

**Fifth International Anniversary Subregional Conference on ESD**  
**23-25 October 2006**

After the WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002, where the role of ESD was especially underlined, and the idea on the UN Decade on ESD (2005-2014) proposed by UNESCO and Government of Japan, founded understanding and support of the Central Asian (CA) countries.

After the First Subregional CA Meeting on Environmental Education (EE) held by the CAREC in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of Tajikistan in 2002, CA in 2003 launched the CA EE Programme.

*Second Sub-regional Consultative Meeting “Environmental Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Central Asia” April, 2003 in Bishkek* was the CA countries’ response to WSSD decisions. The CA joint Working Group on EE and ESD was established at the meeting, which jointly makes decisions on ESD, implements new projects and develops new educational/learning materials on EE and ESD. Through its activities we created and worked out the *mechanism of coordination process on EE and ESD* in CA countries, involving major parties into that process, including ministries of education, environment, and institutions of science and education, community and international organizations.

At the *Forth Sub regional Conference* in September 2005 in Almaty CA WG activities were approved and authorities were extended up to the Belgrade Pan-European Conference (2007). The CA WG on EE and ESD has responsibility to provide information on the progress made on ESD at the Steering Committee meetings in UNECE ESD Strategy and other international ESD forums.

**Sub-regional Conferences on EE and ESD in Central Asia** is one more evidence of sustainability of the CA process on ESD and a good tradition of Central Asia. Four subregional conferences on EE and ESD were conducted in Central Asia: Dushanbe, 2002; Bishkek, 2003; Almaty, 2004; and Almaty, 2005.

*The Forth Sub-regional Conference*, conducted in September 2005 in Almaty, opened the UN Decade on ESD (2005-2014) in Central Asia, considered global initiatives on EE/ESD, implementation of the UNECE Strategy on ESD, the process on ESD Strategy for Asia-Pacific region (APR) preparation. Ministries of environment, education, Central-Asian WG on EE/ESD, coordinators of UNESCO associated schools, of SPARE project, NGOs, teachers of CA schools and universities, international organizations and embassies, and mass media took part in the Conference.

At the Conference CA countries proposed to conduct **the Fifth Anniversary Subregional Conference in Central Asia in October 2006 as international event**. After the meeting CAREC conducted consultations with the Cluster Office of UNESCO in the Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan) and Government of Kyrgyz

Republic on organizational issues of the Conference. **The Conference will be conducted 23-25 October 2006 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in cooperation and with support of our partners from the Cluster Office of UNESCO in the Central Asia, European Commission, Regional Office of UNESCO in Bangkok, and OSCE Centre in Almaty.**

Taking into consideration international level of the Conference; status of its participants, and planning activities, CAREC in close cooperation with the UNESCO, Government of Kyrgyz Republic, and CA WG on ESD, started preparatory process for the Conference, countries' reports on implementation of the DESD for 2005-2006, production of educational and analytical materials in June 2006.

We plan to prepare and publish Review (report) "Implementation of ESD in Central Asia" for 2004-2006 and collection of the Conference participants' theses to be presented at the Conference. This CA review will be based on developed by the UNECE EG indicators on ESD.

We would like kindly invite our partners and donors, international organizations responsible for DESD process, educational and SD issues at the global, regional, subregional and national levels (UNESCO, UNECE, UNEP, UNU/IAS, UNDP, etc.) and all interested partners for cooperation on preparation, participation and support of this Conference.

We'll be happy to see our colleagues and partners in Bishkek in October 2006 to exchange by experience on ESD and discuss our further cooperation on implementation the DESD in Central Asia.

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