



# OUR MESSAGE TO RIO+20

**Asian NGO Network on Education for Sustainable Development  
(ANNE)**

We are NGOs, promoting ESD  
at the local communities in Asia.



June 2012



# Our Key Principles

ANNE is emphasizing on 4 perspectives in achieving sustainable development.

## Key Perspective 1: Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

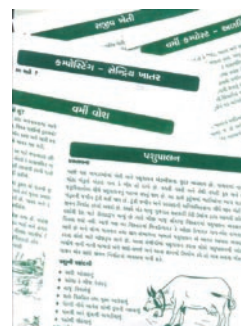
Core of sustainable development is people and people's knowledge, value and attitude determine sustainable development, and therefore, education is the key to sustainability. The importance of education has been confirmed in the past UNCSD processes as seen in Chapter 36 of Agenda 21. United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD) has been

implemented since 2005 with UNESCO as the lead agency. However, school education or formal education approach seems to be more dominant than non-formal and informal education. How to build the capacity to deal with the complex issues at the grass root level should have received more attention.

## Key Perspective 2 : Local Community .....

Majority of the poor and marginal population still today primarily depends on the local natural resources both for their livelihood and quality of life. There are inherent sustainability values in community-based natural resource management.

Local community is the key unit of sustainable development and therefore without sustainability of local natural resources, the global green economy will not be possible.



### NGO working for sustainable local community development 1

Empowering local women - GRAM NIDHI eco-enterprises for sustainable livelihoods.

Centre for Environment Education (CEE), Gujarat, India

### Key Perspective 3 : Non Governmental Organisations (NGO).....

In Asia, there are numerous NGOs that have been committed to the local sustainable development through taking the formal, non-formal and informal educational approach for the local community empowerment. We have documented, analysed and disseminated 34 local community-based case studies during the Asia Good ESD Practice Project (AGEPP). AGEPP showcased the importance of not only formal, but also non-formal and informal education as the agent for change towards sustainable local community development. We are convinced that the local empowerment is the core element of sustainable society, and that the local NGOs often play the key role for facilitating the local empowerment processes.

Looking at the reality of the local community in Asia, there are numerous and profound day-to-day needs for activities to solve unsustainable issues, such as hygiene and sanitation problems, depopulation of rural communities caused by urbanisation and youth outmigration, poverty and loss of biodiversity and indigenous knowledge. NGOs play a key role in finding culturally, economically and socially appropriate solutions, developing and applying a locally adequate knowledge by integrating local, indigenous knowledge and modern, scientific expertise, and bridging the diverse local stakeholders including marginalised people.

### Key Perspective 4 : Asia .....

Asia will be the key global driving force economically in the 21st Century and its way of development will give significant impacts globally.

The solution against unsustainable patterns in Asia is essential in achieving sustainable development of the world.



**NGO working for sustainable local community development 2**  
Saving city swamps & eco lake building project.  
Jeonju Council for Local Agenda 21, Jeollabuk-do, Republic of Korea



# Our message to Rio +20

We, the Asian NGO Network on Education for Sustainable Development (ANNE), met in March 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, and developed a following message to Rio+20:

ANNE actively working on ESD at the community level in Asia, documented, analysed and disseminated 34 local community-based case studies during the Asia Good ESD Practice Project (AGEPP). AGEPP showcased the importance of formal, non-formal and informal education as the agent for change behind the communities' quest towards achieving the real essence of sustainable development at the community level.

Through AGEPP, we recognized that majority of the poor and marginal population still today primarily depend on the local natural resources both for their livelihood and quality of life. We also found out that there are inherent sustainability values in community-based natural resource management. Without sustainability of local natural resources, the global green economy will not be possible. Thus, the sustainability of local natural resources should be an integral part in determining the green economy.

In the absence of an effective and sustainable institutional mechanism, local communities are not connected and well included in the design of the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD). That leaves the local communities nowhere in sight, and their voices are not recognized in the national and international development agendas. Therefore, there is a need for adequately integrating local community components in IFSD.



### **NGO working for sustainable local community development 3**

Ikarahan, the Northern indigenous people developed the environmentally sound and economically viable products and established their own school for their future generation.

