exchanging expertise and jointly developing science education curricula; and

- A report on the key findings of the workshop for the decision-making bodies of the countries, to which the participating institutions belong.

Thematic Areas and Topics

The Training Workshop will have multiple-focus areas and themes to address the afore-mentioned issues and challenges. Various focus areas for strengthening science education at all levels of education in the developing world will be discussed, which mainly include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Inclusion of science education for sustainable development in the existing Educational Policies;
2. Examination of science curricula of secondary, higher secondary, graduate and post-graduate levels, with respect to social relevance and sustainable development;
3. The role of science teachers in achieving sustainable development and the need of their professional development through life-long learning;
4. The role of science education in spreading awareness of climate change and its adverse effects;
5. The role of science education in preserving bio-diversity;
6. The role of science education in meeting the challenges of food security;
7. The role of science education for combating and preventing diseases;
8. The role of science education in poverty alleviation;
9. Efforts for strengthening peace building through science education;
10. Need for strengthening partnerships for science education.

Paper Submission

Academics, policy-makers, implementers, and researchers active in the field of Science Education are invited to submit papers in any of the afore-mentioned areas/topics.

Financial Support

Partial or full financial support will be made available to selected speakers/participants.

Important Dates

- Submission of Abstract: May 20, 2011
- Notification of Acceptance: May 25, 2011
- Submission of full paper: June 10, 2011

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International Training Workshop on
Science Education for Sustainable Development
Dhaka, People’s Republic of Bangladesh
June 27-28, 2011
Co-organized by
Introduction

Sustainable development is one of the most difficult challenges that humanity is faced with and calls for addressing fundamental issues at local, regional and global levels. These issues include: unsustainable use of natural resources; population growth and urbanization; the digital/information divide; climate change and global warming; water and food scarcity; poverty; infectious diseases; and preservation of ecological systems and biodiversity.

Scientific literacy, knowledge and skills in the society are essential for understanding and addressing the afore-mentioned issues for achieving sustainable development.

Science Education

As the world moves towards being a knowledge-based society, a high standard of science education, at secondary, higher secondary, graduate and post-graduate levels, is valued more than ever. Besides producing an adequate number of scientists, engineers and technicians, required for socio-economic development of a country, science education is essential for imparting students with skills, competencies, attitudes, values and critical thinking that become the basis for a successful living.

It is also being widely recognized that the best results in policy-making and -implementation for the development and promotion of science education can be obtained through joint efforts, wherein problems are solved through networking and more-effective knowledge-exchange and dissemination.

Issues and Challenges

The key issues and challenges facing science education in the developing countries are as follows:

- Lack of recognition of science as a means for meeting social and economic needs and possibly achieving sustainable development;
- Unavailability of sufficient resources for science education;
- Unavailability of adequately qualified science teachers;
- Unfamiliarity with new and emerging techniques of teaching science;
- Lack of relevancy of the existing science curricula to students; and
- Low general literacy rate and poor standard of living of the people.

International Training Workshop on Science Education for Sustainable Development

In order to address the challenges faced in effective utilization of science education for economic progress in the developing countries, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS); the Ministry of Education, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) are holding a 2-day International Training Workshop on “Science Education for Sustainable Development”. The training workshop is scheduled to be held on June 27th – 28th, 2011, at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Objectives

The workshop will provide a forum for academicians and policy makers/implementers from different countries to:

- Examine, review and update the curricula of science education of all education levels and aligning the same with the needs of sustainable development;
- Develop strategies for building a pool of qualified science academicians for all levels, having adequate science knowledge and related teaching skills;
- Update science education instruments for effective delivery of the updated science education curriculum;
- Ensure the reflection of rapid changes taking place in science and technology and their applications in the planning, teaching and learning of science;
- Increase students’ interest in and relevance to science; and
- Promote critical awareness of the contribution of science to personal, social, economic and environmental well-being.

Expected Outcomes

The workshop is expected to have the following outcomes:

- Findings and recommendations for aligning the curricula of science education in the developing countries with sustainable development;
- Linkages among the developing countries, in general, and participating institutions, in particular, for