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### **Topics in this issue**

- 1. Bureau Meeting on the UNECE ESD Strategy – Brief Report from 22 Feb, **INFO****
- 2. New Website on UNDESD from France, **INFO****
- 3. Reminder – National Reports in advance of the AGM, **ACTION****
- 4. Call for Papers – International Conference on ESD in South West Australia – 4-6 October 2006, **INFO****
- 5. ENSI invited to contribute to a special issue DESD of the journal for the education of Teachers **INFO****

**Next issue: Tuesday 21 March 2006**

**Special Focus: Outcome of the Annual General Meeting in Vienna and the EU Presidency Conference on ESD**

### **1. Bureau Meeting on the UNECE ESD Strategy – Brief Report from 22 Feb, **INFO****

Günther Pfaffenwimmer and Nicola Bedlington attended the UNECE Bureau meeting on 22 February. Michel Ricard, ENSI national coordinator in France was also present on behalf of France. The key subject of the meeting was preparation of an ESD segment in the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Environment in Europe in Belgrade 2007, and a draft proposal was discussed. This is available for review on the UNECE website [www.unece.org](http://www.unece.org), in the specific section on ESD in the environment menu.

It was agreed that the following background materials should be prepared “good practices in ESD” (*a draft template prepared by the secretariat was discussed*) a first report with an overview of progress in implementation of the UNECE Strategy for ESD, based on the responses from countries; and pilot reporting by volunteering countries using the selected set of indicators. An information note on the timeframe for the preparation of these documents will be made available by the secretariat

Planning also took place with regard to the next meeting of the Expert Group on Indicators scheduled for Vienna from 11- 13 March 2006.

Further information on the UNECE bureau meeting and ENSI’s potential input will be discussed at the ENSI Annual General Meeting.

## 2. New Website on UNDESD from France, INFO

A new website is now available on the implementation of DESD in France. Go to [www.decennie-france.org](http://www.decennie-france.org) for more information and further background on an international colloque in Paris on ESD, 14-16 June 2006.

## 3. Reminder – National Reports in advance of the AGM, ACTION

The secretariat has received 2 national reports so far, and would like to invite those national coordinators who have not already done so to submit their respective reports as soon as possible to circulate in advance of the meeting.

## 4. Call for Papers – International Conference on ESD in South West Australia – 4-6 October 2006, INFO

The Australian Association for Environmental Education (A2E2) <http://www.aaee.org.au/index.htm> will be holding their biennial national conference in Bunbury, Western Australia from the 3rd to the 6th of October 2006 <http://www.aaeeconf2006.org/>. Bunbury is a major regional city approximately 200kilometres south of Perth, in the heart of the South West eco-region which is a highly rated international biodiversity hotspot. Keynote speakers and story tellers will include: Professor Sohail Inayatullah, Dr Stephan Harding, Professor John Fien, Mr Joe Northover, Professor Chuck Hopkins and Associate Professor Daniella Tilbury. We have also invited Professor Vandana Shiva and Professor Wangari Maathai, who are not yet able to confirm their attendance. Ms Jo Vallentine has accepted our invitation to facilitate the Elders Council. This conference will take place alongside the Millennium Kids National Conference, <http://www.millenniumkids.com.au/index2.htm> and there will be a balanced amount of overlap and distinction between the two conferences. Conference themes and streams are summarized below.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** On the evening of this arrival and registration day, participants will be welcomed by the joint A2E2 and Millennium Kids conference committee at the Bunbury Sailing Club in Koombana Bay, Bunbury.

**Wednesday 4th October:** Learning Sustainability.

The day's activities will feature explorations into a wide range of issues in environmental education such as definitions, policy directions, learning approaches and program achievements at all levels of implementation. An up-to-date overview of the Sustainable Schools movement in Australia will be included.

Streams will include:

- Sustainability and critique, sustainable schools, WasteWise, EE programs.
- Ecological literacy, naturalistic intelligence, systems thinking. Arts, creativity and imaginative education, eg: Reggio Emilio, Steiner education.
- Co-learning, learning styles and strategies, citizenship, activism as EE.

- Ecopsychology, soul/spirituality.

The conference mission is to provide a rich, textured, inclusive conference which will weave together a wide range of perspectives, methods and approaches for a sustainable future. The intention is to facilitate meaningful learning and real outcomes in a participative way through reflective dialogue, councils and panel forums as well as a wide variety of tours and interactive workshops. It is anticipated that the outcomes will be actioned by the relevant policy makers, many of whom will be present and learning with us in the Western Australian environment.

#### **5. ENSI invited to contribute to a special issue of the journal for the education of Teachers INFO**

Tony Shallcross sub editor of a special issue of JET\* , the journal for the education of Teachers that will focus on DESD has approached ENSI to write a 'European contribution' to this issue. This will be approximately 6000 words, and should be ready for the beginning of September. This will be discussed in further depth at the ENSI AGM , however, those who would be interested in authoring or co-authoring this contribution are invited to contact the secretariat in advance with thoughts on possible topics and structure.

\*JET is a grade 5 journal in UKRAE terms and the leading teacher education journal in the UK and one of the leading TE journals in the world.