be provided at the meeting of the DESD National Committee. 2. Members of Inter-ministerial Meeting on the DESD will also discuss ways to monitor and evaluate the DESD in Japan, including through the establishment of working groups.
Inquiries	We would like to share the information about DESD Monitoring, the way of evaluation and the situation/the contents of considering about how to regard the indicator in international level, regional level and national level. Moreover, we would also like to share the effects brought by ESD and information regarding the indicators which measure these effects.
Additional comments	N/A

J a p a n – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National ESD body established • National strategic plan for the DESD developed • DESD launch held • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Additional background	The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) selected fourteen model areas and have supported them for conducting community-based ESD projects. Also, the MOE, in cooperation with other ministries and UN agencies such as the United Nations University, will develop a vision of higher education for sustainable development in March 2008.
Summary of progress	The Interministerial Meeting on DESD was held in October 2007. The meeting decided on the establishment of a round-table meeting with academic experts, educators, and related persons from NPOs and enterprises for discussing how to evaluate ESD activities.
Achievements	The most significant 'achievement' is the decision to establish a round-table meeting for discussing how to evaluate ESD activities.
Challenges	N/A
Lessons learned	N/A
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Round table with experts on the DESD will be held and information on the development of ESD indicators by UNESCO (including the <i>Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators</i>) will be provided at the meeting; and 2. The Round table with expert on the DESD will also discuss ways to monitor and evaluate the DESD in Japan.
Inquiries	We would like to share information about DESD monitoring, the way of evaluation and the situation/contents for considering how to regard indicators at the international level, regional level and national level. Moreover, we would like to share the effects brought about by ESD and information regarding indicators which measure the effects of ESD.

<p>Additional comments</p>	<p>The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO compiled a new list of proposals aimed at further promoting the DESD based on important thoughts and new perspectives, with the expectation that UNESCO will further develop its leadership role. In the proposals the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO strongly recommends UNESCO to promote the monitoring and evaluation of the DESD. Concrete measures should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Deciding on strategies to monitor and evaluate DESD internationally, as well as on the formulation of necessary indicators; conveying this information to Member States and obtaining international consensus in time for the compilation of the intermediate review, to be published at the end of 2009; and 2) Conducting research on the positive effects of ESD, and sharing that information among Member States. <p>The Japanese Government submitted a draft resolution on the further promotion of the DESD, which was adopted with the support of the vast majority of Member States at the 34th General Conference. The resolution calls upon the Director-General to take all necessary measures within existing resources and to seek extrabudgetary funds as appropriate to further ensure UNESCO's response to the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 57/254,58/219 and 59/237 and to ensure the steady implementation of the DESD according to the International Implementation Scheme, through inter alia:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">developing, in consultation with Member States, tools to promote effective monitoring and evaluation of the DESD and regularly providing information, as appropriate, on DESD implementation worldwide.</p>
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Republic of Korea – September 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DESD considered by government •National strategic plan for the DESD developed •National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally	



– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sept. 2007)

Summary of progress	N/A
Achievements	N/A
Challenges	A lack of interest by the government -The importance of sustainable development has been recognized by the government (Ministry of Environment); however, Education for Sustainable Development has not yet been regarded as a priority by the Ministry of Education and Human Resources.
Lessons learned	We think that the strong will of the government to lead and participate in ESD activities is the single most important factor related to the development of the DESD monitoring system.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation with the Presidential Committee on Sustainable Development (PCSD) with a particular focus on the issue of identifying the national focal point. 2. Research and consultation with governmental institutions/organizations capable of developing a national DESD monitoring system.
Inquiries	We would like to receive advice regarding the strategies used to motivate governments to play a major role in the implementation of DESD.
Additional comments	N/A

TOWARDS MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: SOUTH ASIA

The South Asian subregion, for the purposes of this compilation, includes the UNESCO New Delhi Cluster countries – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Throughout the Country Update process, Member States were asked to share their challenges, lessons learned and next steps toward the development of their national ESD monitoring systems. The key trends, lessons learned and challenges towards monitoring system development provided by participating Member States from East Asia are listed below and have been adapted here for the general context (see the Country Updates on pp. 29-35 for actual responses).

KEY TRENDS

- 1. Establishing a National Committee for ESD, which...**
 - Consists of committee members from relevant ministries and departments;
 - Is divided into subcommittees related to the expertise of the committee members;
 - Identifies subcommittee priorities, opportunities and areas for improvement;
 - Works with stakeholders to identify key sustainable development issue and national ESD priorities; and
 - Develops and finalizes the national ESD Implementation Structure.

- 2. Nominating a national ESD coordinator, who...**
 - Is affiliated with a key ESD line ministry (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment, ...)

- 3. Developing a National ESD Action Plan, which...**
 - Identifies national ESD goals and priorities;
 - Considers the national ESD monitoring system and indicator development process; and
 - Is discussed with concerned stakeholders for feedback prior to approval.

- 4. Initiating the development of a national ESD monitoring system, by...**
 - Establishing a working group on ESD monitoring to develop indicators;
 - Allocating financial support for the development of a national ESD monitoring system;
 - Formulating an ESD monitoring and indicator development plan in consultation with national stakeholders;
 - Identifying an agency to assist with the development of the indicators; and
 - Conducting workshops to discuss with stakeholders how to develop ESD indicators and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for schools, communities, etc.

- 5. Incorporating ESD monitoring into policy, by...**
 - Raising awareness among the Ministry of Education and relevant line ministries about the importance of ESD policies and monitoring.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- More awareness about ESD is essential to develop an effective national DESD monitoring system; the development of ESD activities should not only take place in the school system, but also at the grass roots level in a country.
- Frequent consultations between different stakeholders and those coordinating the indicator development process (e.g., the National Commission, relevant Ministries, etc.) ensures speedy implementation.
- Documentation and identification of detailed processes for each and every step is a must to ensure proper follow-up on DESD indicator development.

KEY CHALLENGES

- ESD coordination - ESD is not a single subject. For this reason, many ministries and departments and also NGO and INGOs are involved in ESD activities and it is difficult to coordinate each and every sector.
- Developing national monitoring policy – Devising and implementing a suitable policy for a DESD Monitoring System between different Ministries / Departments and between Central and State governments is challenging, particularly in larger countries.
- Identification of mechanisms and agencies for developing a monitoring system –Various sectors have already prepared policies and indicators for monitoring and assessment of their activities. These need to be streamlined.
- Allocating funds for monitoring system development – Especially in larger countries, a huge budget allocation is needed to develop indicators and initiate the monitoring and assessment process.

National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress

Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework; integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collecting data and interpreting results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (June 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(April – June 2007)

Summary of progress	The process to identify / develop a National DESD Monitoring System in India in consultation with stakeholders, especially with the Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Ahmadabad, has begun.
Achievements	We are developing the National DESD Plan document identifying the priorities, monitoring and assessment system and indicator development process.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordination between different Ministries / Departments and between Central and State governments for devising and implementing a suitable policy for a DESD Monitoring System Allocating and arranging funds for monitoring system development
Lessons learned	Frequent consultations between different stakeholders with the Indian National Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO (INCCU) and the Ministry of Education in the coordinating role would ensure speedy implementation
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss allocation of funds for the Project 2. Meeting of the DESD National Committee 3. Document the National DESD Plan 4. Development of a Monitoring/Indicators Development Plan in consultation with stakeholders in the National Committee meeting
Inquiries	We would like to know about the consultative process to develop the National DESD Monitoring System between different stakeholders.
Additional comments	N/A

India – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DESD considered by government •National ESD body established •DESD launch held •National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Summary of progress	We have identified national DESD goals and priorities. A draft National Action Plan has been prepared and is likely to be approved this month. Following which, a working group for developing indicators/monitoring mechanisms will be set up.
Achievements	A draft National Action Plan for the DESD prepared with indicators included
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mechanism and agencies to be identified for the development of indicators/monitoring mechanisms; and • Including present indicators for other UNESCO Programmes in the DESD monitoring system.
Lessons learned	Documentation and identification of detailed processes for each and every step is a must to ensure proper follow-up on DESD indicator development
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of the National Action Plan; 2. Setting up a working group on indicator development; and 3. Development of DESD indicators/monitoring mechanisms.
Inquiries	Documentation on the various processes for developing national DESD indicators / monitoring mechanisms after establishing a working group.
Additional information	<p>We would like to share information on :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our experience with developing a National DESD Action Plan. • Processes for setting up a working group. • The development process for national indicators and monitoring mechanisms

India – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National ESD body established • DESD launch held • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (April 2008)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Additional Background	The Government of India and UNESCO organized the 4 th International Conference on Environment Education from 26 – 28 November 2007 in Ahmadabad, India. The conference was attended by more than 1586 participants from 97 countries and adopted "The Ahmadabad Declaration: A call to action". This conference is expected to boost ESD efforts at the national, regional and international levels.
Summary of progress	National DESD goals and priorities have been identified. The draft DESD National Action Plan has been prepared and will be discussed with concerned stakeholders, after which a working group on the development of indicators and monitoring mechanisms will be set up.
Achievements	Preparation of a draft National Action Plan and a preparatory process for the development of indicators and monitoring mechanisms.
Challenges	Considering the diversity and geographical spread of the country, the most important challenge is the identification of mechanisms and agencies for the development of indicators and monitoring mechanisms and the inclusion of present indicators from other programmes and activities.
Lessons learned	To ensure proper follow-up on the DESD indicators development project. Proper documentation and identification of the steps involved is also necessary.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of the National Action Plan; 2. Setting up a working group on indicator development; 3. Identification of an agency for the development of the indicators; and 4. Development of DESD indicators/monitoring mechanisms.
Inquiries	Documentation on the various processes used for developing national DESD indicators / monitoring mechanisms after establishing a working group.
Additional information	<p>We would like to share information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our experience with developing a National DESD Action Plan; • Processes for setting up a working group on indicator development; and • The development process for national indicators and monitoring mechanisms.

S r i L a n k a – September 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DESD considered by government 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally	



– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sept. 2007)

Summary of progress	Established a separate unit in the Ministry of Education for Peace and Education for Sustainable Development. This unit is closely working with the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO and we hope to establish a separate committee including the members of various ministries and the Departments under the leadership of the Peace and Sustainable Development unit. The Ministry of Education has already presented the National Action Plan for Early Childhood Care Education and Adult Literacy to the Cabinet of Ministers. This covers Early Childhood and Adult Education.
Achievements	The Peace and Education for Sustainable Development unit conducted workshops regarding peace and Peace Education to education policy makers and the master teachers. The Peace and Education for Sustainable Unit has also identified relevant ministries and departments to include the national ESD Committee.
Challenges	ESD is not a single subject. For this reason, many ministries and departments and also NGO and INGO's are involved in ESD activities and it is difficult to coordinate each and every sectors.
Lessons learned	More awareness about the ESD is very essential.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the Key Group 2. Divide the key working group into subcommittees related to their subjects 3. Identify subcommittee priorities, opportunities and areas for improvement 4. Present findings in a working group and identify national priorities 5. Identify indicators
Inquiries	N/A
Resources	Draft National Action Plans for Early Childhood Care and Adult Literacy (available at: http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=4151)

S r i L a n k a – December 2007

<i>National DESD Background</i>	<i>National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress</i>									
	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally	

– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)
 – Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Additional background	The Ministry of Education (MOE) has completed various discussions, workshops and prepared policies regarding the Education for All and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Development Goals; they are especially concerned about Livelihood, Education, Health and Environmental issues and prepared indicators and targets. The unit for Peace and Social Cohesion has completed workshops regarding policy for peace and social cohesion. The indicators and the policy document are in progress. The Non-formal Education unit of the MOE is to hold a workshop regarding adult education, special education and hopes to prepare a policy document in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Services and Social Welfare and also build up indicators, monitoring and assesment systems.
Summary of progress	We have already identified the SAARC Development Goals and prepared targets and indicators which are relevant to Education, Health, Environment and Livelihood. We've also completed a discussion about the policy for peace and social cohesion.
Achievements	Various units of the MOE have understood the importance of the policies and a monitoring and evaluation system. Therefore, they are involved actively to prepare indicators and policies
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the officers think about developing their sector as a single unit, but ESD does not belong to a single sector and it is more beneficial to think from a holistic approach. • We are in the process of forming a working group on ESD indicators. But various sectors in the MOE have already prepared policies and indicators for monitoring and assessment of their activities. These need to be streamlined.
Lessons learned	Team work is very important to prepare policies and make indicators.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinating all sectors; and 2. Forming a working group.
Inquiries	The provision of already documented indicators in their respective countries, as well as the processes involved in policy, monitoring and assesment.
Additional comments	N/A

S r i L a n k a – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DESD considered by government •National ESD body established 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally	

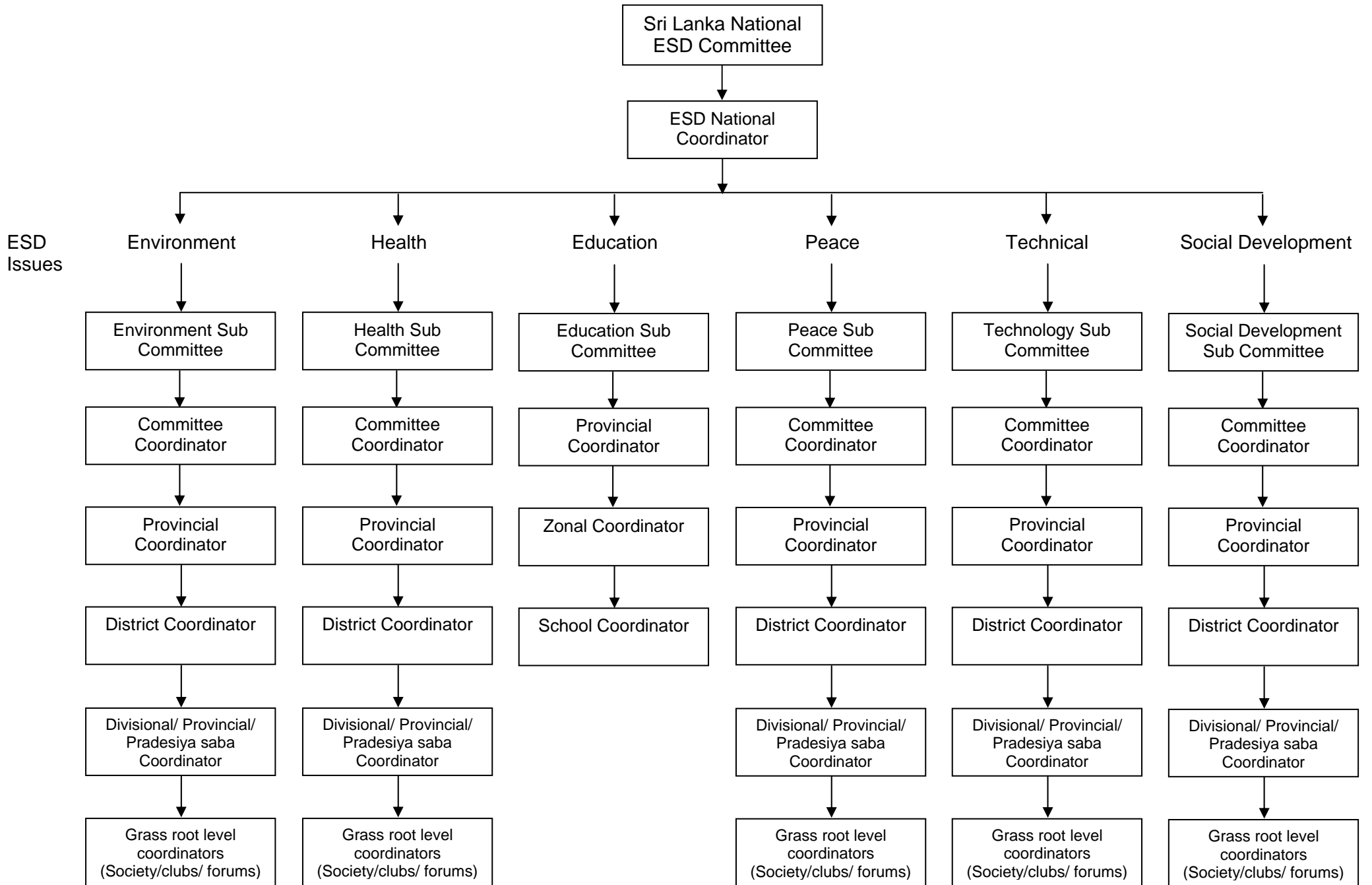
– Progress to date (April 2008)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Additional background	An ESD National Committee meeting will be held on 28 April 2008 where we hope to finalize the National Strategic Plan for ESD and to discuss indicators and data collection mechanisms.
Summary of progress	Over the last three months, we have conducted two ESD workshops and two meetings. We have identified key ESD issues and the proposed ESD implementation structure (see chart next page). We would like to finalize this structure on 28 April 2008 at the ESD National Committee meeting.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed the ESD National coordinator from the Ministry of Education. • Identified key ESD issues and nominated ESD sub-committees. • Now we are in the process of developing indicators and a monitoring and evaluation system, and finalizing the ESD structure and programmes.
Challenges	All of the responsible officers from the various Ministries are very busy. It is very difficult to gather all responsible officers at one time to discuss issues.
Lessons learned	The importance of the development of ESD activities not only in the school system, but also at the grass roots level in the country.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will hold a workshop of the National ESD Committee on 28 April to finalize the ESD Implementation Structure and discuss the types of activities to be carried out in schools and communities, indicators, and monitoring and evaluation systems. 2. In mid-May we hope to conduct an awareness programme for the provincial and zonal education officers. 3. At the end of May we want to conduct a workshop and discuss with the sub committees how to finalize indicators and monitoring and evaluation systems in schools and communities. 4. After finalizing the indicators and monitoring and evaluation system, we hope to introduce it to selected school principals, along with ESD activities and how to implement the activities in schools and communities. 5. A national workshop on Institutional Audit regarding ESD will be held 27-28 May.
Inquiries	Please see chart on the next page. We would like support to develop the ESD implementation structure and welcome other comments about this structure.
Additional comments	N/A



