



Vietnam

The government of Vietnam has shown a very high level of commitment to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), reflecting its desire to be a part of international efforts to increase the momentum towards a sustainable world. It also views the Decade as an opportunity to expand the concept of sustainability beyond education to include social and economic measures. The Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO is the lead agency for implementing the Decade in collaboration with UNESCO Hanoi and the Ministries of Education & Training, Science & Technology, Natural Resources & Environment, and Culture & Information.

Vietnam launched the DESD nationally in February 2006 in Hanoi with the attendance of 300 people, including high level government officials, experts from various ESD-related fields, representatives from agencies and institutes, international partners and the media. The National DESD Committee was formed one month later, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and approved by the Prime Minister and held its inaugural meeting in March 2006. The formation of the committee demonstrates further commitment by the Vietnamese government. The committee consists of high-ranking government leaders and ministers as well as the Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO.

Alongside the National DESD Committee runs the Vietnam Agenda 21 office, which was set up by the government in response to its Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam – Vietnam Agenda 21 document. It provides a framework of broad strategies for ministries, sectors, localities, organizations and other stakeholders to build on pre-existing policies related to sustainable development. It highlights the importance of raising awareness of sustainable development for all individuals, communities, the private sector and state agencies. The Ministry of Planning and Investment set up the Vietnam Agenda 21 Office to be responsible for its implementation.

Vietnam has also drafted the **National Action Plan on DESD**.

Projects/Initiatives

The Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) and Community Learning Centres (CLCs) are being implemented through the cooperation of the Vietnam National Commission, UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO Hanoi and national specialists. Lower-secondary school students will establish links with CLCs as an extra curriculum activity on ESD related topics, e.g. biosphere conservation, poverty reduction and HIV/Aids/drug prevention. These practical exchanges, which are being piloted in Ha Tay and Hoa Binh province, are encouraging examples of how ESD can be integrated into formal and non-formal education.