Kalahan Educational Foundation, Luzon, Philippines

We appeal the need and seek appropriate support and assistance for activities that would lead to developing green economy indicators at the local community level and also appropriate institutional mechanisms. That would connect and include local community voices in the national and global development agendas. We believe that the local communities can demonstrate an example to make sustainable development possible at the grass root level. It can be achieved by empowering the local community. This is the learning and education process, ESD. ESD is the driver of change to ensure the green economy and appropriate IFSD.

We, ANNE, working on ESD at the local communities in Asia commit ourselves to working together and are prepared to partner and collaborate with like-minded groups and individuals. We are exploring strategic partnerships to empower the local communities in enhancing ESD as the key to sustainable development that we hand over to our future generations.



**NGO working for sustainable local community development 4**  
Connecting cities and rural villages - beyond depopulation and urbanization  
Green Earth Center (GEC), all areas of Japan



## About ANNE

ESD-J and 6 NGOs from 6 Asian countries collaboratively conducted the Asia Good ESD Practice Project (2006-08), in order to document and analyse ESD efforts by the civil sector in Asia, and to strengthen the network among the AGEPP members through documentation. The members included BINTARI Foundation (Indonesia), Environmental Broadcasting Circle (Philippines), Centre for Environment Education (India), NRC-NFE (Nepal), Friend of Nature (China) and Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea. 34 cases were submitted under AGEPP. The case study documents in English, Japanese, Indonesian, Tagalog, Chinese and Korean are downloadable from AGEPP website ([www.agepp.net/](http://www.agepp.net/))

The idea of the Asia NGO Network on ESD (ANNE) was developed by the member NGOs who committed in AGEPP, and agreed on among them at the Surabaya Workshop held in August 2010. ANNE is a network for NGOs that work for sustainable development and local community empowerment in Asia, and is expected to be formally established by 2014, which is the final year of the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD). The report of the Surabaya Workshop is downloadable from the ESD-J web site:

[http://www.esd-j.org/j/documents/g2a\\_project\\_proceedings.pdf](http://www.esd-j.org/j/documents/g2a_project_proceedings.pdf)

### ANNE Background

- 2005 Call for networking Asian NGOs on ESD at the Conference on Education for a Sustainable Future, organised by CEE, India, in January
- 2006-2008 Asia Good ESD Practice Project (AGEPP) – documented and analysed 34 practices by 6 NGOs from China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Philippines, and Nepal. Started AGEPP web site: [www.agepp.net/](http://www.agepp.net/) and published AGEPP Case Hand book
- 2008 AGEPP member made the policy proposal to G8 Summit held in Japan, “Asian Civil Societies’ message to G8 Summit “Establish Effective Mechanism for Sustainable Society”
- 2010 Agreed on networking Asian NGOs on ESD at Surabaya Workshop, in Indonesia. Developed a message from AGEPP members to CBD COP 10 held in Japan, “Possible ESD contribution to biodiversity conservation in Asia”
- 2012 Held the working group discussion on the establishment of Asia NGO Network on ESD (ANNE) by 2014, the final year of UN DESD, at Bangkok Workshop, in March. Developed a message to Rio+20 by ANNE, “Our Message to Rio+20”



Photos show the ANNE discussion process from 2006 to 2012.

## About ESD-J

The Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J) is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 in order to promote Education for Sustainable Development. ESD-J has developed an ESD civil network by connecting the people and organizations, such as NGOs, educational institutes, municipal governments, business entities, and media. We conduct activities for the promotion of ESD nationally and internationally.

ESD-J members include about 100 organizations and about 300 individuals from various fields, such as environment, development, human rights,

social welfare, and peace and all these are working for the same goal of achieving a sustainable world. Based on this network, ESD-J's activities include policy advocacy, educational material development, training and information sharing.

One main goal of activities is to make ESD more easily understood. ESD-J is involved with development of ESD activity handbooks which introduce local ESD activities, support of "network meetings" which bring together people from diverse fields to discuss local issues, and ESD model community building.

### ESD-J Activities

- ※ Policy Advocacy for ESD Promotion
- ※ Support for local ESD activities and networking
- ※ Develop international ESD networking
- ※ Information sharing with various media outlets
- ※ ESD Training and dissemination of information

### Contact:

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# We are NGOs, promoting ESD at the local communities in Asia.



## NGO working for sustainable local community development 5

Fishermen's climate change adaptation efforts through developing sustainable fishery.  
BINTARI Foundation, Semarang City, Indonesia

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\* Cover photos show the ANNE discussion process from 2006 to 2012.