TOWARDS MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: SOUTH EAST ASIA

The South-East Asia subregion, for the purposes of this compilation, includes the UNESCO Bangkok Cluster countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam; and the UNESCO Jakarta Cluster countries – Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Timor Leste. Throughout the Country Update process, Member States were asked to share their challenges, lessons learned and next steps toward the development of their national ESD monitoring systems. The key trends, lessons learned and challenges towards monitoring system development provided by participating Member States from South East Asia are listed below and have been adapted here for the general context (see the Country Updates on pp. 38-54 for actual responses).

KEY TRENDS

- 1. Establishing a National Committee for ESD, that...**
 - Comprises of high-level representation such as high-ranking government leaders and ministers;
 - Maintains an extended scope of representation beyond education and the environment;
 - Links with EFA constituents, such as a National EFA - ESD Committee;
 - Reviews and consolidates membership over time to enhance effectiveness; and
 - Maintains legal status and functions.
- 2. Promoting intersectoral collaboration and cooperation on ESD, by...**
 - Receiving ideas on how to approach ESD from legislative bodies, government, NGOs and civil society, religious institutions, communities, educators and others; and
 - Engaging stakeholders at different levels, particularly the private sector, local governments, NGOs, civil society and other government bodies in planning, implementation and monitoring.
- 3. Developing a National ESD Action Plan, which...**
 - Maintains an extended scope beyond the environment;
 - Identifies national ESD priorities, goals and targets;
 - Encourages a wide range of activities, including research; and
 - Is drafted and finalized by a national body such as a National ESD Committee.
- 4. Raising awareness of ESD on different levels, by...**
 - Providing information on ESD and ESD implementation to the district and community levels;
 - Organizing workshops for partners and stakeholders in various parts of the country; and
 - Holding a national conference on ESD for a wide range of actors, such as senators, assembly members, Ministry of Council Ministers, Departments of Education in all provinces and other provincial departments, educators and teachers.
- 5. Initiating the development of a national DESD monitoring system, by...**
 - Identifying all stakeholders, including experts, that can contribute to a national ESD monitoring program;
 - Forming a working group to focus on ESD indicator development and clarifying the status and responsibilities of the group;
 - Organising workshops to develop partnerships among indicator development experts and study mechanisms for developing indicators and monitoring and assessment mechanisms;
 - Translating the *Asia Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators* into the national language; and
 - Raising funds for indicator development projects such as a project on developing national DESD indicators.
- 6. Conducting a baseline evaluation, to ...**
 - Study the current status of ESD in the country (current programmes, resources, actors and their scale of involvement in ESD);
 - Identify steps for formulating indicators and monitoring instruments; and
 - Research ongoing M&E activities and tools for data collection and reporting.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

Monitoring System Insight

- Raising awareness among national partners about the national DESD monitoring system is important to pull together ESD efforts and develop national synergy for the Decade.
- Indicators are the key to ESD monitoring and are the first step to be taken for an effective monitoring and reporting system; appropriate processes and mechanisms for indicator development will be decisive factors for success.
- Translating guidelines and materials for indicator development into the local language is key for engaging local-level stakeholders in indicator development.

Stakeholder Insight

- Attaining the objectives of the DESD and related international initiatives such as EFA requires the full endorsement and implementation backing of the nation. All government and non-government organizations concerned should be informed about attaining the objectives.
- Without participation and joint efforts by all circles in the DESD, including professional experts and government stakeholders, no success can be assured on the Decade. Thus, a united effort is needed to formulate a national DESD monitoring system.
- The involvement of field implementers and stakeholders, in addition to high level government officials and education experts, in the indicator development process is necessary to ensure a sense of ownership and concern for the success of the DESD.

ESD Insight

- Care should be taken to ensure that the scope of ESD extends beyond the environment.
- Printing materials for dissemination and raising awareness of ESD using the media and programmes on ESD-related content on TV, radio, etc. is useful to advocate for the Decade.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Involving multiple stakeholders in ESD – Mobilizing stakeholders, especially the private sector and civil society, to participate in discussions on the planning and implementation of ESD and synergizing ESD activities and achievements among national institutions, international organizations and academia, takes time and is not an easy task.
- Coordination among experts for indicator development – Harmonizing existing M&E systems, including measures for gathering national partners and experts to initiate a network for developing national ESD indicators, is a big challenge.
- Identification and selection of indicators that represent ESD at the national level – As evaluation and monitoring processes for ESD have not been duly developed for application, ESD indicators and the role of various stakeholders in ESD M&E are not clear.
- Poor access to technology – A challenge noted from EFA: due to poor access to ICTs, electronic data collection forms are often printed and data is entered manually resulting in human error and delay.
- Fundraising – Raising funds for ESD activities and projects, including funds for indicator development, is key to ensure successful achievement of the DESD.

C a m b o d i a – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework; integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Additional Background	The Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Royal Academy of Cambodia, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), has been working on the possible establishment of a National Commission for DESD, called the National Committee for Education for Sustainable Development (NCESDC), in Cambodia with inter-ministerial participation.
Summary of progress	With three national conferences on the DESD in our country, the senators, assembly members, Ministry of Council Ministers, Departments of Education in all provinces and others provincial departments, educators and some teachers have increased their understanding on ESD and they will participate if we have a plan and mechanism for DESD implementation.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated and received ideas on the DESD from the legislative bodies, Government, GO, NGOs, civil society, religious institutions, communities, educators and others • Encouraged the establishment of the NCESDC
Challenges	Involving multiple national institutions and international organizations in discussions on the planning and implementation of ESD for the Decade
Lessons learned	The importance of ESD and the DESD were recognized, as a result of conferences and discussions, by stakeholders, especially the Royal Academy of Cambodia, the MoEYS, the Ministry of Council and other related ministries.
Next steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a working group for ESD training; 2. Provide ESD and DESD information and implementation to the district and community levels; 3. Identify all the stakeholders that will contribute to the DESD monitoring program; 4. Develop an action plan for DESD to research the activities and implementation in the MoEYS for collecting data; and 5. Conduct an assessment for the DESD each year from 2009 until 2014.
Inquiries	We would like to know or receive information, indicators developed, documents related to DESD implementation from other regional experiences for collecting or for sharing experiences.
Additional comments	We would like cooperation and assistance from others countries and UNESCO Bangkok to develop the National DESD Monitoring System in Cambodia through spiritual support, materials and budget, etc.

