



June 1, 2006

Dear NGO members and researchers who are working on ESD in Asia,

RE: Asia Good ESD Practice Research Project (AGEPP)

Japan Council on UN Decade for Sustainable Development (ESD-J)ⁱ is now undertaking a three-year project (2006-2008) - **Asia Good ESD Practice Research Project (AGEPP)**, in order to enhance the profile of ESD in Asia. The project is funded by Toyota Motor Corporation. It intends to involve various stakeholders for AGEPP;

- ESD-J members who have been working on international networking, community-based ESD promotion and ICT development,
- 5 Partner NGOs from five countries in East, Southeast and South Asia.

We are now looking for five partner NGOs from 5 countries in East, Southeast and South Asian countries that can collaboratively work with us for AGEPP. Project details and application guidelines are as follows.

About AGEPP

The purpose of the Project is to promote ESD by sharing '**community-based good ESD practices in Asia**' (**Good Practice**), in particular East, Southeast and South Asia. ESD should be developed based on the unique and diverse conditions in Asia. ESD-J assumes from the experiences of activities with NGOs and researchers in Asian countries that:

there have already existed UNIQUE and GOOD ESD practices based on a community in Asia in its cultural and historical context.

On this assumption, we have developed ESD criteria shown in Appendix. Through AGEPP, we would like to analyze Good Practices and prove this assumption from diverse perspectives with Asian Partner NGOs. Then we also would like to formulate a model of Good Practices, and its role and issues (present its role and challenges).

2. Objectives of AGEPP

The objectives of AGEPP include:

1. to explore and analyze a total of 30 Good Practices (5 each from Japan and 5 countries in East, Southeast and South Asian, in collaboration with ESD-J, ECRT, and report

- them on the web site in English, Japanese and 5 other Asian languages;
2. to learn the perspectives and frameworks of ESD from the 30 ESD practices of AGEPP area;
 3. to develop a practical "Scenario" that can lead community activities into successful ESD cases based on 2;
 4. to develop educational materials based on the "Scenario" above (or in 3), and provide them to communities in Asian countries; and
 5. to form a functional network to connect focal ESD NGOs/research institutes of Asian countries.

3. Project procedures and schedule

AGEPP will be conducted through three phases; **Phase I (2006)**, **Phase II (2007)**, and **Phase III (2008)**, as follows.

Phase I (2006)

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|----------------|--|
| 20 June | Closing of Application for five Partner NGOs from East, Southeast and South Asia
*Please see the detail below. |
| 30 June | Selection of five Asian Partner NGOs, and announcement of a result |
| July | Signing AGEPP Agreement between ESD-J and Partner NGOs, and informing 1st AGEPP Joint Meeting by email |
| Aug-Sep | 1st AGEPP Joint Meeting and Field Trip (4 days) around Tokyo in Japan

* Participants: ESD-J and 5 Partner NGOs
* Venue of the meeting is to be announced around in July
* The followings will be discussed for this meeting based on the field trip during the 1 st Joint Meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. project procedures and schedule;ii. ESD criteria, framework and indicators to be applied for selection of good practices and analysis of Community-Based ESD Practices;iii. Research report format such as contents and word length; andiv. AGEPP web design and maintenance of the site. |
| Sep-Nov | 1st research in each country
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Selection/analysis of 2 community-based ESD activities- documentation/reporting in languages of the selected countries- designing the web site |

Nov-Dec translating 12 practice reports into English/the languages of the selected countries and updating all the reports on the web site

The project procedures for Phases II and III will be discussed and decided at the 1st AGEPP Joint Meeting. The followings are roughly planned at present.

Phase II (2007)

Jan-Mar 2nd AGEPP Joint Meeting

- * Participants: ESD-J and 5 Partner NGOs
- * Venue to be decided through (in the) Phase I (probably in the main city of AGEPP area)
- * Agendas will be decided during the activities in Phase I, but web site construction progress, evaluation of Phase I, and AGEPP member's tasks/duties and schedule should be discussed.

Apr-Jun 2nd research in each country

- Selection/analysis of 2-3 community-based ESD activities
- documentation/reporting in languages of the selected countries

Aug-Dec Translating all Good Practices (about 30) into English, Japanese and 5 selected countries' languages, and updating all the reports on the web site

Phase III(2008)

Jan-Mar 3rd AGEPP Joint Meeting

- * Participants: ESD-J and 5 Partner NGOs
- * Venue of the meeting is to be decided through Phase II (probably in the main city of AGEPP area).
- * Agenda will be decided during the activities in Phase II, but the followings should be discussed:
 - designing the ESD practice textbook (Scenario)
 - scheduling the textbook development.

