
**An
academic
network
for
ESD**



ProSPER.Net

ProSPER.Net

Higher Education Institutions for ESD

The network for the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research (ProSPER.Net) is an alliance of several leading higher education institutions in Asia and the Pacific Region that have committed to working together to integrate Sustainable Development (SD) into postgraduate courses and curricula. Member institutions involved have strong education and research programmes as well as aspiring innovators in sustainable development and related fields.

ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award in Sustainable Development

Another significant activity of the network is the ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award in Sustainable Development, given annually to young scientists based in the Asia-Pacific region, for significant contributions in the field of sustainable development.

The award, given in different areas, is intended to spur research in sustainable development by recognising and promoting the careers of young researchers who have the potential to lead progress to build a sustainable society and inspire others through their example.

The award was instituted in 2008 in partnership with Scopus, the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature and web sources.

In 2009, three awards will be given to scientists working in the areas of Business, Engineering and Technology and Agriculture and Natural Resources. These areas will be reviewed annually to incorporate other fields.

An initiative of the UNU-IAS

The Education for Sustainable Development Programme at the United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) works on research and capacity development to integrate components of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into curricula at all levels of education and in all sectors of the society. The creation of the ProSPER.Net alliance is an activity of this programme.

The academic and research alliance of reputed higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region is an effort of UNU-IAS to bring about understanding and delivery of ESD and SD at the postgraduate level.

The network

Eighteen academic institutions from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, as well as two regional universities are members of ProSPER.Net as of now. The eighteen founding members of ProSPER.Net are:

RMIT University, Australia
Tongji University, China
TERI University, India
Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
Hokkaido University, Japan
Iwate University, Japan
Miyagi University of Education, Japan
Nagoya University, Japan
Okayama University, Japan
Rikkyo University, Japan
Shinshu University, Japan
University of Tokyo, Japan
Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
University of the Philippines, Philippines
Yonsei University, Republic of Korea
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
Asian Institute of Technology
University of South Pacific



Participants at the launch of ProSPER.Net at Hokkaido University, Japan, in June 2008

Activities

ProSPER.Net serves as a platform of collaboration for members to pursue postgraduate education and research on sustainable development with an emphasis on ESD. Planned activities of the network include:

- annual colloquia to discuss experiences in postgraduate education and research on sustainable development,
- a summer school on sustainable development,
- faculty exchange schemes to provide an impetus for resource- and knowledge-sharing,
- development of common basic sustainable development courses,
- collaboration in developing courses on sustainable development at individual member institutions,
- creation of a consortium of business schools to mainstream sustainable development in business and management curricula,
- creation of a facility for joint research activities, and
- the building of alliances with business and industry.

The first joint projects of the network, funded by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, are

- integrating sustainable development in business school curricula,
- training of educators and researchers on sustainable development, and
- establishing a postgraduate programme in public policy and sustainable development.

Application for membership

Membership of ProSPER.Net is limited to higher education institutions located in the Asia-Pacific region that offer postgraduate education and research in sustainable development and in education for sustainable development related fields.

ProSPER.Net also has an affiliate membership category. Affiliate members of ProSPER.Net are higher education institutions located outside the Asia-Pacific region working together with the network for the benefit of the region.

Application for membership should be made through the network's Secretariat (UNU-IAS). The application should include a statement of intention and should be accompanied by a formal dossier demonstrating the institution's strength and expertise in the areas of SD and ESD at the postgraduate level. The ProSPER.Net General Assembly (GA) takes decisions on membership.

There may also be ProSPER.Net partners representing higher education institutions or other stakeholders such as private sector, governments, research institutions and international organisations, who would work with the members of ProSPER.Net to achieve the network's goals.



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

UNU-IAS

Institute of Advanced Studies

For more information

Aurea Tanaka

Programme Associate

Education for Sustainable Development Programme, UNU-IAS

tanaka@ias.unu.edu

www.ias.unu.edu/efsd/prospernet