Cambodia – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National strategic plan for the DESD developed • DESD launch held • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (April 2008)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Additional Background	The Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Royal Academy of Cambodia, in cooperation with the MoEYS, has been working on the possible establishment of a national committee for the DESD called the National Committee for Education for Sustainable Development in Cambodia (NCESDC) with inter-ministerial participation.
Summary of progress	With the three national conferences on the DESD in our country, senators, assembly members, Ministry of Council Ministers, Departments of Education in all provinces and other provincial departments, educators and some teachers have increased their understanding on ESD and they will participate if we have a plan mechanism for DESD implementation. We are currently identifying members of a national ESD committee and strategies for establishing the committee.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated and contributed ideas from legislative bodies, government, GOs, NGOs, civil society, religious institutions, communities, educators and others. • National Institute of Education and the Royal Academy of Cambodia co-organized an ESD workshop held on April 26, 2008.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving multiple national institutions and international organizations in discussions and planning for ESD and implementation of the DESD. • Studying the global monitoring and evaluation framework of the DESD and completing it on time.
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of ESD and the DESD was recognized by stakeholders, especially the Royal Academy of Cambodia, the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, the Council of Ministers and other related Ministries. • The Ministry of the Environment has strong focus on education for environmental sustainability and carries out activities such as field explanations for people at all levels, printing materials for dissemination and raising awareness of environmental issues using the media and programmes on environmental education on TV, etc. • All political persons, all Ministries and all institutions have a say in sustainable development.
Next steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide information about ESD and implementing the DESD to the district level and community levels; 2. Identify all stakeholders who will contribute to the DESD monitoring program; 3. The National Institute of Education has planned to develop an ESD program for teacher training and education and organise an ESD workshop; and 4. Hold a National Conference on the DESD related to higher education and youth in Cambodia in September 2008.

Inquiries	N/A
Additional comments	N/A
Resources	<p>Caring for Our Future: The Australian Government Strategy for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014 (available at: http://www.environment.gov.au/education/publications/caring.html)</p> <p>Results of review by the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) of international experience in the development of ESD indicators (report available at: http://www.aries.mq.edu.au/pdf/ESDIndicators_Feb07.pdf)</p>

Indonesia – September 2007

<i>National DESD Background</i>	<i>National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress</i>								
N/A	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally
	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)
 – Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sept. 2007)

Summary of progress	Extending the scope of ESD from environmental related issues to include broader issues, as suggested.
Achievements	Draft for the scope of ESD beyond the field of environment
Challenges	Involving multiple agencies in ESD
Lessons learned	Care should be taken to extend the scope of ESD beyond the environment.
Next steps (next 3 months)	1. Form a formal ESD body with an extended scope 2. Define a larger scope for ESD 3. Develop an action plan for ESD with the extended scope
Inquiries	Defining the scope of ESD
Additional comments	We plan to extend the scope of ESD from the environment to include other fields.

Indonesia – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National ESD body established • National strategic plan for the DESD developed 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Summary of progress	
Achievements	
Challenges	
Lessons learned	
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forming a working group on indicator development; and 2. Identifying national DESD goals & priorities.
Inquiries	
Additional comments	

Philippines – June 2007

National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress

Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework; integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collecting data and interpreting results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (June 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(April – June 2007)

<p>Additional Vision (June 2008)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuance of National Legislation or Policy on ESD through an Executive Order or related issuances by the Department of Education (DepEd). Integration of the National DESD Monitoring System within the country's Sector / EFA Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework, which serves as the basis for tracking the progress of the country in attaining the set EFA goals and targets, as well as in monitoring the actual effort undertaken by all stakeholders and results from these efforts. The DESD Monitoring Framework should be built in the EFA M&E Framework based on the overall goal and objectives of the Philippine EFA 2015 Plan and the global EFA goals. The National DESD Monitoring System will link with our country's proposed UNESCO Center for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia, which has been presented during the Executive Board Spring Session in April this year. UNESCO Paris will send experts from the UIL (UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning) Hamburg to do a feasibility study by January 2008 that will be submitted to the 180th session of the Executive Board in 2009.
<p>Summary of progress</p>	<p>The Sector / EFA Monitoring & Evaluation Framework has already been adopted in principle by the National EFA Committee (NEC). This is a multi-stakeholder body, composed of Ministries of Education, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Health, Labor and Employment, Local Government, Budget and Management including the Commission on Higher Education, Technical and Skills Development Authority, Council for the Welfare of Children, the National Economic Development Authority, Information Agency, Youth Commission, Anti-Poverty Commission, NGOs and the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines.</p> <p>The NEC is responsible for national coordination, policy-making, social mobilization and advocacy, resource mobilization, as well as the preparation / updating of the annual national targets. The Committee also monitors and evaluates, as well as oversees the creation and operation of sub-national alliances for EFA implementation. The country through the Department of Education has conceptualized a project to strengthen the Sector / EFA M&E Framework.</p>

Achievements	<p>The adoption (in principle) of the Sector / EFA Monitoring & Evaluation Framework by the National EFA Committee. In relation to the Project on Strengthening Sector M&E, DepED was able to secure financial resources from its own budget as well as possible support from the World Bank, AUSAID and UNICEF to fund some of the activities.</p> <p>As part of Sector/EFA M&E, the Framework for the National Learning Assessment System which aims to rationalize testing and assessment activities at different levels has also been drafted by the Department of Education.</p> <p>The development of the mechanism of data information inflow and outflow that features both paper (traditional) and electronic transmission has been most significant. The paper transmission provides the ALS (Alternative Learning System) field implementers an opportunity to include a narrative analysis of data (qualitative). Meanwhile, electronic transmission is more concerned with numbers (quantitative) and controlled by specific reporting matrices.</p>
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most challenging tasks was the development of data gathering forms especially in ensuring that the performance indicators were covered and that the forms are simple for ALS field implementers to fill-in with the required data. • The National EFA Committee was established in 2006. It was supposed to meet quarterly but it falls short of its objectives since meetings average twice per year only. • Getting the various stakeholders, internal and external to the DepED, at different levels to actively participate in the process took almost one year • Harmonization of existing M&E systems within DepED and of other agencies/organizations. • The UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines through its Secretary General has informed the President and Cabinet Secretaries, as well as the National EFA Committee, that the Decade of ESD has to be linked to the UN MDGs. Thus, a united effort of these bodies is needed to formulate the national DESD Monitoring System.
Lessons learned	<p>Attaining the objectives of the DESD and EFA requires the full endorsement and implementation machinery of the nation. All government and non-government organizations concerned should be informed about its attainment.</p>
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We foresee the National EFA Committee being converted into an EFA - ESD National Committee that will create the National Performance Indicators for the DESD Monitoring System. 2. Preparation of the SMEF (Sector / EFA Monitoring & Evaluation Framework) Manual of Operations for the development and/or revision of existing reporting formats, as well as formulation of M&E tools and instruments for new indicators.
Inquiries	<p>We would like to ask how Presidents or Prime Ministers harmonize both government agencies and its people to understand the value within the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals.</p>
Additional comments	<p>The Department of Education is currently implementing a Project entitled "Strengthening Sector / Education For All (for Sustainable Development) Monitoring and Evaluation" which will be funded through the regular budget of DepED and possible assistance from AusAID, UNICEF and World Bank.</p>

Philippines – September 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National ESD body established • National strategic plan for the DESD developed • DESD launch held • National seminars / workshops on ESD held • Center for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development established 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)
 – Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sept. 2007)

Additional Vision (June 2008)	The Philippines, by June 2008, would have a registry of all DESD providers, a monitoring and assessment toolkit for DESD and a Centre for Lifelong Learning that will assist in consolidating all DESD initiatives in the country
Summary of progress	<p>Within the past three months, the Philippine National Commission TWG on Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development (LLSD) conducted a series of workshops and activities that revolved around identifying a DESD framework and criteria for DESD providers and a monitoring system for DESD.</p> <p>UNESCO works with education agencies in promoting teacher training for DESD through its lifelong learning program strategies. After training 50 public preschool teachers from 25 sites in Luzon last May, in-service training will be conducted to reinforce their knowledge of the LLSD curriculum.</p> <p>After the successful UNESCO Education Makes News Workshop held last March 2007, monthly Media Forum have been conducted focusing on the mandates of UNESCO - Education, Social & Human Sciences, Science & Tech, Culture and Communication, which relate their projects to ESD.</p> <p>The Philippine DepED proposed to rationalize and synchronize various data-gathering activities of DepED under the Education for All (EFA) Plan 2015 and the development of a Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Thereafter, initial discussions were made on the development of data-gathering instruments for new indicators in formal basic education and the alternative learning system. Currently, DepED is working on the preparatory activities of a Formal Basic Education Survey as well validating the Alternative Learning System (ALS) data gathering instruments with various ALS implementers at different levels. Donor partners such as AusAID, UNICEF and the World Bank have expressed interest in providing financial and technical support in the implementation of the Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Engagement of other stakeholders at different levels, particularly the private sector, local government units, civil society / non-governmental organizations and other government agencies in early childhood education, formal basic education and ALS in planning, implementation and monitoring of the EFA Plan. By 2008, data collected may have not been completed yet and some data may be difficult to gather; however, a report on progress and lessons learned will be shared.</p> <p>For ALS, data gathering forms were developed based on identified performance indicators. The development of the forms was conducted in-house by the Bureau of ALS - Department of Education. The forms were validated with various ALS implementers in various occasions and groups.</p>