Apr-Jun Drafting and editing the textbook and translating in English

Jul-Sep Translating the text book into Japanese and 5 selected countries' languages and printing/publishing the Japanese textbook.

4. Project Expenses

ESD-J will pay partner Asian NGOs for the following expenses:

- All the domestic transportation and accommodations for visiting the ESD practice sites in your country (2 persons, 2 trips, 3 days each);
- International transportation and accommodation for attending the Joint Meetings (one person from one NGO);
- Reward for the community that is selected as the project research site;
- Fee for the translation of reports on all Good Practices into your language and English;
- Website design; and
- Personnel cost of the Asian NGO (**About US\$1000 maximum per year** will be paid to each Asian NGO).

4. Expectation on 5 Partner NGOs from Asian Countries

ESD-J expects Partner NGOs as follows:

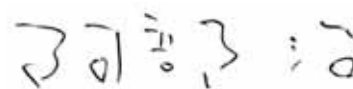
- Commitment to AGEPP as your organization project, not as your personal activity/research
- Participation in and contribution to the three Joint Meetings (4 days in each 2006, 2007 and 2008)
- Conducting CEP research in your country and reporting
- Translation of all Good Practices into the main language in your country and in English
- Cooperation/collaboration with NGOs/research institutes within your country for the promotion of ESD

5. Application for Five Asian Partner NGO Posts

For the applicants of AGEPP Asian Partner NGO posts, please fill and email your application form as an attachment document to **Fumiko Noguchi (Ms) of ESD-J Secretariat, fumiko@esd-j.org, BY June 20, 2006**. Application Form can be downloaded from http://www.esd-j.org/documents/AGEPP_Application_Form.doc

The application results and selected NGO will be notified by 30 June, 2006. For further questions regarding this project and application, please email Fumiko.

We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your applications.



Osamu Abe(Mr.)

Appendix

ESD-J's Tentative ESD Perspectives

The following ESD perspectives are developed from our experiences with the NGOs and researchers in Asian countries. ESD-J have used these for planning and designing AEPP. The contents of the perspectives below will be discussed at the 1st Joint AEPP Meeting.

1. Common Definition of ESD in Asia

The definition of ESD in Asia should be principally based on the definition of International Implementation Scheme (IIS)ⁱⁱ, ESD Asia-Pacific region reports from UNESCO Bangkokⁱⁱⁱ, and IUCN reports^{iv}. In ESD in East, Southeast and South Asia, it should also be defined in cultural and historical context.

2. Asian (East, Southeast and South Asia) Context

- The function to maintain a rural community based on mainly rice crop farming;
- The community based on territorial connection and kinship;
- The contradictions caused by drastic modernizations and economic growth;
- Traditional views on the nature/religion(inc. folk belief), and animism (These include the ways of accepting and understanding the surrounding nature, human-nature relationships, environment, traditional life based on rural environment, and people's cooperation in the area)

3. Community-Based Good ESD Practice(Good Practice)

Community-Based Good ESD Practice (Good Practice) is the practice that can lead to a good communication between central players of the activity and people in the community: both stakeholders can learn each other. This "central player"s include schools, universities, social education facilities, NGOs, and business enterprises.

4. Issues in a Community/Area and the Way of Overcoming

Type of short/long-term issues that a community has been facing, and the way of overcoming the issues by community people through ESD.

5. Community Residents' Commitment to the ESD Practice

Focusing on the residents' commitment to the community-based ESD practice.

6. Community Size

The size of the community where a community-based ESD is practiced should fit within a regional district or a river basin. Community population size should be around 20,000~100,000. The minimum size of the community is also within a livelihood sphere – about one school area.

7. Approaches used for promoting ESD in a community

Exploring how important notions in ESD, such as “holistic approach” and “citizens’ participation”, are incorporated in each activity.

ⁱ ESD-J is a networking NGO for promotion of ESD/UNDESJ in Japan, founded in 2003. ESD-J is now conducting variety of activities including, networking of individuals/organizations that are related to ESD in Japan and Asia, sharing information through ICT, supporting community-based ESD in Japan, and political advocacy. See our web site for further details. <http://www.esd-j.org/en/whatsesdj/>

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http://portal.unesco.org/education/en/ev.php-URL_ID=23280&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=961>

^{iv} <http://www.sur.iucn.org/publicaciones/documentos/publicaciones/325.pdf>