



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 Report 2

July – September 2007

All National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific are invited and encouraged to participate in the Country Update process. To join the process, please review the TOR and submit the Reporting Form found on pp. 14-19 to UNESCO Bangkok.

Next Country Update submission date:

20 December 2007

Asia-Pacific DESD Monitoring Project

INTRODUCTION

Country Updates offer a platform for learning and sharing information among countries in the Asia-Pacific region about the processes for developing national DESD monitoring systems. Every three months, beginning in June 2007, participating countries are submitting *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 are then compiled and distributed in report form to UNESCO National Commissions in the region for the purposes of sharing learning.

Progress Report 2 is the second of three Country Update reports to be compiled and shared throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The report contains the lessons participating countries learned in the past three months while they worked to develop their national DESD monitoring systems. The report also presents questions proposed for an online discussion forum, also a part of the Country Update process, in addition to the details of individual country challenges and next steps in the development process.

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.

All UNESCO Member States in the Asia-Pacific are invited and encouraged to participate in the country update process. Participating countries have an opportunity to collaborate with and gain from the experiences of other countries as national DESD monitoring system development moves forward in the region.

To join the Country Update process, National Commissions are kindly asked to review the Terms of Reference (p. 14) and submit the Reporting Form (p. 16) to UNESCO Bangkok by 20 December 2007.

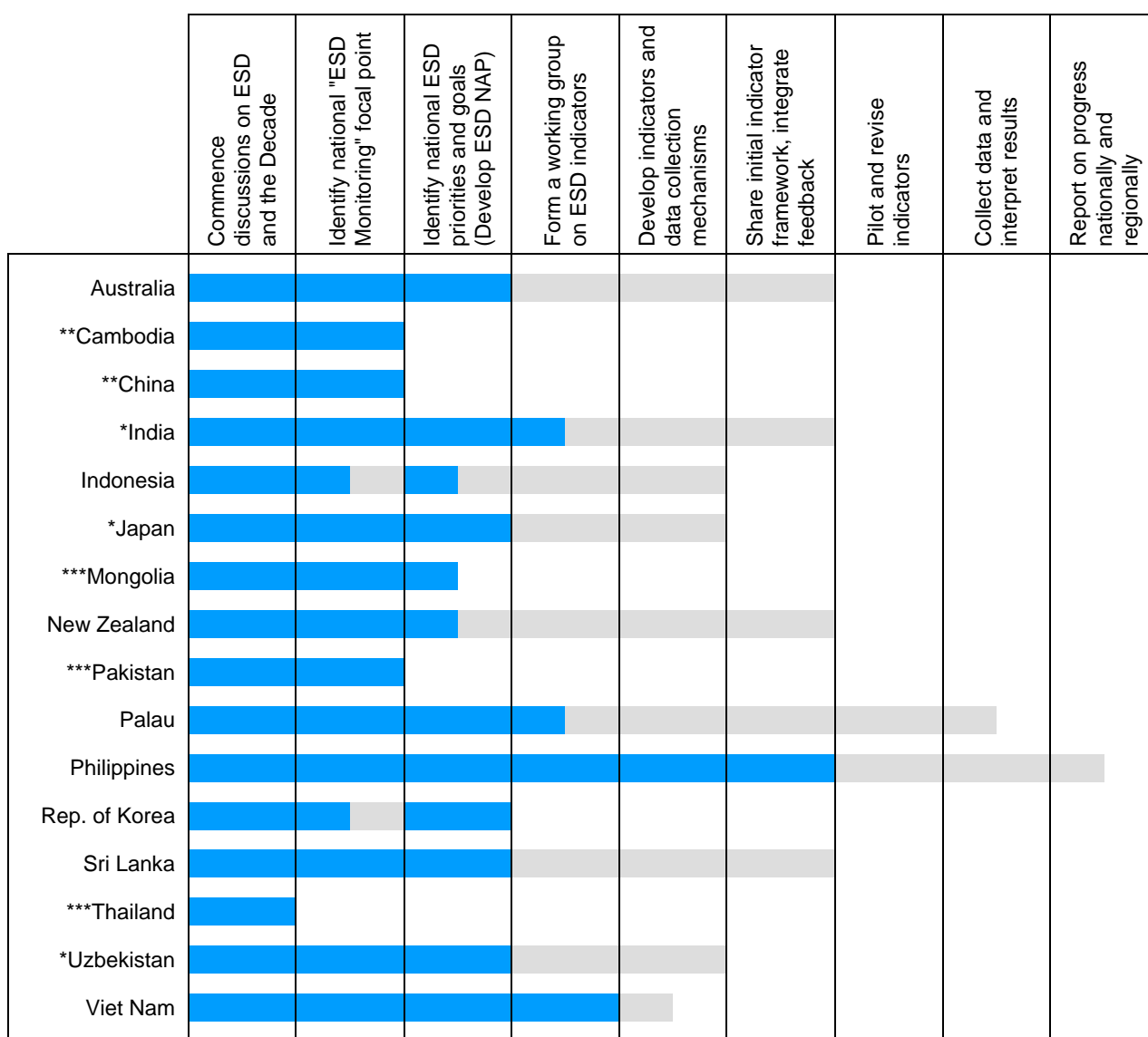
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NATIONAL DESD MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT: VISIONS AND PROGRESS

