International Conference: Asia Pacific Policy Dialogue on Water, Energy and Food Security for Poverty Alleviation in Dryland Regions
23-25 November 2016, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

AP-FAST: Facility for Accelerating Science & Technology Knowledge Services for SDGs into National Development Plans in Asia and the Pacific

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to the construction of peace, human development, and intercultural dialogue in an era of globalization through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.
The “Knowledge Agency”

UNESCO has all the qualifications to bring an intellectual and humanist response to globalization and to the economic crisis: we know that culture and art, the sciences, education, communication and knowledge are the real values that form the essence of humanity.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Evolution of UNESCO</th>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>UNESCO Constitution: Peace must be founded upon the “intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Tensions and conflicts in today’s globalised world can only find lasting solutions if ignorance is countered with intellectual cooperation, intercultural dialogue, access to information, independent and pluralistic media</td>
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Overarching Objectives

- **Peace** – Contributing to lasting peace;
- **Sustainable development** - Contributing to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

**Priorities:** Africa and Gender

Other areas: SIDS, LDCs, countries in transition and youth
How UNESCO Contributes

- As a standard setter
- As a clearing house
- Through capacity-building
- Through international cooperation
- Headquarters in Paris, France...
- A global network of field offices, regional bureaus and institutes...
- 195 countries, National Commissions
UN Agenda 2030 - Three Main Pillars

Towards SD and a Green Economy

Rio+20

Living in peace

Unfinished business

Peace & Security

MDG+
UN System Task Team: Integrated framework for realizing the "future we want for all" in the post-2015 UN development agenda

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Environmental sustainability

Inclusive social development

Inclusive economic development
Related International Developments

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030

United Nations Paris Climate Agreement Signing Ceremony 22 April 2016

Island Voices Global Choices UN Conference on Small Island Developing States Apia, Samoa 2014

Malaysia UNESCO Cooperation Programme
Key Global Challenges

Climate Change/Global Change
Adaptation to increased hazard, innovation, focus on natural disasters

Rapid urbanization and population growth
Sustainable Infrastructure

Poverty
Access to infrastructure, services, rights, and technologies
Global Development Agenda

Have maintained the idea that scientific and technological innovation can help to achieve sustainable development.

Put People and Wellbeing of Human and Planet at the Centre
As a Regional Bureau for Science, it covers Asia and the Pacific Region (46 countries plus 2 associate members), through its programmes in Freshwater, Oceans, Basic and Engineering Sciences, Earth Sciences, and Coastal zones and Small Islands.
UNESCO Initiatives in S&T

- World Water Assessment Programme
- Global Geoparks Network
- UNESCO Biodiversity Initiative (UBI)
- Links LIVE (Living Aquatic Resource System)
- GOMEST
- World Heritage Convention
- International Bioethics Committee (IBC)
- Men and the Biosphere Programme
- International Hydrological Programme
- Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
- International Flood Initiative
- International Drought Initiative

Malaysia UNESCO Cooperation Programme
AP-FAST

What?

• Asia-Pacific Facility for Accelerating Science and Technology in SDGS
• Tool to address S&T challenges in implementing the 17 SDGs, particularly focusing on:

Where?

✓ LDCs
✓ SIDS
**What? (cont.)**

- **Platform** for dialogue and actions amongst high-level experts.
- Help **incorporate S&T knowledge** into development plans in line with SDGs.
- **Support** the newly adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SD) & ensuring no one is left behind.
- **Foster global partnerships** and **enhance South-South Cooperation** to build & improve **knowledge societies** based on **SD & STI**
- **Establish strong links** with governments, regional bodies etc.
AP-FAST
Thematic Areas

- FAST-Water
- FAST-Climate
- FAST-Eco
- FAST-DRR
- FAST-Innovation
- FAST-Ocean

✓ Build around common actions on environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources
Project Overview

How?

1. Regional Strategic Meetings on the Implementation of SDGs – also open to selected participants from other regions
   - Launching of AP-FAST initiative

2. Identifying effective and inclusive means for the use of S&T knowledge for implementing a transformational development agenda

3. Defining an AP-FAST annual meeting model as the regional forum to discuss the processes and progress on the integration of the SDGs in the region

Figure 1. AP-FAST structure and components
Thank You!