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Education for Sustainable Development in Higher Education

Stockholm, Sweden, May 2–13, 2011

and in South Africa/China October/November, 2011

Sida

Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development in the participants' countries. The International Training Programmes are specially designed for persons qualified to participate in reform processes of strategic importance on different levels and hold a position in their home organisations with mandate to run processes of change. This methodology is based on the assumption that your country wish to carry out changes and are willing to invest own resources to achieve these changes. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the participants' countries.

Training is focused on support to individual or team plans for change. The plan shall be well established in the participant's organisation and is a basic part of the programme concept.

In this brochure you will find information on the specific objectives for this particular programme, its content and structure, and how and when to apply. You will also find an application form.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

ESD is recognised internationally as an important contributor to a more equitable and sustainable society. Based on the Plan of Implementation agreed on at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg 2002 the United Nations has declared the period 2005–2014 as the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. UNESCO has been given the responsibility to lead education reforms where the links between environmental, social and economic dimensions of life are given special attention and where democracy and equity are mainstreamed throughout the education system. With the many sustainable development issues facing countries today, formal education systems are responding by including these issues into policy, strategy, curricula, teaching and materials development. In particular a number of initiatives are supporting the integration of sustainability issues into the teaching, research, community engagement and management programmes of Universities internationally. This training and exchange programme provides a meeting place for professionals involved in ESD in the higher education sector in Africa, Asia and Sweden.

Director General
Sida

Stina Mossberg
Ramboll Natura

Introduction

This programme seeks to support creative thinking and the development of change projects in the field of Education for Sustainable Development in higher education in Africa and Asia. These can be innovations in teaching, research, community engagement or university policy and management. The programme is a collaborative venture with UNEP and seeks to support the Global University Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) initiative. It builds on and takes forward the work of the Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainable Development in African Universities (MESA) Partnership Project and links to the Region Universities Consortium (RUC), the UNEP-Tongji Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development (IESD) and to the ProsperNET in Asia. The training programme provides opportunities for exchange and collaboration amongst African, Asian and Swedish universities.

Programme Objectives

The main objective is to provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences in ESD in the higher education sector. The programme will deepen understanding of the environmental, social-cultural and economic dynamics of sustainable development. It will also enhance the teaching, learning, research, community involvement and management of higher education institutions with regard to ESD.

The Specific Objectives

The long term specific objectives of the programme are to contribute to:
– poverty reduction and sustainable development;
– capacity development and change processes in participants´ institutions and home countries;
– strengthening of methods, processes and monitoring to enable effective education; and
– improved institutional infrastructure for ESD.
The programme shall also:
– increase the awareness of the importance of effective ESD in the higher education sector; and
– stimulate development and sustainability of networks in the field of higher education.

Contents
Change Project

The programme is built around a change project conceptualised by an institutional team consisting of the participant and a selected co-participant. This work is done in close consultation with supervisors and colleagues in the same institution.

The purpose of the change project is to enable participants to link the learning from the programme to their own work context and institutional priorities. In the dialogue between the participants, their home institution and the programme coordinators, participants will deepen the understanding of the different dimensions of ESD, adapt recent experiences to the specific conditions in their university or higher education organisation. The impact of the programme should thereby be sustained beyond the individual and beyond the training and exchange opportunity offered by the programme.

Modules

The programme is divided into four interlinked modules:
1. Change Processes in Higher Education Institutional Settings
Goal: To enable participants to better

conceptualise, understand and engage with change processes in their institutions.

2. Examining Sustainable Development
Goal: To enable participants to critically deliberate the ecological, sociopolitical and economic dimensions of sustainable development and consider implications for different fields of knowledge.

3. Higher Education responses to Sustainable Development
Goal: To enable participants to conceptualise and implement teaching, research and community engagement processes in response to sustainable development challenges.

4. Institutional Frameworks in Higher Education
Goal: To enable participants to identify needs for institutional support and opportunities for change within higher education institutions.

Programme Structure

Phase 1 – Preparations and organisational commitment
During this phase the institution of each participant will nominate a co-participant. The two colleagues will work together as an institutional team during the whole programme, although the co-participant will not take part in phase 2 in Sweden. The institutional team will complete two start-up assignments, namely an audit of change potential within their institution/university and a draft plan for their ESD change project. A sub-regional workshop will be convened in order to promote cooperation between the institutional teams, their respective universities and the regional network. It will include exposure to key documents and processes within the field of ESD.

Phase 2 – Programme in Sweden, 2 weeks
During phase two the participants will be exposed to current ESD processes and research in Sweden and will be able to exchange knowledge and experience with leading Swedish actors in the field of ESD. Interactive lectures and professional exchange dialogues will be combined with excursions and university visits. During the scheduled programme in Sweden participants will continue to work on their own university's ESD change project with inputs from other participants and the programme coordinators. The participants will develop a more comprehensive

concept and implementation strategy for their particular change project.