The chart below reflects the most up-to-date information received on the status of national DESD monitoring systems in the Asia-Pacific region. Sixteen countries have provided information on the progress of their monitoring system to date, including their envisioned stages of development in June 2008. Information has been obtained from Country Update progress reports submitted in June and September, in addition to the *Workshop for the Development of Asia-Pacific National DESD Monitoring Systems* held in April 2007 and subsequent workshop follow-up task.

The majority of Member States included in the chart are in the process of identifying their national ESD goals and priorities and producing national ESD action plans which will provide a basis for developing national ESD indicators. A number of countries have also begun formulating working groups with stakeholders from across sectors to collaborate on indicator development; lessons learned on advocacy and involving stakeholders have already been acknowledged (see p. 3). A few countries, while moving ahead, are also in the process of nominating their national ESD Monitoring focal points. The notable progress of the Philippines in the chart is due in part to the strong linkages established between ESD and EFA monitoring within their country.



■ – Progress to date (Sept 2007)

■ – Vision for progress (June 2008)

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

** based on the latest information received during the April 2007 workshop follow-up task

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

LESSONS LEARNED

The Country Update reporting form asks countries to identify their most significant lesson(s) learned during the past three months while developing their national ESD monitoring system. The following lessons learned were reported for Country Update 2 and have been adapted here for the general context (see the Country Update Reports on pp. 5-13 for actual responses.)

Indicator Insight

- Research by the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) has identified some key recommendations on good practice in development of indicators relating to the need for wide participation across sectors, the type and number of indicators, the process for development and data collection (see http://www.aries.mq.edu.au/pdfESDIndicators_Feb07.pdf).
- 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.
- 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.

Stakeholder Insight

- 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.
- A strong need exists for cooperation and support from all agencies as well as authoritative support of the government. Many still feel that developing indicators is an additional task and responsibility that is going to benefit someone else.
- The involvement of the field implementers and stakeholders in the indicator development process is necessary to ensure a sense of ownership and concern for the success of the DESD.

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.
- Strong advocacy support for DESD indicators and more face to face discussions with key stakeholders is crucial. Round table and consultation meetings have proven crucial for developing a sense of ownership of DESD activities, including indicator development.
- Advocating for Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development is a plus factor for promoting a DESD monitoring framework.

ESD Awareness

- More awareness about ESD is very essential to develop an effective national DESD monitoring system.
- Care should be taken to ensure that the scope of ESD extends beyond the environment.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

The Country Update reporting form asks countries to identify questions or advice they would like to ask from others to assist with national monitoring system development. The following questions were identified for Country Update 2. These questions will be sent to an E-list for discussion among national “ESD Monitoring” focal points who have been nominated by National Commissions to take part in the Country Update process.

- What processes and methodologies are used by other countries for developing a national DESD monitoring system?
- In order to tailor the development of national DESD monitoring system to practices that have proved effective, what are some of the learned lessons and best practices for developing indicators that countries in the Asia-Pacific have found so far?
- To what extent have countries in the Asia-Pacific developed ESD indicators? Has any country developed indicators to date that they can share?
- What strategies do other countries use to motivate governments to play a major role in the implementation of ESD?
- How do other countries define the scope of ESD in their national context?

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN “ESD MONITORING” FOCAL POINT

Since the circulation of Progress Report 1, UNESCO Bangkok has received a number of queries about who countries should nominate as their national “ESD Monitoring” focal point. This decision will ultimately lie with each National Commission; however, the following focal point characteristics have been identified as ideal by National Commission representatives at the April 2007 *Workshop for the Development of Asia-Pacific National DESD Monitoring Systems*. These characteristics may provide guidance to Member States when nominating a national focal point for ESD monitoring.

A national ESD Monitoring focal point could be someone who...