	<p>The UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines with representatives from major government and non-government sectors supported the development of a Centre to integrate ESD initiatives. A technical working group was created to identify priorities, strategies and goals to push LLSD forward.</p>
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The passage of EO 483 or the "Establishment of UNESCO Centre for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development" and the creation of the Technical Working Group to work on the framework, strategies, criteria and monitoring systems for DESD. • DepED's most significant EFA-related achievement within the past three months was conducting inter-agency meetings and dialogues to support rationalization and synchronization of various DepED data-gathering activities as it will save the agency from redundancy and duplication of data collection. • For ALS, the development of the guidelines in the data gathering for the massive survey on ALS providers that contribute to the full implementation of lifelong learning for all. The processes have been documented now and specific instructions have been set out for transmission to the implementers.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A need exists for closer collaboration with key DESD stakeholders such as the three education agencies of DepEd, CHED and TESDA with Non-Government Organizations, Local government units and the different government agencies, as well as academe. • DepED is the clearing house for data collection initiatives (i.e. the designated office to manage the Sector M&E). Currently, a lot of resources are being poured into conducting various surveys (not only within the Department of Education) and unnecessary duplication occurs. • For ALS or NFE, the biggest challenge is the process of validating the performance indicators and the forms with various stakeholders. Each group had different ways of wanting the data gathering organized based on their varying requirements and situations. At the end though, there was a consensus raised and the data gathering forms are ready to go.
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development is a plus factor for promoting the DESD monitoring framework. • The round table and consultation meetings done were crucial for developing a sense of ownership for DESD activities. • The involvement of field implementers and stakeholders in the development process was necessary to ensure a sense of ownership for the success of the initiative.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a survey on DESD 2. Validate findings in a round table forum 3. Conduct an initial administration of newly developed data-gathering instruments 4. Perform additional advocacy for the DESD monitoring framework through publications and other forms of media.
Inquiries	<p>Strong advocacy support for DESD indicators and more face to face discussions with key stakeholders. Consultation process is needed for an agreed country strategy on DESD or development plans.</p>
Additional comments	N/A

Philippines – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DESD considered by government •National ESD body established •National strategic plan for the DESD developed •Center for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development established 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Additional background	<p>The Quality Assurance and Accountability as well as Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Groups have already prepared their respective Action Plans. One of the urgent tasks is to finalize the Quality and Assurance and Accountability Framework (QAAF) which will determine the indicators in terms of inputs, process, outputs and outcomes and the corresponding standards and who will be principally accountable at each administrative level in attaining the standards. In coming-up with said indicators, the DESD monitoring parameters will be considered. This will be the basis for the finalization and operationalization of the Sector/EFA M&E.</p>
Additional vision	<p>It has been proposed that the Sector M&E will be piloted in selected regions in school year 2008-2009 which will start in June. It is hoped that by then the core indicators on inputs, process, outputs and outcomes and how these will be regularly collected, analysed and reported to stakeholders will already be identified. In this regard, a workshop will be conducted between February and March 2008 to come-up with these requirements.</p>
Summary of progress	<p>As part of the full implementation of the Philippine Education For All 2015 Plan and Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda, the Department of Education has created Technical Working Groups (TWGs) that will work on the Quality Assurance and Accountability and M&E Frameworks and coordinate the operationalization of such. The final QAAF will be the basis for finalizing the Sector M&E Framework and System. The said TWGs have prepared the Action Plans to ensure that by 2010 the basic education monitoring system is in place to assure quality based on standards in the provision of adequate inputs, adoption of effective and efficient processes to deliver the intended outputs for better learning outcomes. It should be noted that the country has already identified the intermediate results and outcome indicators while the core indicators on inputs, process and outputs and the corresponding standards have yet to be determined.</p> <p>While the Sector M&E Framework was already adopted in principle by the National EFA Committee, it still needs to be refined based on the final QAAF. For the last three months, the Department of Education was able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Create the TWGs for QAA and Sector M&E b. Agree on parameters of finalizing the Sector M&E which will be based on the final QAAF to be adopted by the Department of Education. c. Prepare the draft Action Plans of the TWGs d. As part of the QAA, DepED conducted a workshop to refine the national testing and assessment system that will rationalize testing and assessment activities at different levels. e. Gain World Bank interest to provide technical assistance in finalizing the Sector M&E Framework. Workshop is slated tentatively in February 2008. <p>For the DepEd Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS), data gathering instruments and guidelines were sent to all regions and divisions. Submission of data was set for the first week of December 2007.</p>

Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of the QAA and M&E TWGs and the preparation of the draft Action Plans. • For BALS, the national participation of 17 regions could be considered their most significant achievement in the last three months. ALS implemented at all levels were mobilized in the data gathering task.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of appreciation from selected QAA TWG members on what is QAA. Clear understanding on the conceptual framework of QAA among the TWG members is very necessary for the TWG to effectively perform their mandated tasks and for the Sector M&E to be relevant. • The most significant challenge for BALS is poor access to technology - digital data gathering forms are supposed to be completed and returned to the DepEd Central office online and in soft copy format using email or CD to facilitate consolidation. However, due to poor access to ICT Data gathering forms are being printed and data are being entered manually resulting in delay.
Lessons learned	<p>The QAAF should have been developed first as basis for the Sector M&E Framework. While the latter is more advanced than the former, the finalization of the Sector M&E has been put on hold pending the finalization and adoption of the QAAF.</p>
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please refer to the draft Action Plan of the M&E TWG 2. For BALS, submission of data must be followed up. Then consolidation of data can take place. After which, selected implementers will be gathered to document issues and challenges in the data gathering.
Inquiries	<p>How do you tap non-government organizations to participate?</p>
Additional comments	<p>N/A</p>

Philippines – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
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– Progress to date (Apr. 2008)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Additional background	<p>Since 1992, right after EFA was initiated in Jomtien, Thailand, a National EFA Committee was established under the Department of Education whose members represented offices of each department of the President's cabinet. Today ESD is linked to EFA under this department.</p> <p>The ESD working group headed by Education Assistant Secretary Jesus Mateo, assisted by Ms. Psyche Olayvar, recently attended the 2008 Southeast Asian EFA Mid-Decade Assessment Conference on 17-21 February 2008 in Jomtien, Thailand.</p>
Summary of progress	<p>The National EFA Committee (NEC) was formed in 1992. The UNESCO NatCom was asked to sit as an official member of the National EFA Committee (NEC) in 2006. As the Secretary General of the UNESCO NatCom and member of the ESD Monitoring Guidelines Review Team, Amb. Soliven has guided the NEC to define the process of converting to the National EFA-ESD Committee. A workshop on the linkages of EFA and ESD will be held in the near future.</p>
Achievements	<p>The NEC is now joining the proposed SEACLLSD (Southeast Asian Center for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development). Headed by Education Secretary, Jesli Lopus, the NEC Chair, and assisted by E-Net president Edicio dela Torre as co-chair, the NEC has requested a hands-on workshop on ESD to be organized by the SEACLLSD.</p>
Challenges	<p>The proposed SEACLLSD has had five focus group discussions with university experts, NGOs and local government institutions all over the country. Thus, a book containing an inventory of 105 "lifelong learning providers for ESD" has been published.</p>
Lessons learned	<p>The Operation Brotherhood Montessori schools has 40-years of experience in training ESD teachers and implementing ESD-related curricula from preschool, elementary school to professional high school and ESD teacher training college (10 years in operation). Its success in transforming traditional education which is dependent on memory work into education for self-sufficiency in both formal and informal systems has the support of the three major educational agencies: Department of Education (DepEd); Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); and Commission on Higher Education (CHED).</p> <p>We are learning that all quality education should result in sustainable development. This should involve all sectors of the government.</p>

