

2013 Green Schools Asia Regional Workshop
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OPENING REMARKS

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Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning!

1. On behalf of ASEAN Secretary General, H.E. Le Luong Minh, it is my pleasure to deliver the opening remarks.
2. I wish to acknowledge UNESCO Jakarta for organizing this workshop.
3. As of 2011, the estimated population of ASEAN is 607M and one of the most vulnerable regions when it comes to impacts of climate change.
4. One of the purposes of ASEAN is “To promote sustainable development so as to ensure the protection of the region’s environment, the sustainability of its natural resources, the preservation of its cultural heritage and the high quality of life of its peoples.”
5. To translate this purpose, one of the strategic objectives of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint on Ensuring Environmental Sustainability is to establish a clean and green ASEAN, a place and society where in people are in harmony with nature,

environmentally literate, and capable of ensuring sustainability of the region through environmental education and people participation¹.

6. This workshop is indeed an opportunity to share with you ASEAN's efforts in promoting Education for Sustainable Development and let me cite a few of these initiatives:
7. During the 13th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment (IAMME), the ASEAN Guideline on Eco-Schools was developed. This guideline serves as a reference and as a regional standard for environmentally friendly model schools. This document defines the key aspects of Eco-Schools, that nurture children's achievement, environmental programme, an ideal place where all knowledge and various norms and ethics can be learned, promotes good teaching, conveys that everyone is part of the ecosystem, and promotes environmental sustainability and development.²
8. The guidebook also sets the criteria for recognition of eco-schools particularly on four areas namely: (i) school policy and administration, (ii) teaching modules and learning activities, (iii) facilities and environmental practices, and (iv) partnership and community outreach.³ The first awarding of the Eco-Friendly Schools took place in July 2012, with 10 primary and 10 secondary schools. The awarding is done every 3 years.
9. Further, ASEAN has been developing an ASEAN Environmental Education Plan since 2000. The first plan was for the period, 2000-2005, then for the period 2008 – 2012. Currently, the ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education is now finalizing the successor plan for 2014-2018 which will be endorsed for adoption by the Ministerial Meeting on Environment.
10. ASEAN in partnership with the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook was developed. This is a comprehensive teaching resource for primary and secondary schools to foster an outward-looking, stable, peaceful, and prosperous ASEAN community. One particular module I wish to highlight in this sourcebook is the lesson plan on charting climate change wherein children and youth

¹ ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint, page 15

² ASEAN Guidelines on ECO-SCHOOLS, pages 6-7

³ ASEAN Guidelines on ECO-SCHOOLS, pages 8-9

learn the impacts of climate change across regions. With this, appreciation of what can be done to mitigate the effects of climate change is promoted.

11. The ASEAN Youth Volunteer Program (AYVP) encourages youth to become Eco-Leaders by having a greater understanding the diversity of our environment, be equipped with the leadership skills in environmental conservation across the ASEAN region, and be active leaders in their respective countries in promoting environmental aware.
12. As we push forward for a clean and green ASEAN, let us always bear in mind the significant harmony of nature around us and let this be an inspirational lesson in creating ways towards an environmentally sustainable education towards developing a disaster-resilient communities.
13. I wish all the participants of this workshop all the success and may this be a perfect place for you to share experiences and learn from each other.
14. Thank you and good day to all!