

Project objective

This project aims to establish a working group on Higher Education Institutions on Disaster Resilience and Sustainable Development under the ProSPER.Net umbrella. Its aim is to form a robust regional network with the collective capacity to lead initiatives that protect society from shocks to physical, socio-cultural, politico-economic and natural systems and hence enhance the potential for sustainable development of the region. The working group intends to pursue curriculum reform to integrate the sustainability agenda into postgraduate courses, curricula and programmes, along with the development of a multidisciplinary curriculum mapping tool focussing on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Background

The Asian region is recognised as critically important for global sustainability due to its rapid growth and vulnerability to environmental degradation, social disparities, human rights violations and geo-climatic effects. Whilst hazards and disasters can at times be seen as unexpected, external events, they can also be viewed as outcomes emerging from interactions between people and their environment.

Within the region there is a lack of awareness and education on disaster prevention and mitigation within all levels of the community, from individuals to the national level. As such, the importance of capacity development, education and regional synergy for natural disaster resilience and sustainable development in addressing this cannot be underestimated. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can potentially play an important role in imparting the sustainability education paradigm upon society and in integrating the notion into educational programmes and systems. Further to this, building academic alliances for promoting sustainability in postgraduate education and research and to share resources and knowledge will certainly enhance regional and global Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and sustainable development efforts.

Project leader

Asian Institute of Technology

Project members

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