

**ASEAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN
2014-2018**

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INTRODUCTION

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as envisaged by its Roadmap for ASEAN Community 2015, aims for a clean and green environment for the region, and resolves to promote sustainable development through environmental education and public participation. Environmental Education (EE) has been defined as the process of helping people, through formal and non-formal/informal education, to acquire understanding, skills and values that will enable them to participate as active and informed citizens in the development of an ecologically sustainable and socially-just society.

The ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) contributes to this vision by providing a regional framework for enhancing public awareness on environmental management for sustainable development, and to accelerate the development and advancement of environmental education as a key integrating component for achieving sustainable development in the region.

Objective

[This AEEAP 2014-2018 was adopted by the ASEAN Environment Ministers at their 14th informal meeting in 2013 as the successor plan to previous AEEAP 2000-2005 and AEEAP 2008-2012.] The AEEAP 2014-2018 serves to realise a clean and green ASEAN with citizens who are environmentally literate, imbued with environmental ethics, willing and capable to ensure the sustainable development of the region through environmental education and public participation efforts.

Target Areas and Goals

The AEEAP 2014-2018 consists of 4 target areas with their respective goals:

Target Area 1: Formal Sector

Goal: Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is integrated at all levels of the formal sector (relative to national capacity and directives) in each AMS.

Target Area 2: Non-Formal Sector

Goal: Non-formal sector in AMS enhanced through the integration of socio-cultural, economic and ecological knowledge through EE/ESD to address local, regional and international environmental issues and challenges.

Target Area 3: Institutional and Human Resources Capacity Building

Goal: Strengthened institutional capacity in EE & ESD and trained human resource pool on EE and ESD in AMS

Target Area 4: Networking, Collaboration and Communication

Goal: Improved exchange of environmental information, skills and resources in the region and increased support and commitment for EE and ESD and capacity building through formal and non-formal networks at local/national, regional and international levels

Implementation Mechanism

The goal for each target area will be achieved through the implementation of a set of strategic actions and activities which will be elaborated in subsequent sections of the Action Plan.

The responsibility for implementing the strategic actions and activities at the national level will be led by AMS relevant government institutions with assistance from relevant stakeholders within AMS (private sector, academia, civil society etc). Assistance and cooperation in the implementation of the AEEAP 2014-2018 will also be requested from ASEAN Dialogue Partners and regional and international organisations.

The implementation of the AEEAP 2014-2018 in general and particularly at regional level will be overseen by the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE) under the purview of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN).

The ASEAN Secretariat will play a key supporting and coordinating role for AMS and ASEAN bodies in implementing and monitoring the implementation of the AEEAP 2014-2018.

Collaborative Partnership

The success of the implementation of the AEEAP is dependent on effective collaborative partnerships at the national and regional levels. These partnerships are to be driven by AMS with support from the ASEAN Secretariat. In AMS, potential champion organisations for various strategic actions outlined may come from beyond the environment ministries / departments which will act as the main national coordinating agency. Potential champions or partners may come from private sector, academia, civil society and international organisations.

TARGET AREA 1: FORMAL SECTOR

GOAL:

Environmental education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is integrated at all levels of the formal sector (relative to national capacity and directives) in each AMS.

Strategic Action 1

Strengthen, enhance and implement regional and national environment education policies and initiatives on the basis of the current curricula including EE and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) planning and governance in the education system.

Activities Required to Implement the Strategic Action:

- (i) Develop and enhance ASEAN-wide EE guidelines / framework based on existing national policies to be used as a standard and implementation of EE & ESD in ASEAN.
- (ii) Provide support at the provincial level and district level to conduct EE/ESD programmes. (e.g. in rural schools).
- (iii) Promote environmental awareness extensively to the school community (teachers, students, parents, surrounding communities)
- (iv) Promote awareness and encourage active participation of relevant stakeholders for the implementation of the ASEAN-wide EE guidelines / framework.

Strategic Action 2

Enhance awareness on environmental issues among the education community by providing relevant programme and activities through structured learning and experience from EE/ESD policies and guidelines.

