

WORKSHOP 3

Non Formal Education

Moderators

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The Earth Charter (EC) declaration that came a decade ago called for some fundamental ethical principles for building a sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century. EC calls for a sustainable global society founded on the principles of respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. This transition to sustainable ways of living and sustainable human development could be achieved through education aimed at attitudinal changes leading to sustainable actions inspired from each others' experiences. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) aims at transforming individual lifestyles and social structures by promoting set of values through quality and innovative education system. ESD is a holistic concept with a lifelong learning perspective having equal emphasis on formal, non-formal and informal learning. Role of the EC as a base for linking the local and global in order to foster knowledge, values and skills for sustainable development at the individual, institutional and societal levels through formal, non formal and informal learning settings is significant.

There are some advantages of non formal and informal education processes; they can be undertaken by many different actors from the civil society and the government. There is ample space for creative processes to be implemented, since there is no official curriculum to follow. It is possible to reach out to people of all ages and walks of life. But this type of education processes present the challenge of being sometimes dispersed, lack of long term funding affect their continuity and the content provided can be perceived as fragmented and not in relation with other dimensions of reality, especially if the focus are environmental problems.

It is crucial that non formal and informal education help people to understand the fundamental changes needed if sustainable development is to be realized, and rekindle more caring relationships among humans and between humans and the natural world. The Earth Charter can be a useful framework for to achieve this. The integrated approach promoted by the Earth Charter emphasizes the relationships between the different challenges faced by humanity, ranging from the eradication of poverty, to the protection of Earth's ecological systems, and to the elimination of all forms of discrimination. The Earth Charter can be used as a resource to explore the links and inter-relationships between the various dimensions of sustainability.

NFE clientele is wide with different backgrounds, socio-cultural diversity, diverse ecology and ecosystems, age groups having varied needs. Different tools and methodologies are being used globally for effective education. In many countries and situations, NFE is considered better than the formal education system, able to adapt to the local situation of people to meet their changing needs, and to serve specific audiences. With increasing concern about environmental sustainability it is important that the NFE curriculum, teaching learning methodologies, education and communication material and tools are updated to meet the emerging challenges.

This workshop will share a wide range of creative, non formal educational approaches inspired by the Earth Charter. Deliberations will focus on the creative application of the Earth Charter to diverse audiences, including the ethical dimensions of the creative economy and using the arts and crafts for non formal education to advance ESD. As outcomes of the workshop the participants will look at

strategies for building sustainable local communities including the application of art and craft interventions combined with intelligent activism and documenting good practices for replication of effective strategies.

Objectives of the session:

1. Provide a space to share methodologies, resources and good practices about how to promote the skills and values necessary to face the challenges of this 21st century, and how to use the Earth Charter to achieve this.
2. Discuss how to creatively promote the Earth Charter with diverse audiences.
3. Identify and discuss strategies for building sustainable local communities, and the role of non formal processes with the Earth Charter on these.
4. Identify needs and recommendations for the future and a set of recommendations for the Rio plus 20 Conference proposed in Brazil 2012, the end of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) Conference in Japan in 2014, as well as for the next decade of the Earth Charter 2010 - 2020.

A summary of the discussion at the workshops will be posted on the Conference website each day. Each workshop will come up with a final report on day three. The report will include a road map for the future and a set of recommendations for the Rio plus 20 Conference proposed in Brazil 2012, the end of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) Conference in Japan in 2014, as well as for the next decade of the Earth Charter 2010 - 2020.