



Sustainable Development  
Council Of Sri Lanka



## **International Conference on Sustainable Waste Management & Circular Economy -**

### **A Special Session on the Policies and the Practices on Education for Sustainable Development and Environmental Education in Asian countries**

## **Session Summary**

### **1. Session title**

Special Session: Policies & Practices on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Environmental Education (EE) in Asian countries

**at the International Conference on Sustainable Waste Management & Circular Economy (ICON-SWM),**

ICON- SWM is an annual forum aiming to promote diverse discussions on sustainable waste management and circular economy, with the participation of front-line experts and stakeholders from governments, international organisations, academia, businesses and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). For your reference, the information on ICON-SWM is available at the following site: <https://www.iswmaw.com/introduction.php>.

### **2. Date: 1 Dec, 15:00 – 16:45 Japan Time (online)**

### **3. Session outline:**

Along with rapid urbanisation, economic growth and changes in lifestyles and consumption patterns, one common issue among countries in Asia is the dramatic increase in the amount of waste generation, decrease of natural resources, increase in environmental and climate change impacts. Governments in the region have made some progress in establishing relevant policies, strategies and legislation for achieving sustainable development goals and actions. Such strategies and legislation have positioned behaviour change and capacity development, especially targeting youth and young generation, as critical factors. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), including Environmental Education (EE) Climate Change Education, and Sustainable Lifestyles have been identified as important elements by key international agencies such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Organisation for Economic Co-

operation and Development (OECD), and also by national governments. Through some international initiatives such as the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) from 2005 to 2015, formal education systems for each UN member state, was encouraged to incorporate ESD into their mainstream education.

In such context, the governments in Asia also have been making effort to transform the education policies, practices and teaching approach to enhance ESD/EE in the last few decades. In reality, however, practical implementation of those policies and innovative practices through formal and non-formal education systems is still limited in many countries. This special session therefore aims to discuss on 1) how the global initiatives and consensus have been formulated to move forward to ESD, including the outcomes of the recent Transforming Education Summit 2022 by UN; 2) How the governments' policies and regulations have been designed to promote ESD/EE in Asia; 3) national curriculum development for ESD/ EE; 3) opportunities and challenges, gaps in policy and practices. The session would be an opportunity where policy makers/government officials from Asian countries (Japan, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and UNESCO Bangkok - the Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education) could exchange their experiences and innovative ideas to promote ESD/EE and achieve the global goals set by UN and other key international agencies.

#### 4. Target audience:

The key target audience includes policymakers on ESD/EE, school teachers, students, academic, and international or national agencies who are involved in promoting ESD/EE.

#### 5. Speakers to be invited: (TBD)

- Moderator: Prof.essor. Sato, Tokyo City University, Department of Environmental Management and Sustainability & Dr. Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage, Director/ Principle Researcher, IGES-CCET
- Speaker 1: A representative from UNESCAO, Bangkok Office (TBD): Key note - Frame the issue giving key findings from the Transforming Education Summit by UN, lead the discussion on how Asian countries should move forward to achieve such international initiatives/consensus, etc
- Speaker 2: Director General, Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka: Present the country experience in Sri Lanka
- Speaker 3: Mr. Wangchuk, Curriculum Developer for Science and Environmental Science, Department of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ministry of Education, Bhutan: Present the country experience in Bhutan



Sustainable Development  
Council Of Sri Lanka



- 
- Speaker 4: Dr. Nguyen Phuong Thao from Ha Noi National University of Education, Vietnam:  
Present the country experience in Vietnam
  - **Panel Discussion**
  - Moderator: Prof. Sato, Tokyo City University, & Dr. Premakumara J D G, IGES-CCET, Japan
  - Representative from UNESCAO, Bangkok (TBD): Key note - Frame the issue giving key findings from the Transforming Education Summit by UN, - how Asian countries should move forward to achieve such international initiatives/consensus, etc
  - DG, Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka: Present the country experience in Sri Lanka
  - Mr. Wangchuk, Curriculum Developer for Science and Environmental Science, Department of Curriculum and Professional Development, Ministry of Education, Bhutan: Present the country experience in Bhutan
  - Dr. Nguyen Phuong Thao, Ha Noi National University of Education, Vietnam: Present the country experience in Vietnam
  - Panel Discussion