- is affiliated with the National Commission.
- is affiliated with the Ministry of Education, Environment, Science, Culture or other Ministry relevant to ESD in the national context.
- is affiliated with the National ESD Coordinating Body.
- is capable of taking a leadership role in the ESD indicator and monitoring system development process.
- has political support and is respected by others.
- has a concrete understanding of ESD within the national context.
- shares the national vision for sustainable development.
- has a background in monitoring and evaluation.
- has experience with qualitative indicators.
- has strong communication skills in English and the national language.

Country Update: Australia

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 (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>

Country Update: I n d o n e s i a

<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)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

Country Update: New Zealand

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

Country Update: Palau

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.

Country Update: P h i l i p p i n e s

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)	<p>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</p>
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

Country Update: Republic of Korea

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

Country Update: S r i L a n k a

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
•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)

Country Update: Viet Nam

National DESD Background	National DESD Monitoring System Development: Vision and Progress								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESD considered by government • National DESD Committee 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 (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.

Asia-Pacific DESD Monitoring Project

Country Updates: Sharing Progress toward National DESD Monitoring Systems

Terms of Reference

Background

Country Updates offer a platform for learning and sharing information about the processes for developing national DESD monitoring systems among countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The 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. This workshop offered an opportunity for countries to work together to identify challenges and practical steps toward developing national ESD indicators, data collection and reporting mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region.

To continue collaboration as countries in the Asia-Pacific move forward with the development of their national DESD Monitoring Systems, workshop participants provided substantial input into the development of the Country Update process. Based on discussion and feedback from workshop participants, UNESCO Bangkok has aimed to design the Country Update process in a practical manner to continue information sharing and learning about the development of National DESD Monitoring Systems in the Asia-Pacific. Achievements, challenges and lessons learned throughout the process will offer a basis for a subsequent, tentative workshop in early 2008 on ESD indicators, data collection and reporting in the Asia-Pacific region.

Purpose and Benefit

The Country Update process offers a platform for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to share information about the achievements, challenges, and lessons learned and work together toward developing National DESD Indicators and Monitoring Systems.

Participating countries will have an opportunity to collaborate with and gain from the experiences of other countries also taking part in the process.

Process

Every three months, participating countries will submit their *Country Update* to UNESCO Bangkok outlining the achievements, challenges, lessons learned, tentative next steps and any inquiries they might have to assist the development of their national ESD indicators, data collection and reporting mechanisms. Responses will be compiled by UNESCO Bangkok and distributed in electronic format to UNESCO National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region. All inquiries will be sent to a 'Country Update' E-list for open comment and discussion among participating countries.

Participating Countries

Initially, countries represented at the 2-4 April 2007 *Workshop for the Development of Asia-Pacific National DESD Monitoring Systems*, with additional countries who wish to enter the process coming on board in 2007.

Duration

From June 2007 to January 2008, with the option to continue the process dependent upon country feedback prior to tentative, sub-regional workshops in 2008

Roles and Responsibilities

UNESCO Bangkok: To facilitate the *Country Update* process, including compiling responses, distributing reports electronically to UNESCO National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific, and sending all inquiries to the 'Country Update' E-list for open comment and discussion.

UNESCO National Commission: To nominate a National "ESD Monitoring" Focal Point to be involved in the process and disseminate *Country Update* reports to relevant Ministries, stakeholders, and others involved in the process.

National "ESD Monitoring" Focal Point: To submit *Country Updates* to UNESCO Bangkok once every three months and contribute as an active member to the Country Update E-list (or another nominated representative)

Submitting Country Updates

Who: The National ESD Monitoring Focal Point or another individual nominated by the UNESCO National Commission

When: The process includes three updates, to be submitted by the following dates:

Update 1: 20th June 2007 (completed)

Update 2: 20th September 2007 (completed)

Update 3: 20th December 2007

How: Updates can be submitted by any of four methods, depending on which is most convenient:

Online questionnaire	Click the *** Country Updates *** link on the UNESCO Bangkok Indicators webpage: http://www.unescobkk.org/education/esd/monitoring
E-mail	E-mail the reporting form ¹ to esdmonitoring@unescobkk.org
Fax	Fax the reporting form to Joel Bacha or Aya Yokoi at UNESCO Bangkok at: +66 (2) 391-0866 / 0293
Post	Mr. Derek Elias Programme Specialist for ESD and TVET UNESCO Bangkok 920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakanong Bangkok 10110 Thailand

E-list

The Country Update E-list is now underway. National "ESD Monitoring" Focal Points (or other nominees) will receive an email notification with a list of participants and guidelines for the E-list discussion following nomination to UNESCO Bangkok.

¹ Reporting form attached below.

