

PRME Secretariat issues overview of Climate Change Action Activities by PRME signatory Higher Education Institutions

Paris, 14 October 2015 - The run-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, created the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) as a partnership of several sponsor UN entities including UNESCO, UN-DESA, UNEP, UN Global Compact and the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative, and UNU. This collaboration has grown and aims to galvanize commitments from higher education institutions to teach and encourage research on sustainable development, greening campuses and local sustainability efforts.

With over 300 universities worldwide, HESI aims to provide higher education institutions with a unique interface between academia and policy making in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The mission of the HESI network aims to (1) Teach sustainable development across all disciplines of study, (2) Encourage research and dissemination of sustainable development knowledge, (3) Green campuses and Support local sustainability efforts, and (4) Engage and share information with international networks. This initiative has already begun to gain momentum globally as Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) implement advocacy, teaching and research programmes to support global and local initiatives in their region.

In collaboration with HESI, the UN Global Compact and its sister-initiative, the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), seeks to promote inclusive education which encompasses the progressive sustainability agenda promoted through the SDGs. Sustainable Development Goal 13 calls for “Urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” a call which impacts the future sustainability of several other SDGs.

PRME is a UN Global Compact-back initiative with the mission to inspire and champion responsible management education, research and thought leadership globally. PRME seeks to bridge relationships across HEIs and supporting organisations to catalyse global collaboration among the United Nations, the UN Global Compact and academia. The Six Principles of PRME are based on internationally-accepted values endorsed by UN Member States and provide an engagement framework for higher education institutions to embed responsibility and sustainability in education, research and campus practices through a process of continuous improvement. Together HESI and PRME strive to align Higher Education Institutions with resources and opportunities to fulfil their commitment to sustainability and responsibility in higher education.

The following pages highlight the current work of Higher Education Institutions around the world to support Sustainability Development Goal 13 and promote climate change action in the classroom. These examples highlight advocacy, best practices, curriculum reform, outreach, research, and teaching around the world. Initiatives listed here have seen proven results and have served as drivers for regional and global change.

The current document has been prepared by the PRME Secretariat’s Office. More information about the highlighted HEIs and other opportunities for climate action and engagement can be found at <http://unprme.org> and <http://primetime.unprme.org/>.

Region	Advocacy	Teaching	Research
East Asia and Pacific	Hong Kong Baptist University, China Host of the Hong Kong Leadership Sustainability Summit, uniting leaders from CITIC China, Hong Kong Broadband, McDonalds and Philips Lighting for discussions on climate change and sustainability action.	University of New South Wales, Australia Implemented courses tailored to supporting the SDGs in business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Social Change, Innovation—Impact • Managing Organisational Sustainability • Non-Profit and Social Marketing • Reporting Climate Change & Sustainability • Teams, Ethics & Competitive Advantage 	Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand MBA curriculum growing to include climate based resources, articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change and Carbon Strategies • Stakeholder Engagement, Sustainable Reports • Sustainable Design and Marketing • Towards a Sustainable Economy
	Sabanci University, Turkey Local partnership with Carbon Disclosure Project, and project host since 2010. SU has implemented CDP project across 41 Turkish companies, reporting emissions and climate change strategies. Project has spread to the largest Turkish banks, E&Y Turkey, and 14 Russian companies.	Toulouse Business School, France Developed a specialised Master's in Sustainable Development and Climate Change. The programme is accredited jointly by the National Meteorological School and the National School of Life Sciences to offer carbon accounting training and resources.	HTW Chur, Switzerland Member of trans-university consortium developing Swiss hydropower technologies. Local case studies with industry partners and stakeholders contribute to the ground breaking regional research. Results video, "2048" Sustainability Award, Swiss Foundation Consumer forum.
Europe and Central Asia	ISAE/FGV, Brazil Active member of <i>Curitiba City Hall's Climate Change Forum</i> . Developed policies in guiding C40 Cities and Committee of Environmental Management through environmental issues, organizational impacts and respective actions to strengthen sustainability. This partnership streamlined indicators for solid waste, greenhouse gases, water and electricity consumption.	Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School, Trinidad and Tobago Networked with community partners to implement student projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo voltaic panels for solar electricity • Recycling and proper tyre disposal as a supplemental fuel substitute • Power generation using tidal power 	Business School Sao Paulo, Brazil Faculty climate change, environment, and sustainability publications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Proposal for a model of value creation for the piped natural gas distribution companies in a low-carbon economy" (Marques, 2014) • "Shale gas, complexity and uncertainty: A delicate matter" (Marques, 2014) • "Sustainability as manifested by Telecommuting" (Marques, 2012) • "Technological innovation and eco-efficiency: A case study in a University" (Silveria, 2013)
	Latin America and the Caribbean	The American University in Cairo, Egypt First institution in the region to conduct a comprehensive study of its impact on climate change. Collaborated with the Office of Sustainability and Desert Development Centre to release <i>Our Carbon Footprint</i> publication, including 17 indicators and two university task-forces which has achieved a significant decrease in carbon output, and 26% increase in carpooling.	University of Dubai, United Arab Emirates Industrial networking and a business study trip to Sri Lanka, where students consulted with tea factories and visited natural landmarks to study the diverse effects of climate change and industry on tropical environments.
Middle East and North Africa	Ivey Business School, Canada Five-year plan to eliminate inefficient lighting through campus community. Energy-saving T8 ballasts are replacing nearly 50,000 T12 fixtures that illuminate campus facilities. The project becomes self-financing after the third year, as new fixtures use at least 30% less energy. In addition to being more efficient, the new lamps also have a greater quality of light output.	University of Guelph, Canada 65+ courses on Climate Change, Responsibility and Sustainability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Social Responsibility • Food Systems Issues in Security and Sustainability • Geology of Natural Disasters • Impacts of Climate Change • Interdisciplinary Food Product Development • Landscape Analysis • Philosophy of the Environment • Populations, Communities & Ecosystems • Sustainable Real Estate 	Boston University, United States <i>Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future</i> conducts interdisciplinary and policy relevant research related to long-term climate change topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea Level Rise & the Future of Coastal Cities • Human-Induced Changes on Ecosystems • Impacts of Urbanization in Asia • Energy Efficiency in Urban Housing • How Climate Change Alters Development Prospects • HEIs & Innovation in Emerging Economies
	North America		