Activities Required to Implement the Strategic Action:

- (i) Encourage education institutions to implement socialization initiatives to increase awareness and importance of the environment and environment-related issues among the education community, including outreach to parents and community leaders.
- (ii) Develop action plans on environmental programmes and activities in schools (e.g. GREEN Schools activities)
- (iii) Integrate school-based extra-curricular activities into the formal EE curriculum, so as to provide a comprehensive and structured learning experience for students (e.g. Singapore's Values-In-Action (VIA) / Learning Journey / Process)

Strategic Action 3

Concretize and enhance current Quality Assurance (QA) efforts in the formal education sector as part of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the inclusion of EE/ESD initiatives at regional and national levels.

Activities Required to Implement the Strategic Action:

- (i) Develop and implement regional baseline standards and tools for EE as a benchmark to measure the progress of regional and national level efforts of EE & ESD implementation programme (e.g. Key Performance Indicators (KPI))
- (ii) Based on the agreed baseline tools, develop an agreed Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanism to monitor the progress of implementation of environmental education programmes (e.g. Scorecard, Achievement/Performance Indicators, State of EE Report).
- (iii) Include environmental awareness and efforts related to sustainable development as part of key evaluative components in national assessments of education institutions.
- (iv) Share and disseminate the baseline standards and monitoring and evaluation tools to relevant stakeholders.

Strategic Action 4

Mainstream EE in Higher Education and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) to ensure the promotion and advocacy of EE/ ESD, including environmental research and development initiatives.

Activities Required to Implement the Strategic Action

- (i) Advocate and promote EE/ ESD elements and activities, and identify champions among key faculty members / leaders, in line with the EE/ESD regional and national policies in higher education and TVET sector
- (ii) Promote and develop EE/ESD R&D initiatives in Higher Education through increased support for research activities, provision of scholarships for environment-related academic work and other capacity building initiatives
- (iii) Strengthen institutional capacity and awareness of EE/ ESD (e.g. provision of resources, information system, campaign)
- (iv) Encourage relevant stakeholders to mainstream EE & ESD promotion and advocacy.

TARGET AREA 2: NON-FORMAL SECTOR

GOAL:

Non-formal sector in AMS enhanced through the integration of socio-cultural, economic and ecological knowledge through EE/ESD to address local, regional and international environmental issues and challenges.

Strategic Action 1:

Promote and expand the implementation of EE/ESD in the schools system through the ASEAN Guidelines on Eco-schools.

Activities to implement the Strategic Action:

- (i) Encourage the existing national EE-related working groups or steering committees from relevant ministries, civil society and private sector to implement ASEAN Guidelines on eco-schools
- (ii) Conduct national level workshops for relevant target groups (eg. environment, education and relevant ministries, educators, civil society, NGOs and environment champions) to enhance the implementation of eco-schools concept
- (iii) Promote private sector involvement such as through “ Corporate And School Partnership (CASP) Programme” model by working with businesses and schools to develop school-based environmental projects to promote greater environmental awareness
- (iv) Develop or enhance national recognition/award scheme for eco-schools
- (v) Review eco-schools programme periodically for improvement and disseminate “eco-schools best practices” nationally and regionally through the ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database (AEEID), the establishment of continuing eco-schools network in AMS, and other communication and information channels and mechanisms for the sharing of best practices/lessons learnt on eco-schools programmes.

Strategic Action 2:

Promote the development of EE/ESD resources/materials that are nationally/regionally relevant

Activities to implement the Strategic Action:

- (i) Conduct capacity building activities on sharing of best practices on the development and use of EE/ESD resources/materials for key relevant stakeholders (eg. educators, local government units/authorities, youth networks, civil society/NGOs, and media)
- (ii) Identify “champion/mentoring” organisations, institutions and individuals to work with local communities and schools to promote the development and use of EE/ESD materials and resources through trainings and inclusion of local knowledge/issues into EE/ESD resources.
- (iii) Disseminate best practices on EE/ESD materials and the materials development process through the AEEID.

Strategic Action 3:

Promote and expand EE/ESD as a key integrating tool for the development of “environmentally sustainable cities” in each AMS.

Activities to implement the Strategic Action:

- (i) Develop recommendations to incorporate EE/ESD into environmentally sustainable cities framework and submit the recommendations to the participating cities of the ASEAN Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AIESC) through the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC).
- (ii) Encourage and coordinate with AWGESC to encourage EE/ESD as part of national development plans

Strategic Action 4:

Use appropriately designed and targeted EE for the promotion of green economy and sustainable production and consumption in the business sector

Activities to implement the Strategic Action:

- (i) Encourage businesses and industries, through business industry groups/associations, to develop their own EE/ESD-related materials for their own business practices
- (ii) Encourage businesses and industries to develop locally relevant EE/ESD training/networking programmes to be participated by private sector / industry “change agents”/business industry groups/associations
- (iii) Develop a network of private sector ‘environment champions’ via workshops, networking sessions and website
- (iv) Promote and enhance sustainability reporting for industry through ‘environment champions’
- (v) Develop government mechanisms for accreditation of industries’ ESD training programmes/ materials for better environmental governance and self-regulation

Strategic Action 5:

Promote EE/ESD as a key integrating tool for the development of sustainable campus for higher education institutions and technical/vocational institutions.

