

Closing of 2006 Leadership Programme

The Leadership Programme had its Closing Ceremony on 23 September at the Li Lake Exhibition Center. It celebrated the valuable participation and contribution of the participants, resource persons, and volunteers in ensuring the success of the Leadership Programme. Ms. Liu Hongzhi, Vice Mayor of Wuxi Municipal Government and Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director and Representative of Asia and the Pacific of UNEP delivered congratulatory addresses to the participants, as well as Prof. Li Fengting of IESD.

The 27 participants received certificates from the UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development as future leaders with enhanced vision on the environment for sustainable development. Resource persons who shared their knowledge, experience, and vision for the future generation of environmental leaders were given the certificates of appreciation, and the Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) honored them with titles of Visiting Professors. Participants and organizers also expressed appreciation to the Volunteers for their endless efforts for the facilitation of the programme. Participants thanked the organizers of UNEP-Tongji and Wuxi Municipal Government for their hospitality and efforts to make the programme as interesting and stimulating as it turned out to be.

This year's closing of the Leadership Programme was more meaningful as the participants came up with a voluntary commitment for sustainable development, titled the "Wuxi Commitment." The complete text of the Wuxi Commitment is as follows:

WUXI COMMITMENT

Asia Pacific Leadership Programme
on Environment for Sustainable Development
UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005 - 2014
Wuxi, China, September 23rd, 2006

Acknowledging:

The UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD) was jointly established by UNEP and Tongji University in 2002. The objectives of IESD are:

- (1) to develop educational programmes to build research, technical and managerial skills and capacity in developing countries;
- (2) to contribute to UNEP's global and regional environmental activities; and
- (3) to disseminate information of best practice and technological developments.

Recognising:

The need to deliver a deeper and more integrated understanding of sustainability and implement sustainable practices

Acknowledging:

A Leadership Programme by UNEP Tongji University on sustainable development was created as a means to provide training for emerging leaders from various backgrounds in the Asia-Pacific region.

Acknowledging:

That the third leadership program was held this week in China and 27 participants came from 17 countries in Asia and the Pacific. The participants have been selected as having the potential for leadership and are drawn from Government agencies, community and civil society organizations, the private sector, educational institutes and UN agencies.

Acknowledging:

The objectives of the Asia Pacific Regional University Consortium to foster multidisciplinary academic and research developments in environment for sustainable development, and to serve as a resource for the activities of IESD.

Recommends:

That all governments, businesses and communities adopt an integrated approach to future development in order to put into practice the principles of Sustainable Development.

The participants of the 3rd UNEP/Tongji University Leadership Programme on Environment for Sustainable Development strive to translate the ideals of sustainable development from principles to practice in their respective work environments.

Notes:

The Leadership Programme on Environment and Sustainable Development outcomes will also be used by UNEP as contributions to the UN International Decade for Education for Sustainable Development. In addition to Tongji University, which serves as the hub, the regional university consortium currently includes the universities of New South Wales and Wollongong, and Griffith University in Australia, the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, Yale University in the United States and the Asian Institute of Technology. The Hanns Seidel Foundation office in Jakarta also provides support for the Leadership Programme.

For more information: See www.rrcap.unep.org/uneptongji/