<p>Next steps (next 3 months)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After the SEACLLSD ESD workshop, we plan to have more training for the local government units, mayors, departments of labor, agriculture, science and technology, environment and natural resources, as well as NGOs. 2. Between May 2008 and May 2009, the above undertaking is being calendared by NEC members representing the League of Mayors, Department of Social Welfare, Congressional Committee on Basic Education, TESDA (where the CLLSD keeps its office). 3. The Monthly Media Forum led by the UNESCO NatCom SecGen and weekly columns she writes for the top daily, The Philippine STAR, have promoted these efforts. 4. It is foreseen that seven universities in the Visayas (central provinces of the Philippines) will establish Early Childhood Education majors with ESD components. The CLLSD will sit in the new Technical Working Group to focus on ECE-ESD for the Commission of Higher Education in Teacher Training.
<p>Inquiries</p>	<p>We would like to ask Japan and Korea to share their experiences on how they have been developing their National ESD Monitoring Systems. Japan's success with ESD focused on conserving the environment is a valuable component that can be included in the SEACLLSD.</p>
<p>Additional comments</p>	<p>ESD should not only involve formal education, but should also include non-formal, informal and vocational training.</p>

National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress

Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collecting data and interpreting results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (June 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(April – June 2007)

Summary of progress	Vietnam is preparing a project on developing a National DESD Monitoring system through development of national DESD Indicators.
Achievements	Consolidating our National Committee on DESD
Challenges	Consolidation of the National Committee on DESD for approval of the National Action Plan.
Lessons learned	First things first, the monitoring system development process must be well defined with practical activities.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidating the National Committee on DESD. 2. Approval of the National Action Plan with targets and its statute 3. Development and study on the current status of Vietnam's DESD 4. Research and study on the current status of Vietnam's DESD.
Inquiries	Selection of national indicators and collection of data.
Additional comments	To define the roles of each partner in the mechanism for reporting and monitoring system is not an easy task as it relates to various institutions.

Viet Nam – September 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
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– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sept. 2007)

Summary of progress	For an effective National DESD Monitoring System, the first step that should be taken is developing national DESD indicators. Viet Nam started this process by preparing a project to develop national DESD indicators based on the Asia -Pacific DESD Indicator Guidelines and forming a working group of partners for the project.
Achievements	A project on national DESD indicator development was completed.
Challenges	Measures for initiating the process to form a network of national DESD partners for developing national DESD indicators
Lessons learned	To raise awareness among national partners about the national DESD monitoring system, so as to pull together all ESD efforts for national synergy
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To raise funds for a project on developing national DESD indicators; 2. To further raise awareness about the DESD by organizing a workshop for partners and stakeholders in the southern part of Viet Nam; 3. To consolidate the National Committee on DESD; 4. To organize a meeting of the National Committee on DESD to finalize its legal status and function as well as the National DESD Action Plan; and 5. To start the process of developing a national DESD monitoring system.
Inquiries	Other countries' processes and methodologies for developing a national DESD monitoring system.
Additional comments	<p>The following is an appropriate process for developing national DESD indicators, in our experience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Translate documents on Asia-Pacific DESD indicator development into local languages; 2. Form working groups and partners on DESD indicators development; 3. Come to terms on the methodology and criteria for selecting and developing DESD Indicators; 4. Organize workshops for experts on developing DESD indicators; 5. Start the process selecting and developing national DESD Indicators; 6. Organize a workshop for reviewing and discussing the national DESD indicators developed by experts; 7. Revise and compile the final version of national DESD indicators; and 8. Apply DESD indicators for monitoring and reporting.

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
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– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Dec., 2007)

Additional background	We organized two workshops on awareness raising on the DESD, completed one project on ESD resource material development as well as a workshop on networking among DESD partners, in addition to various meetings on the DESD and DESD indicator development
Summary of progress	With the establishment of the National Committee on DESD, we worked out the status and responsibility to which the monitoring system was set and entrusted to the National Committee. It is now under consideration for approval by the President of the National Committee. With the development and completion of DESD indicators in the future, they will constitute the monitoring mechanism for the DESD in Vietnam
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raised on the DESD with two workshops • With the establishment of the National Committee on DESD, we worked out the status and responsibility to which the monitoring system was set and entrusted to the National Committee
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise awareness on the DESD • Gathering partners and groups of experts for developing DESD indicators as tools for the monitoring system • To raise funds for activities
Lessons learned	Without participation and joint efforts by all circles, including professional experts and government stakeholders in the DESD, no success can be assured on the Decade.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organize a meeting of the National ESD Committee to review recent activities and preparation for the 2008 plan; 2. Preparation of the project workshop on sharing experiences among Asian countries on DESD; 3. Approval by the president on the status and responsibilities of DESD National Committee; 4. Raise funds for research on the current status of Vietnam's ESD and indicator development as tools for the monitoring system; and 5. Preliminary identification of DESD indicators by experts.
Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to raise funds for activities? • How to mobilize the full participation of all stakeholders?
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents related to DESD should be translated into the local language, especially <i>The Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators</i>. • Selection of existing indicators and the development of new ones should be conducted in agreement with the local context

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
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– Progress to date (April 2008)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Additional background	We have developed resource teaching and learning materials on 20 topics for shared use by ASPnet schools (formal education) and CLCs (informal education), organised two workshops for networking of partners and stakeholders for the DESD, organized two ESD awareness raising workshops at the national level, participated in the Asia-Pacific DESD Innovative Initiative Project coorganised by ACCU and UNESCO Bangkok, participated in the Asia-Pacific National ESD Monitoring Project organised by UNESCO Bangkok and dispatched participants to seminars, workshops and training on ESD regionally and globally.
Summary of progress	We are organising two workshops for a partnership among various experts for indicator development, and shared the Quick Guide of the <i>Asia-Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators</i> among experts.
Achievements	We are organising workshops to develop partnerships among indicator development experts and studying mechanisms for developing indicators and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coordination among experts for indicator development; • Identification and selection of indicators which represent ESD at the national level; • Mobilization of all stakeholders, especially from private sector and civil society, and synergizing activities and achievements for the DESD in the country is not an easy task; • Evaluation and monitoring processes and mechanisms have not been duly developed for application, such as DESD indicators and the role of various stakeholders in ESD M&E; and • Fund raising for DESD activities and projects are key issues to ensure successful achievement of the DESD.
Lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of high level government officials and ed. experts in the process is beneficial. • Guideline materials in local language is helpful. • Organise processes through an appropriate mechanism. • The identification and selection of DESD indicators.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalizing the National Action Plan; 2. Fund raising for the indicators development project; 3. Translation of the <i>Asia Pacific Guidelines for the Development of National ESD Indicators</i> into Vietnamese; 4. Set up networking among partners in indicator development; and 5. Organise training workshops for indicator development experts.
Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should we go about raising funds for indicator development? • Lessons learnt from the identification, selection and collection of data for the indicator development process . • Mechanisms for the DESD Monitoring System such as the roles of various stakeholders.
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators are the key to DESD monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems and are the first step to be taken for an effective monitoring and reporting system. • There is a need to set up networking and partnerships between indicator development experts. • Appropriate processes and mechanisms for indicator development will be decisive factors for success.

TOWARDS MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: THE PACIFIC

Throughout the Country Update process, Member States were asked to share their challenges, lessons learned and next steps toward the development of their national ESD monitoring systems. Among UNESCO Member States in the Pacific region, Australia, New Zealand and Palau shared information through the Country Update process. The key trends, challenges and lessons learned during their monitoring system development processes are listed below and have been adapted here for the general context (see the Country Updates on pp. 57-65 for actual responses).

KEY TRENDS

1. Establishing a National Committee for ESD, that...

- Consists of representatives of the 4 pillars of SD who have sound appreciation of SD principles and concepts and a broad reach, such as members from civil society;
- Has the support of the national government;
- Works in close collaboration with stakeholders to implement the Decade and monitoring system development; and
- Reviews the composition of its membership at each stage of the Decade to enhance its effectiveness.

2. Developing a National ESD Plan (National ESD Action Plan, National ESD Strategy), which...

- Establishes the objectives and priority actions for the next 5 years of the Decade;
- Guides and enables indicators and other measures to be developed; and
- Is developed and finalised in consultation with government ministries and departments.