Activities to implement the Strategic Action:

- (i) Develop guidelines for sustainable campus at the national and ASEAN level
- (ii) Encourage the existing national working group or steering committee from relevant ministries, civil society and private sector to implement sustainable campus policy, guidelines and framework
- (iii) Conduct national level workshops for relevant target groups (eg: environment, education and relevant ministries, educators, civil society, NGOs and environment champions) to enhance the implementation of sustainable campus concept
- (iv) Promote a recognition/award scheme for sustainable campus
- (v) Assess the implementation of sustainable campus programme periodically and disseminate “sustainable campus best practices” nationally and regionally through the AEEID and other communication and information channels and mechanisms for the sharing of best practices/lessons learnt on eco-schools programmes

TARGET AREA 3: INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES CAPACITY BUILDING

GOAL:

Strengthened institutional capacity in EE & ESD and trained human resource pool on EE and ESD in AMS.

Strategic Action 1:

Establish a baseline of EE/ESD capacity building for stakeholders in both the formal and non-formal sectors

Activities Required To Implement This Strategy

- (i) Conduct national level EE/ESD training needs assessment and workshop to identify required further actions based on the findings of the needs assessment
- (ii) Implement the recommendations from the Workshop to contribute to the promotion of EE/ESD
- (iii) Disseminate results through the AEEID and the AEEAP reporting framework.
- (iv) Adopt baseline survey instrument developed at the regional level

Strategic Action 2:

Continue to provide EE/ESD training and capacity building for key stakeholders

Activities Required to Implement the Strategy:

- (i) Stemming from national training needs assessment report, develop a 'National EE for Sustainable Development Training Plan' for key stakeholders
- (ii) Disseminate information on existing training opportunities available for AMCs as well as relevant information on training materials, good practices etc through the AEEID.
- (iii) Conduct annual training courses on EE/ESD for key target groups, scaling up to regional level where possible

Strategic Action 3:

Continue to provide EE/ ESD Leadership Training Programme (short courses) for key target groups (government officials, members of parliament and other elected officials, media and communication professionals, youth, women, etc)

Activities Required to Implement the Strategy

- (i) Identify key target groups for leadership course development.
- (ii) Secure commitment/agreement of regional organisations to host and implement leadership programmes annually for selected target groups
- (iii) Secure funding commitments from private sector and regional organisations / institutions in support of leadership programmes for various target groups
- (iv) Develop leadership training programme curricula for different target groups

Strategic Action 4:

Create an ASEAN EE/ESD scholarship scheme for the region's stakeholders (AMS, ASEAN Level Activity)

Activities Required to Implement the Strategy

- (i) Champion countries and/or organisations to develop a detailed proposal on an ASEAN EE/ESD scholarship scheme based on the concept note adopted by the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) at its ... meeting.
- (ii) Secure in-kind support and commitment from universities for the implementation of the scholarship scheme
- (iii) Secure funding support from donor agencies, private sector or development partners
- (iv) Launch and promote annual ASEAN EE/ESD scholarship programme.

TARGET AREA 4: NETWORKING, COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION

GOAL:

Improved exchange of environmental information, skills and resources in the region and increased support and commitment for EE and ESD and capacity building through formal and non formal networks at local/national, regional and international levels

Strategic Action 1:

Continue promoting and managing the ASEAN Environmental Education Inventory Database (AEEID) as the central platform for information dissemination, exchange and learning for EE/ESD in ASEAN.

