



Uzbekistan

In response to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), Uzbekistan's Ministry of Higher and Specialized Education, Ministry of Public Education and the State Committee for Nature Protection elaborated a National Program and Conception on "Development of Environmental Education and Perspectives of Improvement of Preparing and Retraining Ecologist Personnel in Uzbekistan for 2006-2010". A national policy on ESD will be developed based on this national program. The national programme aims to improve the quality of all forms of education and address various components of ESD with particular focus on the natural environment as well as on the development of a museum of local lore in the different regions of Uzbekistan.

A national launch of the DESD was organized in May 2006 by the UNESCO Office in Tashkent, the National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO and the National University of Uzbekistan.

Consultations

The State Committee for Nature Protection of Uzbekistan, Ecological Resource Centre "Ekomaktab", held national seminars on environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD) in Uzbekistan (Tashkent, October 2005 and Fergana, November 2005) as a continuation of the Fourth Sub-regional Conference, held in 2005, as an example of transferring ESD experiences and good practices from the sub-regional and international levels to the national level. The purpose of holding the two seminars was to strengthen interagency and inter-sectoral cooperation in the field of ESD in Uzbekistan. Another aim of the seminars was to increase the awareness of teachers on the development of ESD by distributing the materials and documents of the Fourth Sub-regional Conference on EE and ESD. The participants in the seminars discussed the achievements, experience, problems and prospects for the development of EE and ESD, and elaborated coordination and cooperation mechanisms for the future development of inter-sectoral and inter-agency cooperation in EE, and the seminars helped in the exchange of experiences, educational materials and ideas on EE and ESD between government civil servants, NPOs and Uzbek teachers.

Projects/Initiatives

Community Learning Centres

An important ESD-related initiative is the establishment and development of Community Learning Centres (CLC) in Uzbekistan. CLCs promote the concept of lifelong education, which was introduced in Uzbekistan in 1999. The project was supported by UNESCO within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Programme for Education for All (APPEAL). Ten CLC's and one CLC Resource Centre have since been created through the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO. Several of the CLCs focus on specific skills development. These include carpet weaving, traditional paper making, Suzanne (a decorative tribal textile) and traditional music instruments. Due to the fact that the majority of the population lives in rural areas and possess a strong sense of community, CLCs provide an opportunity for individuals to acquire knowledge and life skills through structured activities and non-formal learning. The CLC environment also encourages people from within a community to make and follow their own educational plans and programs. Over the past five years, the CLC programs in Uzbekistan have developed and evolved in accordance with the changing needs of society.

Education/ Learning for the Environment

“Learning for Life” Centre of the Republic Social Centre “*Atrof-Muhit va sog’lom hayot*” (Environment and healthy lifestyle) in 1999 started implementing activities of the “Learning for Life” Centre to assist the transition from EE to ESD. The organization’s mission is to support the process of introducing ESD in Uzbekistan by means of the achievements of modern technology and new ideas on environmental protection. This is being done by conducting various activities such as exhibitions for people and spreading the message of environmental protection and climate change mitigation in schools in the form of activities. Approximately more than 4,800 students have taken part in such activities. The Centre has also catered to more than 850 teachers and youth leaders. Partnership relations have been established with non-governmental, government and international organizations.