3. Engaging stakeholders in indicator development, by...

- Convening meetings of technical agencies to assist with the development of indicators for a national ESD plan;
- Conducting a high level forum to identify deliverables for the Decade and related indicators;
- Establishing a partnership agreement between the UNESCO National Commission and an NGO to share the responsibility for coordinating and administering the Decade. Such as:
 - Finalising a national ESD plan;
 - Developing ESD indicators;
 - Formalizing a monitoring and reporting framework; and
 - Identifying networks of key stakeholders.

4. Gathering input and ideas to inform the national DESD Monitoring System, by...

- Identifying ESD-related projects and approaches of mutual interest at the national level; and
- Concentrating on the implementation of deliverables, such as:
 - The establishment of a visioning think tank
 - The design of ESD-related curriculum and materials

5. Initiating the development of a national DESD monitoring system, by...

- Identifying all the stakeholders that will be involved in the ESD monitoring system development process;
- Gain support and commitment from potential stakeholders to provide required information and skills;
- Establishing working group(s) to commence indicator development and determine other ways of measuring progress; and
- Develop a working plan for indicator development that is supported by all working group members.

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- You cannot progress work on a National DESD Monitoring System until a detailed strategic plan (inclusive of goals, objectives and deliverables) has been agreed.

Indicator Insight

- There are many different types of indicators collected for many different purposes. In addition, there is a difference between a single index, such as the Human Development Index (HDI) and a suite of indicators. This is not a very clear distinction in most cases. While Indicator(s) and an Index are not the same thing they are often referred to and compared as if they are interchangeable.
- It is important to remain focused on ESD indicators that are relevant to a country's national context. Staying aware of other indicator projects for separate purposes and being able to identify linkages with these initiatives, where appropriate, is helpful, but at the same time it is important to avoid becoming overly side-tracked by other indicator initiatives that are less relevant.
- Progress with focus on a multi-stage approach for indicators can be useful. For example:
 - In the Medium Term, have indicators to measure the implementation of two (or more) DESD Strategic Plan work streams; and
 - In the Longer Term, have indicators that identify and remove barriers to the development and promotion of effective progress measures.

Stakeholder Insight

- In order for the collection and analysis of data to be effective, stakeholders must be involved in the collection of a variety of indicators. These must include output as well as outcome-focused measures with respect to the timeframes involved in achieving systems level change.
- A strong need exists for cooperation and support from all agencies as well as authoritative support of the government in indicator development.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Limited financing – Funding to hold meetings is becoming more important as venues are hard to find and the cost of meetings (transportation mostly) is starting to become an obstacle.
- Identifying best practices for indicator development – Determining the best process for developing indicators that will be manageable and engages relevant stakeholders across a large number of sectors can be challenging.
- Delays in moving forward – Changes in government can lead to delays in further developing both a National ESD Action Plan and indicators.
- Lack of time to dedicate to indicator development – Many people perform multiple roles in their duties and feel they lack the time to commit to other or new projects. Therefore, getting individuals involved and establishing a team to work on an ESD monitoring system can be a big challenge.
- Prioritising ESD indicator development – Some agencies do not feel monitoring is a priority in their respected field and, therefore, prioritising the development of DESD indicators within current work programmes is challenging.
- Promoting awareness of ESD among the government – Ministers and directors may feel that ESD activities are well underway and already integrated into the curriculum. It is, therefore, difficult to convince them of the importance of monitoring progress.

Australia – September 2007

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– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)
 – Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sept. 2007)

Summary of progress	Developed an Australian Government Strategy for the UN DESD and commissioned a review of international experience in the development of ESD indicators. Details are currently being finalised for the next stage of the project to develop a set of national indicators for reporting on progress during the UN DESD, particularly on the impacts of initiatives under the Australian Government's soon to be released National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability.
Achievements	Development of a draft National Action Plan by the National Environmental Education Council (an advisory body to the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources), which will establish the objectives and priority actions for the next 5 years of the Decade and enable indicators and other measures to be developed.
Challenges	Determining the best process for developing indicators that will be manageable but that will engage relevant stakeholders across a large number of sectors.
Lessons learned	Research by the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability has identified some key recommendations on good practice for developing indicators relating to the need for wide participation across sectors, the type and number of indicators, the process for development and data collection. It is clear that in order for the collection and analysis of data to be effective, stakeholders must be involved in the collection of a variety of indicators. These must include output as well as outcome focused measures with respect to the timeframes involved in achieving systems level change.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult across Australian Government Departments to finalise the National Action Plan (NAP) for Education for Sustainable Development 2. Finalise details of the next stage of a project to engage stakeholders and identify and develop DESD/NAP indicators 3. Establish working group(s) to commence development of indicators and determine other ways of measuring progress
Inquiries	N/A
Resources	<p>Caring for Our Future: The Australian Government Strategy for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014 (available at: http://www.environment.gov.au/education/publications/caring.html)</p> <p>Results of review by the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) of international experience in the development of ESD indicators (report available at: http://www.aries.mq.edu.au/pdf/ESDIndicators_Feb07.pdf)</p>

Australia – December 2007

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– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Summary of progress	Development of the National Action Plan on Education for Sustainability has been on hold due to national elections. Drafting will now continue, including seeking input from across government, with the Plan to be finalised early in 2008.
Achievements	Participation in the International Conference on Environmental Education (ICEE) in Ahmedabad, India, which provided an opportunity to share experiences with other countries on developing national strategies for the DESD.
Challenges	Calling of the national election which lead to delays in further development of both the National Action Plan and indicators
Lessons learned	N/A
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult across Australian Government Departments to finalise the National Action Plan (NAP) for Education for Sustainable Development; 2. Finalise details of the next stage of a project to engage stakeholders and identify and develop DESD/NAP indicators; and 3. Establish working group(s) to commence the development of indicators and determine other ways of measuring progress.
Inquiries	N/A
Additional comments	N/A

Australia – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National ESD body established • National strategic plan for the DESD developed • DESD launch held • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (April 2008)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Summary of progress	<p>Development of a new National Action Plan on Education for Sustainability has been delayed due to national elections and a review of government programs. Although we have an Australian Government Strategy for the DESD, we are awaiting finalisation of the National Action Plan, to enable specific indicators to be developed to monitor and evaluate progress.</p> <p>Work is commencing on identifying ESD indicators for the formal education sector. An indicative set of indicators was developed in 2005 and can be found in "Educating for a Sustainable Future: A National Environmental Education Statement for Australian Schools".² Work is now proceeding to refine these indicators, including identifying a minimum data set for national reporting.</p>
Achievements	For the formal schooling sector, identification of a minimum data set for national reporting on the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI); draft measures cover issues such as participation in AuSSI, development of school environmental management plans, incorporation of ESD in the curriculum, and environmental outcomes (waste, energy, transport, water, biodiversity).
Challenges	Delays in moving forward while awaiting progress on development of the National Action Plan for Education for Sustainable Development, due to the review of priorities and programs by the new national government.
Lessons learned	N/A
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Await sign-off on National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability; and 2. Establish a working group to develop national indicators.
Inquiries	N/A

² "Educating for a Sustainable Future: A National Environmental Education Statement for Australian Schools" can be found online at <http://www.environment.gov.au/education/publications/sustainable-future.html>.