Asia-Pacific DESD Monitoring Project

Country Updates: Sharing Progress toward National DESD Monitoring Systems

Reporting Form

The intention of the Country Updates is to collect and share information on the processes for developing national DESD monitoring systems throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The following questionnaire inquires about the progress, challenges, and lessons learned during the past three months toward your national DESD monitoring system development, including the development of ESD indicators, data collection and reporting mechanisms. Countries are also invited to outline their tentative steps for moving the development of their national DESD monitoring systems forward in the next three months. An opportunity also exists to make inquiries, ask for advice and assist countries in the Asia-Pacific throughout the development process.

The process will include three updates, to be submitted by the following dates:

- Update 1: 20th June 2007 (completed)
- Update 2: 20th September 2007 (completed)
- Update 3: 20th December 2007

Following submissions every three months, a report on progress will be compiled and distributed to UNESCO National Commissions in the Asia-Pacific region for the purposes of sharing information and learning from the experiences of other countries. Questions will be sent to an E-list for discussion to continue our ongoing collaboration toward the development of National DESD Monitoring Systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

National "ESD Monitoring" Focal Points may send this form electronically to esdmonitoring@unesco Bangkok.org or by fax to Joel Bacha or Aya Yokoi to +66 (2) 391-0866.

Who is your National "ESD Monitoring" Focal Point? *(If you have already provided focal point information to UNESCO Bangkok, please skip to the questionnaire below.)*

Name:	<input type="text"/>
Organization:	<input type="text"/>
Address:	<input type="text"/>
Phone:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>

Country Update

Country:

ESD BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND: To date, which of the following national activities or events have taken place in your country? (check all that apply)

- Consideration of the DESD by government (e.g., formal discussions, proposals, policies, etc.)
- Establishment of a national ESD body (e.g., National DESD Committee)
- Development of a national strategic plan for the DESD (e.g., National Action Plan for ESD)
- Holding a national or sub-regional launch for the DESD
- Holding national or sub-regional seminar(s) / workshops on ESD
- Other:

NATIONAL DESD MONITORING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

VISION: In June 2008, at what stage do you see the development of your country's National DESD Monitoring System? (check one)

- Identifying national DESD priorities and goals
- Forming a working group on ESD indicators
- Developing and identifying ESD indicators and data collection mechanisms
- Sharing indicators and data collection mechanisms and integrating feedback
- Piloting and revising indicators as necessary
- Collecting Data to assess progress using the indicators
- Reporting on progress and share lessons learnt nationally and regionally
- Other:

PROGRESS SO FAR: What stages has your country completed toward the development of your National DESD Monitoring System? (check all that apply)

- Identifying national DESD goals and targets
- Forming a working group on ESD indicators
- Developing and identifying ESD indicators and data collection mechanisms
- Sharing indicators and data collection mechanisms and integrating feedback
- Piloting and revising indicators as necessary
- Collecting Data to assess progress using the indicators
- Reporting on progress and share lessons learnt nationally and regionally
- Other:

SYNOPSIS: Please provide a one-paragraph summary on the progress toward developing the National DESD Monitoring System in your country. Please only include progress completed during the past three months.

(one paragraph)

ACHIEVEMENT(S): What has been the most significant 'achievement' toward developing your National DESD Monitoring System in the past three months?

(one or two sentences)

CHALLENGE(S): What is the most significant 'challenge' you have experienced toward developing your National DESD Monitoring System in the past three months?

■

LESSON(S) LEARNED: What is most significant 'lesson you have learned' from the development process during the past three months?

■

NEXT STEPS: In the next three months, what steps will you take to move the development of your National DESD Monitoring System forward?

1. ■
2. ■
3. ■
4. ■
5. ■

QUESTIONS: What questions or advice would you like to ask of the experiences of others to assist with the development of your National DESD Monitoring System?



OTHER: What other thoughts, findings, and/or information would you like to share about the development of your National DESD Monitoring System? (i.e., indicators developed, documents, translated works, etc.)

(Please send any electronic files or documents to esdmonitoring@unescoykk.org)



Thank you for completing your Country Update.

To submit your reporting form to UNESCO Bangkok, send by e-mail, fax or post:

E-mail	E-mail the reporting form to esdmonitoring@unescoykk.org
Fax	Fax the reporting form to Joel Bacha or Aya Yokoi at UNESCO Bangkok at: +66 (2) 391-0866 / 0293
Post	Mr. Derek Elias Programme Specialist for ESD and TVET UNESCO Bangkok 920 Sukhumvit Road, Prakanong Bangkok 10110 Thailand