UNEA-2 Green Room Event No. 22

26 May 2016, Thursday   17:00-18:30   Venue: CR14

Sustainability Innovations and Solutions:
Environmental Education for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

<u>Organized by:</u> **Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES)**
UNEP Environmental Education and Training Unit (EETU)

<u>Background:</u>   Education plays a vital role in transforming our societies towards a sustainable future and serves as a key driver in the effective implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GUPES, established by UNEP in 2012, has grown into a network of 800 universities, aimed at mainstreaming environment and sustainability knowledge, awareness and capacities across the globe.

<u>Expected outcomes:</u>
- Better understanding and active involvement in innovative approaches (e.g. MOOCs, e-learning) for mainstreaming environmental education;
- Sharing information on upcoming training opportunities at CIPSEM, UN:CCLEARN, and others;
- Enhanced interactions among environmental education professionals;
- Introduction of Sustainability Literacy Test and sign up by universities.

<u>Structure:</u>
1. **Innovations for mainstreaming environmental education:**
- SDGs requires reorienting educational systems towards more integrated, interdisciplinary and accessible knowledge streams. Since 2015, UNEP has developed Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to accelerate incorporation of environmental knowledge;
- UNEP's first MOOC on *Disasters and Ecosystems: Resilience in a Changing Climate,* developed in collaboration with the Cologne University of Applied Sciences, had over 12,000 registrations;
- The new *MOOC Ecosystems Approaches and Systems Thinking* aims to use ecosystems as "learning laboratories" to enhance people's understanding of inter-related & complex systems;
- The new *MOOC Nutrients and Waste Water Management* mainstreams knowledge from the Global Programme of Action for protecting marine & coastal environment from land-based activities (GPA)
- UN CC:Learn (unccelearn.org) is a UN supported learning platform that provides quality e-learning resources on climate change. Each course builds on the expertise of relevant UN partners. All courses are freely available as a public good. Since its launch in 2014, UN CC:Learn has 34 UN partners and 30,000 registrations across all courses till today.
- The MOOC E-waste Challenge introduces challenges and solutions for sound e-waste management, that can help to reduce GHG emissions, mitigate climate change and prevent hazards to health and the environment in accordance with the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions.

2. **Partnership for environmental education**:
- The *Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP)* and *eePRO* are two programmes under the leadership of the North American Association for Environmental Education (naaee.org) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA). They create an online community that connects environmental education professionals and to best practices;
- The *Center for International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management (CIPSEM)* at TU Dresden offers the joint UNEP/UNESCO/BMUB environmental management courses and study tours since 1977, in support of environmentally sound and sustainable development of emerging and developing countries by assisting

professionals from ministries, agencies or local government units and NGOs in improving their knowledge base and skills and through the opportunity to reflect attitudes.

3. Assessment of sustainability:
- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 4.7 aims for quality education by 2030. "Sustainability Literacy" is new term to describe people's knowledge on sustainability issues, which provides a tangible measure towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The *Sustainability Literacy Test* offers a practical tool to measure the education performance, outcome and promote learning, with focus on sustainability issues.
- The ultimate goal for environmental education is behavioral change- ethics and action thus form an integral part to environmental education.

Tentative Agenda:

Keynote Speakers:

Oyun Sanjasuren, UNEA President, Member of Parliament, Mongolia (tbc)
Wu Jiang, GUPES Chair, and Vice President, Tongji University
Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP (tbc)

Panelists:

Innovations

Peter Stoett, Concordia University, Canada
Robert Beauchemin**,** KnowledgeOne CEO, Canada
Lars Ribbe, Cologne University of Applied Science, Germany (tbc)
Angus Mackay, UN CC:Learn Secretariat, UNITAR
Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary, Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions

Partnerships and assessment

Mohamed Djelid, Director, UNESCO Nairobi Office (tbc)
Ola Göransson, UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development
Judy Braus, NAAEE Executive Director, USA
Ginger Potter, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), USA
Assessment
Anna Görner, CIPSEM, TU Dresden, Germany
Carteron Jean-Christophe, SuLiTest manager, KEDGE Business School, France
Bob Jickling, Lakehead University, Canada

Closing remarks: Mahesh Pradhan, UNEP IETC

Moderators:

Rui Zhang, UNEP EETU
Pablo Fuentenebro, UNEP EETU
Mariam Osman, UNEP EETU
Brian Waswala, EETU