New Zealand – June 2007

National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress

Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework; integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collecting data and interpreting results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (June 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(April – June 2007)

Summary of progress	N/A
Achievements	N/A
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting traction - particularly the focused time of already busy people. Getting the development of DESD indicators prioritised within current work programmes.
Lessons learned	There are many different types of indicators collected for many different purposes. There is a difference between a single index and a suite of indicators. This is not a very clear distinction in most cases. While Indicator(s) and an Index are not the same thing they are often referred to and compared as if they are interchangeable.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the composition of the UNDESD Coordinating Committee for next stage of the Decade to ensure: representation of the 4 pillars of SD; sound appreciation of SD principles and concepts; and broad reach (civil society) 2. Review the draft strategic plan goals and targets for robustness 3. Convene a meeting of technical agencies to assist with the development of indicators for the plan 4. "In principle" the sign off of the revised draft plan by the Coordinating Committee 5. Consultation on the draft plan
Inquiries	N/A
Additional comments	N/A

New Zealand – September 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National strategic plan for the DESD in progress • DESD launch held • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sept. 2007)

Summary of progress	(see <i>Achievements</i>)
Achievements	<p>A partnership agreement has been finalised between the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO and the non-government organisation, Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand (SANZ). This agreement empowers SANZ to take responsibility for the coordination and administration of the Decade within New Zealand on behalf of the Commission.</p> <p>The Agreement includes the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise the NZ UNDESD Strategic Plan • Develop UNDESD indicators • Finalise a monitoring and reporting framework • Appoint the NZ UNDESD Governance Committee
Challenges	Getting traction continues to be a challenge.
Lessons learned	The importance of remaining focused on Education for Sustainable Development indicators relevant to the New Zealand situation. Staying aware of other indicator projects for separate purposes and being able to identify linkages where these initiatives are helpful, but at the same time avoiding being overly side-tracked into these other indicator projects.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A UNDESD Strategy Forum is planned for 7 November. The objective of this forum is to identify 4/5 deliverables for the Decade in New Zealand and associated indicators. 2. The draft DESD strategic plan will be reviewed and finalised after this Forum. 3. An indicator framework will be developed and data collection mechanisms identified
Inquiries	N/A
Additional comments	N/A

New Zealand – December 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •National ESD body established •National strategic plan for the DESD in progress •DESD launch held •National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Summary of progress	Three DESD workstreams involving different but complementary deliverables have now been identified. A matrix of cross-cutting themes has also been developed. Now that this work is completed, we are in a position to focus on the development of matching indicators and relevant data collection mechanisms
Achievements	A national-level intersectoral UNDESD Strategy Forum was held in Auckland on 7 November. This forum identified deliverables for the Decade in New Zealand enabling us to finalise our DESD strategic plan.
Challenges	Getting wide cross sectoral input into, and ownership of, the UNDESD Strategic Plan has been (and continues to be) challenging.
Lessons learned	You cannot progress work on a National DESD Monitoring System until a detailed strategic plan (inclusive of goals, objectives and deliverables) has been agreed.
Next steps (next 3 months)	1. Forming a working group on ESD indicators.
Inquiries	N/A
Additional comments	The Strategic Plan for the UNDESD in New Zealand can be found at: http://www.unescobkk.org/fileadmin/user_upload/esd/documents/desd/071207_FINAL_NZ_DESD_Strat_Plan.pdf

New Zealand – April 2008

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National ESD body established • National strategic plan for the DESD in progress • DESD launch held • National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally



– Progress to date (April 2008)



– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Jan. – Apr. 2008)

Summary of progress	<p>As a follow-on from their August 2002 report "Monitoring Progress Towards A Sustainable New Zealand", the Government Department Statistics New Zealand (Stats NZ) is currently working to develop an appropriate overarching SD measurement and reporting framework for New Zealand. We are providing input to and critiquing this work programme. We have yet to determine the fit (if any) between the Stats NZ work and the roll out of the Measures and Indicators workstream within the NZ UNDESD Strategic Plan.</p> <p>In the interim we will be focussing our energy on finding the simplest way to separately measure the implementation of the Goals and Targets contained within the NZ UNDESD Strategic Plan.</p>
Achievements	Increasing level of clarification of what is required, and what may, or may not, work.
Challenges	Getting wide cross sectoral input into, and ownership of, the UNDESD Strategic Plan has been (and continues to be) challenging.
Lessons learned	<p>The capacity (people and funding) available to actively engage others in the implementation of the DESD Strategic Plan is constrained and leads to a less than ideal level of promotion, networking and relationship building work being undertaken. This results in patchy communication and varying levels of commitment to (and awareness of) the Decade work programme. We are actively seeking ways to overcome these constraints.</p> <p>We have decided to progress using a two stage approach;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term: Measuring the implementation of two (of three) DESD Strategic Plan workstreams. • Longer Term: Identification and removal of barriers to the development and promotion of effective NZ progress measures.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are concentrating on the implementation of two UNDESD Strategic Plan deliverables: a) the establishment of a well supported 2025 visioning think tank; and b) the design of material suitable for a 'Sustainability 101' course. 2. We will also be consulting widely on a proposal to convene a summit of SD NGO organisations to identify SD projects/approaches of mutual interest at the national level. 3. We believe these activities will provide an opportunity to further promote and discuss the UNDESD work programme and will allow us to gather ideas and input to inform what the DESD Monitoring System might look like.
Additional comments	N/A

Palau – September 2007

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •DESD launch held •National seminars / workshops on ESD held 	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally

– Progress to date (Sept. 2007)

– Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(July – Sept. 2007)

Summary of progress	Two meetings have been called to discuss the result of the workshop in Bangkok, 2-4 April 2007 and to develop a plan that can be followed in the development of the DESD Monitoring System. The first meeting took place on June 11 and the second on July 4. In both meetings, it was agreed that a working group should be formed involving as many, if not all, DESD stakeholders as possible. It was agreed that the National Commission will be responsible for the monitoring system on DESD, since the members of the National Commission come from different agencies that will be responsible for the implementation of DESD activities.
Achievements	Agencies in the four major programs of UNESCO are now well informed of the DESD, the Pacific Framework for ESD and the International Implementation Scheme. We have started the process of developing a national monitoring system that will monitor the progress of the DESD at the national level.
Challenges	Palau has found out that finding the time to develop a working plan and having the resources to be able to implement the working plan is a huge challenge. Many people perform multiple roles in their duties and feel they lack the time to commit to other or new projects. Therefore, getting people involved and establishing a team to work on the monitoring system has been the greatest challenge, and still is.
Lessons learned	We have learned that we need the cooperation and support from all the agencies as well as authoritative support of the government. Many people still feel that developing indicators is an additional task and responsibility that is really going to benefit someone else.
Next steps (next 3 months)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify all the stakeholders that will be involved in the DESD monitoring system 2. Get a commitment from each potential member to provide needed data 3. Develop indicators to be used 4. Develop a working plan to be accepted by all members that is efficient for providing data 5. Pilot and revise the indicator system
Inquiries	Has any country developed indicators? We know that some countries are very far advanced in the DESD. The Pacific is just starting and so we believe it would be very helpful for us to learn from the experiences of countries that have already implemented DESD activities, especially if they already have an established national DESD monitoring system.
Additional comments	We just need to know about some of the lessons learned and best practices from other nations so we can tailor our system to the practices that have proved effective.

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress									
<p>•DESD considered by government</p>	Commence discussions on ESD and the Decade	Identify national "ESD Monitoring" focal point	Identify national ESD priorities and goals (Develop ESD NAP)	Form a working group on ESD indicators	Develop indicators and data collection mechanisms	Share initial indicator framework, integrate feedback	Pilot and revise indicators	Collect data and interpret results	Report on progress nationally and regionally	

– Progress to date (Dec. 2007)
 – Vision for progress (June 2008)

Country Update Report

(Oct. – Dec. 2007)

Summary of progress	<p>The Palau National Commission for UNESCO called a meeting for potential members to develop the National DESD Monitoring System on 7 December 2007. In the meeting several key points were discussed. These included the committee for the implementation of ESD, agencies involved, focal points for the monitoring system and reporting. It was agreed that a follow up meeting will be convened in early January.</p>
Achievements	<p>Agencies are becoming aware of the DESD and are now identifying activities that are ESD related or activities that are in line with the Decade.</p>
Challenges	<p>There are several challenges related to the development of the DESD Monitoring System. First is that most people are already tasked with multiple duties and do not want any more responsibilities. The second is that agencies do not feel it is a priority in their respected field and gathering data is difficult and time consuming. The third is getting agency heads to understand DESD and convincing them that it is important to monitor progress. Most ministers and directors feel that ESD activities are well underway and are already integrated into the curriculum.</p>
Lessons learned	<p>We need funds to hold meetings as venues are becoming hard to find and the cost of meetings (transportation mostly) is starting to become an obstacle.</p>
Next steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to have more meetings; 2. We need to develop national indicators; 3. We need to present the DESD Committee to the national leadership in order to launch the Decade; 4. We need to formalise the National DESD Monitoring System; and 5. We need to work in close collaboration with the National DESD Committee.
Inquiries	<p>This is a question for countries that have developed indicators for their National DESD Monitoring System. Can you share with us the indicators that you have developed, the working documents and the interpretations of those data collected? We are planning to seek funding through the Participation Programme to carry on this task. We simply need funding outside of our regular budget. Are there other possible sources of funds that we could make a request to?</p>
Additional comments	<p>Several Pacific Countries held a workshop on the Implementation of ESD in the Pacific in Auckland, New Zealand from 29-30 November 2007.</p>