
UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

Announcement, 21 April 2008



South-South Policy Forum on Lifelong Learning as the Key to Education for Sustainable Development

A South-South Policy Forum on Lifelong Learning as the Key to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 21 to 23 April 2008. The forum is a close collaboration between UIL, the Ministry of National Education (MONE), Indonesia, the Indonesian National Commission for UNESCO, and the UNESCO Office in Jakarta.

About 25 representatives from countries in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa (Bangladesh, Botswana, Brunei-Darussalam, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Zambia, South Africa, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zimbabwe) will be attending. A further 40 participants from Indonesia are expected. Over a period of three days, the participants will share ideas and experiences of best practice in meeting the challenges of sustainable development through educational activities in different contexts. Key items for discussion are:

- conceptual clarifications of lifelong learning and our vision of sustainable development;
- the essential competencies in education for sustainable development;
- the changes called for in learning and teaching culture so as to further sustainable development;
- the institutional architecture of lifelong learning.

The forum is part of UIL's commitment to support the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) (2005-2014) by strengthening the broad application of the lifelong learning, including formal, non-formal and informal approaches and encompassing issues such as poverty alleviation and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. UIL is also committed to the integration of EFA with DESD.

The focus of this forum will therefore be on the potential role of non-formal and informal learning modalities in promoting sustainable development at the global, regional, national and local levels. These include projects for socially disadvantaged groups, farmers' cooperatives, community-based organisations, trade union educational schemes, and learning on the job in the informal economy. Such learning modalities play an essential role, especially in countries where formal education is not accessible to all.

The main outcome will be a strategy paper that will reflect a shared understanding of the contribution of non-formal and informal learning to sustainable development. The paper will include recommendations and an agenda for future policy and research. A full-length report will be published for wider dissemination and capacity building.

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