Region	Advocacy	Teaching	Research
South Asia	Mehran University, Pakistan	Dayananda Sagar Institutions, India	GOA Institute of Management, India
	Hosted the first World Moot on Wireless Sensor Networks for Developing Countries. At this conference, implementation of regional projects for oil prospecting and transportation to aquaculture, and include pollution control, climate recording, prediction of natural disturbances, search and survey missions were launched.	Launched 'Village Empowerment Programme' in which MBA students conducted climate, economic, education and health-care based research to increase positive corporate development in rural regions. Results included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for development on education, healthcare and economic aspects Steps and suggestions for its implementation. Continuous evaluation throughout Tharalu and Somanahalli villages on the outskirts of Bangalore 	Initiated a pilot-study for the Directorate of Agriculture which aims to serve small and marginal farmers of Goa, including the small and marginal farmers, by facilitating access to resources that could improve agricultural productivity. This study has filled a regional gap in research to strengthen e-governance initiatives. Study resulted with a report to the Directorate indicating the actions it could take to improve responsiveness to farmers' needs.
Sub-Saharan Africa	Strathmore University, Kenya	University of Stellenbosch, South Africa	Gordon Institute of Business Science, South Africa
	Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC) incubator supports SMEs in managing climate change adaptation and mitigation. Challenges addressed include renewable energy, water management and agribusiness. KCIC partners with Danita, Global Village Energy Partnerships, PWC, UKAid. The Centre now supports 83 client enterprises, from over 330 applicants	MBA business study trip to Khayelitsha, SA to consult within the township business arena. This exposure to social entrepreneurship broadens student understanding of corporate responsibility and hardships that climate change has on township life. Students engage with local businesses in the usage of local resources.	Centre for Business Analysis and Research (CBAR) provides a platform for sustainable development research specific to climate change, energy security, food and water security. Active research programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive Markets Programme Transnet Programme in Sustainable Development Dimension Data Programme in Digital Disruption Future of Business

In addition to the best practices and initiatives highlighted above, there are many opportunities to engage with Climate Action education topics. Universities offer several Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) free of charge to the general public, for the advancement of education related to sustainable business and the changing societal paradigms.

Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Basics of Energy Sustainability</i>, Rice University <i>Climate Change</i>, University of Melbourne <i>Climate Change – The Science</i>, University of British Columbia <i>Energy Subsidy Reform</i>, International Monetary Fund <i>Solar Energy</i>, Delft University of Technology, TU Delft
Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Forests and Humans – From the Midwest to Madagascar</i>, University of Wisconsin-Madison <i>Introduction to Water and Climate</i>, Delft University of Technology, TU Delft <i>Planet Earth... And You</i>, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <i>The Biology of Water and Health: Sustainable Interventions</i>, Open Education Consortium <i>Tropical Coastal Ecosystems</i>, University of Queensland Australia
Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Foundations of Development Policy – Advanced Development Economics</i>, MIT <i>Geopolitics and Global Governance</i>, ESADE <i>Quality of Life – Livability in Future Cities</i>, ETH Zurich <i>Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education</i>, University of British Columbia
Product and Consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Circular Economy – An Introduction</i>, Delft University of Technology, TU Delft <i>Greening the Economy – Lessons from Scandinavia</i>, Lund University <i>Industrial Biotechnology</i>, Delft University of Technology, TU Delft
Change Makers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Social Entrepreneurship</i>, The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania <i>Social Learning for Social Impact</i>, McGill University <i>Transforming Business, Society and Self</i>, MIT