Activities Required to Implement this Strategy

- (i) Promote AEEID through mass and social media, ASEAN Secretariat website, AMS and international organisations
- (ii) Conduct a region-wide survey with relevant stakeholders to enhance the type of information, materials, etc. that should be available on the AEEID, as well as other functions and services that the AEEID should provide.
- (iii) Periodically update AEEID with EE/ESD information / materials / events from AMS
- (iv) Publish an ASEAN EE newsletter periodically for distribution electronically to all key stakeholders (e.g. summary of EE/ESD activities for past six months in each AMS, upcoming training events, meetings and/or conferences in the region, available scholarships available, important regional news and events, Latest materials/resources on EE/ESD available on the AEEID)

Strategic Action 2:

Maintain and improve the ASEAN Youth for Sustainable Environment Network as a tool for youth development and learning on EE and ESD (AMS and ASEAN level)

Activities Required to Implement this Strategy

- (i) Identify existing national youth organisations, groups and networks that include environment and sustainable development issues in their scope of interest and activities.
- (ii) Hold a national level youth network meeting to bring all relevant groups together and establish a national level network and website.

- (iii) Conduct regular youth activities such as debates, painting competitions, youth camps, youth publications, compilation of on-going youth activities, youth study tours, exchanges, etc.
- (iv) Organise an annual 'Youth for a Sustainable Environment' Forum at the national level
- (v) Annually evaluate and monitor scope of activities and impact of environmental youth network.
- (vi) Identify champion countries to host Youth for a Sustainable Environment Network Forum annually
- (vii) Organise, promote and hold annual ASEAN-wide Youth for a Sustainable Environment Network Forum

Strategic Action 3:

Strengthen the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Eco Schools and establish a network for ASEAN Eco Schools through AEEID.

Activities Required to Implement this Strategy

- (i) Identify existing eco-/sustainable/green schools in each AMS.
- (ii) Identify private sector partners to support the network.
- (iii) Continue to conduct ASEAN Eco-schools Award Programme every three years
- (iv) Disseminate information on ASEAN eco-/sustainable/green schools through AEEID and ASEAN EE newsletter and create web portal for eco-/sustainable/green schools network to communicate with each other and exchange experience and ideas.
- (v) Conduct ASEAN EE forum for eco-/sustainable/green schools.

Strategic Action 4:

Establish an annual ASEAN EE Conference/Forum for the regions's EE stakeholders that will serve as a platform for the exchange of information, materials, experience, networking, etc (ASEAN level activity)

Activities Required to Implement this Strategy

- (i) Identify champion country institutions or regional organisations that will host and lead the organisation of the EE Conference/Forum.
- (ii) Develop a proposal for the conduct of (annual) ASEAN EE Forum for consideration of the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE) and ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN)
- (iii) Secure funding support from dialogue partners, development agencies, or private sector
- (iv) Conduct the ASEAN EE for sustainable development conference/forum.

Strategic Action 5:

Build and strengthen existing regional and international networks/organisations such as NGOs, universities, media to be effective practitioners, promoters, communicators and agents of change through EE/ESD

Activities Required to Implement this Strategy

- (i) Identify key existing networks, NGOs, universities, key media, professionals and other target groups who either support or engage in EE/ESD directly or have the potential to support or engage in EE/ESD activities.
- (ii) Conduct regional workshops for target groups, which can link up with ASEAN Leadership Programmes on EE/ESD.
- (iii) Monitor and evaluate level and types of engagement with EE and ESD in ASEAN.

POTENTIAL CHAMPIONS / PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

The following are the non-exhaustive list of potential champions / partners / stakeholders based on previous engagements and potential relevance, which can play an important role in the implementation of AEEAP 2014-2018. Other organisations / countries / agencies not mentioned in the list are welcome and encouraged to join the efforts to promote sustainable development and contribute to the implementation of AEEAP 2014-2018.

Ministry of Environment of ASEAN Member States
Ministry of Education of ASEAN Member States
Ministry of Higher Education of ASEAN Member States
Other Relevant Ministries of ASEAN Member States
Institutions of Learning and Higher Learning
Environment-related Institutions
ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change
ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment
ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education
ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities
ASEAN Working Group on Multilateral Environmental Agreements
ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity
ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management
ASEAN Senior Officials on Education (SOM-ED)
Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO)
ASEAN Secretariat
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)
ASEAN University Network (AUN)
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Centre (CAEC)
ASEAN Dialogue Partners
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
UNEP Tunza Southeast Asia Youth Environment Network (SEAYEN)
UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP)
United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)
UNU-IAS Regional Centres of Excellence (RCEs)
Network for the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research (ProSPER.Net)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO)
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)
Non-governmental Organisations
Private Companies
National Business Associations
Chambers of Commerce and Industries
Media