Phase 3 – Intermediate Consolidation Phase
During this phase the institutional team will continue anchoring their change project through dialogue with colleagues and other stakeholders in their university. Change project implementation will also be started and a brief report about results and challenges will be compiled to be presented during phase 4

Phase 4 – Scheduled programme in South Africa/China, 2 weeks
During the regional component of the programme the institutional teams will be exposed to regional ESD processes and networks. The institutional team will produce a final document reflecting key aspects of their change project, together with a long-term plan for implementation, evaluation and reporting.

Phase 5 – Continued Support Phase
During phase five the change projects will be fully implemented, evaluated and reported on. Throughout the programme there will be on-going interaction between participants, their institutions and the programme management, including follow-up visits. A final workshop within the participant's institution will conclude the training programme. The institutional teams will be encouraged to publish the outcomes of their change projects and to share this within the UNEP/ UNESCO/ MESA, GUPES, RUC and ProsperNET frameworks.

Date and place
The total duration of the programme is 9–12 months out of which 4 weeks are interactive sessions. The Swedish component will take place May 2–13, 2011 in Stockholm and Gothenburg. The two regional follow-up sessions will be in South Africa and China in Oct/Nov, 2011. The timing and location of the national workshops in Phases 1 and 5 are to be decided.

Learning processes
The programme includes a diversity of teaching and learning methods of relevance for ESD including presentations, participatory methods, group works and study visits. Phases 1, 3 and 5 of the programme depend on 'self motivation' and cooperative learning.

The focus throughout is on supporting university based ESD change projects, which will provide continuity to the programme over the 9–12 months.

Management and staff
Ramboll Natura has the overall responsibility for the programme and planning and implementation are carried out in cooperation with UNEP and a number of key higher education institutions in Sweden, Africa and Asia. Ms. Marie Neeser at Ramboll Natura is the Programme Director and key partners are the UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) in China and Rhodes University in South Africa.

Participation
Target Regions:
This innovation-based training and exchange programme caters for higher education institutions in Africa (with a current focus on Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) and in Asia (with a current focus on Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam).

Target Group:
The programme is intended for key decision makers and university staff involved in formulating and implementing ESD in higher education. The aim of the final selection is to create a group representing the different roles and functions in higher education including policy making, management, lecturing, community engagement and research.

Applicants should have an appropriate tertiary qualification and substantial experience in the higher education sector with high multiplier potential. The selection of participants will to a large extent be based on the commitment of the participant's home institution and engagement in concrete actions. To achieve good gender balance, women are encouraged to apply.

Family members are not allowed to accompany participants to the programme.

The training will be conducted in English. Participants shall have proven proficiency in the English language in writing, reading and speaking. An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her/his ability.

The Swedish Embassy/Consulate does not carry out language tests but may be able to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests.

Application Process

> **Closing date for application is February 1, 2011**

Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered. Application should be made on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and all required information and documents. The applicant must be nominated by her/his organisation or institution.

When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country.

The application should be submitted to the nearest Swedish Embassy/Consulate.

Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or telefax.The commitment of the applicant´s institution to support the development and implementation of the change project will constitute the final criteria for selection.

Cost of Participation

The programme will cover all training and exchange cost such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities as well as accommodation and food. International travel cost to and from Sweden and South Africa or China will be covered by Sida

The participant carries costs incurred in travelling to participate in sub-regional/ national workshops (Phase 1 and 5) and to the nearest international airport when travelling to Sweden and South Africa/China. The Programme will not cover personal expenses.

Accommodation

Accommodation is arranged for the full duration of the scheduled phases in Sweden, South Africa and China. The accommodation will be moderate and will not include special facilities.

Visa

Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary during all phases of the programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period of the programme and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the

participant.

For more information, this website offers Swedish visa information: http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html

Insurance

All participants are covered by a group insurance while on scheduled phases of the programme.

ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 2011

Presentation of Programme Secretariat

RAMBOLL **Ramboll Natura AB** is an international consulting firm in the field of sustainable development, with focus on environment and natural resources management. Ramboll Natura is part of the Ramboll Group, the largest Nordic provider of knowledge service within the field of engineering, management, IT and international development projects. Ramboll Natura also offers training programmes in Integrated Water Resources Management, Transboundary Water Management and Integrated Sustainable Coastal Development.

UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) was jointly established by UNEP and Tongji University in Shanghai in May 2002. The objectives of the institute are to develop educational programmes to build research, technical and managerial skills and capacity in developing countries; to contribute to UNEP's global and regional environmental activities; and to disseminate information of best practice and technological developments.

RHODES UNIVERSITY
Where leaders learn

Rhodes University in South Africa is a recognised centre of expertise in Environment and Sustainability Education and a leading partner in the Mainstreaming of Environment and Sustainability in African Universities Programme (MESA). The training programme will be implemented as a partnership between the Environmental Learning Research Centre (ELRC) and the Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning (CHERTL).

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