UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD: Global perspective

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What is ESD?

Overall goal: provide everyone with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future.
ESD means…

➢ integrating **key sustainable development issues** (such as climate change, disaster risk reduction & biodiversity) into teaching & learning

➢ applying **participatory teaching & learning methods**

➢ promoting **competencies** like critical thinking, imagining future scenarios & making decisions in a **collaborative way**
Prize establishment

Showcasing good practices: “Innovative and effective initiatives, practices, approaches, and processes that support implementation of the GAP will be … given visibility and shared widely for scaling up. For maximum visibility and recognition … a UNESCO Prize for ESD, to award the best of these good practices, is established.”

- Proposed by the Government of Japan
- Established by the UNESCO Executive Board
- Launched at 2014 ESD World Conference in the framework of the Global Action Programme on ESD
- Managed by ESD Section, UNESCO HQ
- Awarded for the first time in 2015
Global Action Programme on ESD

- Follow-up to the **UN Decade of ESD** (2005-2014), acknowledged by the UNGA
- **Objective:** to generate and scale up ESD action to accelerate progress towards SD
  - Reorienting education and learning
  - Enhancing the role of education in all relevant agendas & programmes that promote SD
Priority Action Areas of the GAP

1. Advancing policy
2. Transforming learning and training environments
3. Building capacity of educators and trainers
4. Empowering and mobilizing youth
5. Accelerating sustainable solutions at local level
Who can nominate?

1) Governments of UNESCO Member States via their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO

2) NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO

→ up to 3 nominations each per year
Who can be nominated?

- **Individuals, institutions, organizations** or any other entities engaged in ESD

- **with specific ESD project or programme:**
  - ongoing, having run for at least 4 years
  - evidence of results
  - high impact relative to the invested resources
  - easily replicable and scalable
  - contribution to one or more of the GAP priorities
Assessment

➢ **Transformation**: Nominee practices ESD as transformative education in support of sustainable development, leading to individual and social change.

➢ **Integration**: Project addresses the three dimensions of sustainable development (society, economy, environment) in an integrated way.

➢ **Innovation**: Project demonstrates an innovative approach to ESD.
Prize benefits

➢ **Financial support:**
  US $150,000, divided between 3 laureates per year

➢ **Recognition:**
  - Award ceremony
  - Presentation for Member States
  - Press coverage
  - Communication material

➢ **Cooperation:** GAP Key Partner
  + “alumni network”

➢ **Visibility and support:**
  In-country support, visibility-raising, upscaling
Winner 2018: Namib Desert Environmental Education Trust (NaDEET)
Why is the NaDEET Centre on NamibRand so special?

➢ Transformative education
➢ Integrated approach
➢ Innovative practices

→ Replicable and scalable, with high impact: example for local communities around the world
“Behind this project lies a strong conception of the nature, dynamism, relevance and potential of ESD – even in challenging environments such as the Namib Desert presents. A passion and confidence is reflected in NaDEET’s approach and programmes, which are clearly effective in supporting individual and social change towards greater sustainability in outlook and practice amongst both students and teachers. Embracing environmental awareness, cultural change, sustainable living skills, empowerment and social transformation, this project presents a very coherent and exemplary model of what can be done. Achieving impressive impact – including a growing outreach programme – on a modest budget, we consider it inspirational and hope that its model will be emulated in other geographic and cultural contexts.”
Thank you for your attention

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