

**“Education empowers people and transforms lives. It is the key to creating equitable, inclusive and prosperous societies and the building block of sustainable development and lasting peace.”**

Ban Ki-moon, 2013  
UN Secretary-General (2007—2016)

ESD has been found to be the core to societal change, through raising consciousness, inspiring innovation and promoting both behavioural change and civic engagement across sectors.

Moving forward, education and training must be geared towards how teaching and learning can facilitate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within local, regional, and national contexts. ProSPER.Net institutions stand at a position where they are able to draw on a diverse network's collective knowledge and experience to help with this implementation at home and abroad.

The ESD Project of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) was launched in 2003. The project focuses on research and capacity development to integrate ESD components into curricula at all levels of education and in all sectors of society.

**For more information or to become a ProSPER.Net member, please contact:**

ProSPER.Net Secretariat  
Education for Sustainable Development Project, UNU-IAS  
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ProSPER.Net is one of the flagship initiatives of this project. Membership in ProSPER.Net is limited to higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region that offer post-graduate education in SD and in ESD-related fields. There is also an affiliate membership category for higher education institutes outside of Asia-Pacific that work for the benefit of the region. Enquiries should be made through the network's Secretariat (UNU-IAS) below.



**ProSPER.Net:**  
AN ACADEMIC  
NETWORK OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute for the Advanced Study  
of Sustainability

# ABOUT ProSPER.Net



**ProSPER.Net (Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network)** is an alliance of leading universities in the Asia-Pacific region that are committed to integrating sustainable development (SD) into postgraduate courses, curricula, and research.

ProSPER.Net is developing a new generation of leaders who can best tackle global sustainability challenges, in the face of rapid environmental change and human development.

There are currently 41 ProSPER.Net members, each having strong education and research programmes dedicated to SD-related fields. Together they work towards a common cause: creating multi-disciplinary solutions to respond to a variety of SD challenges. Using ProSPER.Net as a platform of collaboration, members pursue ground-breaking research on SD, with a strong emphasis on education for sustainable development (ESD).



Photo credit: UNU-IAS.

Since its establishment as a formal network in 2008, ProSPER.Net members have helped integrate SD into business school and built environment curricula, trained educators and researchers on SD, developed learning tools and cases on ESD and SD, developed innovative pedagogies for poverty reduction, and established an e-learning postgraduate programme in public policy and SD.

**Young Researchers' School**  
Every year, ProSPER.Net organises the Young Researchers' School. Over the course of one to two weeks on the campus of one of the network's member institutions, graduate students learn about the current challenges of SD, and how to construct and manage a research proposal to investigate these challenges in SD. The theme and location changes every year, with

participants learning from expert lecturers, on-site field visits and group work.

The Young Researchers' School is a unique programme that gives students the tools and expertise to launch innovative research projects and to develop their communication skills to disseminate their findings in research related to SD.

**Innovative Research Projects**  
Different collaborative projects between ProSPER.Net members have been established in areas such as engineering, business, biodiversity, energy, health and food traditions, and sustainable consumption and production.

Project outputs include working papers, and a wide array of case studies and teaching materials that are representative of the region's advances in SD.

**Leadership Training**  
The world needs agents of change who possess a deep understanding of the complex connections between different issues articulated within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). How does one balance and reconcile diverging goals and targets, whilst pursuing optimal levels of societal development that benefit the majority of communities?

ProSPER.Net invites its members to reflect upon these diverse issues during a Leadership Programme, that brings together academia, public officials, the private sector and local communities. Here, ways are explored how partnerships can be fostered towards more sustainable practices across a variety of fields.



Photo credit: UNU-IAS.



Photo credit: Daniel Powell/UNU.



Photo credit: UNU-IAS.



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This training will forge and consolidate a growing network of sustainability researchers and practitioners that will help build a more sustainable and resilient Asia-Pacific region.