Dear Colleagues,

The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) provides an opportunity to enhance the profile of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in formal and informal learning spaces and assist in the transformation to sustainable societies worldwide. Vital to ensuring success will be monitoring and assessment of progress during the Decade. In particular, two projects were recently commissioned to undertake the important task of identifying and developing effective indicators for the Decade. UNESCO Bangkok and the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), in conjunction with Macquarie University (MU), have initiated a project that will produce a set of Guidelines to assist in the development of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) indicators across the Asia-Pacific.

Moreover, the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) is funding the Australian Research Institute in Education for Sustainability (ARIES) to build a broad framework of national ESD indicators that reflect the reporting needs of the Australian Government and its Stakeholders.

The collation of ESD indicator and/or monitoring and assessment documents and experiences will be vital in informing both of these projects. We are interested in your assistance to obtain a broad range of relevant materials:

- Are you, or do you know anyone that is working on ESD indicators that could provide advice?
- Are you familiar with work that has explored the values and limitations of indicators?
- Have you come across alternative ways of assessing progress in ESD?
Are you familiar with effective data gathering methods for qualitative indicators? Similarly, we would also be interested in any documents relating to activities and initiatives during the DESD. If you have any information in the above areas please do contact us. We are keen to advance learning in this area and will of course acknowledge your input in the project document.

Sonja Janousek and Daniella Tilbury

2. Information from UNECE, INFO

UNECE held a joint side event with UNESCO on ESD during the 14th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 1-12 May 2006).

It was in the form of a round-table discussion moderated by the Director of UNESCO NY Office, Ms Hélène Gosselin. The discussion focused on the ESD implementation perspectives at global, regional and national levels, as well as providing the views from stakeholders.

For more information on the side event, please contact esd@unece.org

3. Update re. the ENSI secretariat, INFO

As you are aware, Nicola Bedlington will leave ENSI in her present capacity as full time secretariat, and will work on a reduced basis over the summer. SLO, the Netherlands, has agreed to take over the administrative part of the secretariat, offering a 20% post at cost price from September. Other aspects of the secretariat work are currently under discussion and will agreed at the interim executive committee meeting 24,25 June 2006.

4. Review of Internal Mailing List, ACTION

A number of emails are being returned to the secretariat following the mail out of the internal mailing. Would you please inform us if you have changed email address,
Could you also reflect on other colleagues in your country who would appreciate receiving the internal mailing.
Finally please inform the secretariat if you would like name removed from the mailing list. Thank you