

## ***Climate Change & Biodiversity Business Sustainability Education for Asia***

### **Program Scope and Rationale:**

For this 3<sup>rd</sup> ProSPER.Net project phase, the theme “Biodiversity and Climate Change” have been identified as important topics, not just generally as a global concern, but also quite specifically relevant to the Asia and Asia-Pacific region.

In terms of climate change, arguably it is developing countries in low-lying coastal areas in particular that will be affected, e.g. Vietnam, Bangladesh and areas with densely populated islands, such as Indonesia and the Philippines. Therefore helping future business managers and business leaders to understand and respond to climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation opportunities will complement policymakers and other institutions in making sound decisions that could enable industries and consumers in this region to embrace green economy opportunities faster and more effectively.

With respect to biodiversity, intact ecosystems that serve both as natural carbon sinks with respect to climate change reduction and are resource for future generations do as well provide increasingly a source for new business opportunities in biotechnology, pharmaceutical and healthcare product applications and through bio-mimicry for product design in other industries. Developing countries, many of them in Asia, are under more pressure than ever to extract their natural resources for immediate economic growth and poverty alleviation. Less land exploitation and more abundance of natural resources, however, could serve as vital natural capital assets for a more sustainable development. This essential knowledge is urgently required in business management education that should sensitize and enable future managers to harness natural capital for product & service development sustainably instead of risking its extinction.

Education institutions and lecturers alike would benefit from access to specific tailored materials relevant for countries in Asia that they can use in classroom teaching. This project aims to address the need for practice based information resources and real case studies and calls experienced and knowledgeable faculty within the ProSPER.Net member network to conduct research and develop some of the key materials to be shared subsequently with the entire partner network. It also seeks to take a more pro-active role in capacity development and support of the membership’s education institution network by encouraging and supporting effective teaching of such materials.

### **Project Outputs and Outcomes:**

The main outputs of this project are delivery of quality teaching material packs and the broader engagement and interest from network members as well as outside the network in the activities of sustainable business teaching materials. Following is the expected output:

- 6 single stand-alone business cases from either biodiversity or climate change thematic areas (ideally 50% split)
- 4 full business case teacher’s packs from both biodiversity and climate change (ideally 50% split)
- 2 course outlines for Master/MBA degree program level curricular on managing biodiversity and climate change in business organization.



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- 5 business practice-based research papers/ education case-studies or pedagogical teaching articles around
  - the educational aspects of teaching/embedding business and climate change /biodiversity in business management curricular
  - business management practices in Asia around biodiversity or climate change useful for business executives and managers and the universities that educate/ train them.
- 10 ProSPER.Net member affiliation organisation representatives register and participate in the knowledge and practice sharing workshop about 'Training the Teachers'.

The intended outcome includes a suite of useful teacher packs on biodiversity and climate change relevant to business and management education curricula that is used as either stand-alone materials or is combined to serve a variety of institutional, course and tutor requirements in ProSPER.Net member universities and the wider network. A second desired outcome is a broad participation in the 'Training for teachers' workshop has enable members to broaden their engagement to embed these materials into teaching practice and curricula so managers and business leaders are trained to make better informed and more appropriate decisions around important biodiversity resources and climate change challenges their organisations face.

### **Contact:**

Please contact Dr. Barbara Igel (AIT School of Management, email: [igel@ait.asia](mailto:igel@ait.asia), tel. +66-2-524 ext. -5654) to express your interest in the project by **30 August 2014**.