EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN UGANDA

Associate Prof Jessica N. Aguti
Uganda still relies heavily on agriculture
Multi lingual and multi cultural
Still one of most impoverished nations nearly 25% still below the poverty line
Recently discovered oil – bringing with it a lot of expectations and fears
Has had years of political instability – some of world’s most brutal rebellions e.g Kony
Some challenges
Some challenges...

Source: http://wikitravel.org
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Currently offering UPE & USE
Tremendous increase in school enrolments
A lot of challenges with quality of education
Nearly the entire education system is driven by examinations
Success is perceived to be scoring high grades
A lot of youths leaving school and not gaining any employment
Restlessness in Universities
**Government believes that education is a key driver of development**
Teacher education is carried out at three different levels:

- After 11 years of schooling - Grade III Teachers’ certificate
- After 13 years of schooling – Grade V Teachers’ certificate
- After 13 years of schooling – Bachelors degree

Most of the teacher training is state run.

Paradox – some schools without teachers & unemployed teachers.

Integrating ESD would demand interventions at all these levels.
Strategic Objectives of ESD in Uganda

- Reorient curriculum and programmes to promote sustainable development
- Promote awareness and understanding of sustainable development
- Build capacity to carry out education for sustainable development
ESD ACTIVITIES

- Formation of Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE)
- Busitema University
- Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi
- Muni University – is going through steps of formation
- Training of teachers & trainers
- Makerere University efforts
Formed an ESD club in 2009 (based at CEES)
- 70 members (students & staff)
- Planted trees
- Held workshops to sensitize students
- Held ‘fruit dinner’ to sensitize students and staff on healthy living
- Reclamation of the de-greened portion of compound
Commemoration of various national/international days

- Commemoration of the World Culture Day (21st May)
- Commemoration of the World Tourism Day (27th September)
Fruit Dinner – World Culture Day
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Piloting a short course on ESD for teachers and other educators

Training of staff in how to integrate ESD in the curricula
The EAC has agreed to:
- Develop an EAC ESD policy
- Encourage and support EAC countries to come up with national policies
- Meetings are already planned
Centres of Expertise

- Some of the Universities in the country have established RCE... to promote ESD

- Uganda Martyrs University
  - Running a Masters in Education and Development- targets education officers, inspectors of schools, youth leaders, community development workers, media workers, teachers, school managers and others interested in the study of education and development.

- Busitema University
Training of Teachers & trainers

- Has been carried out by NATCOM in partnership with NEMA & Universities
- Promotion of UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet)
  - Beautification of school compounds
  - Inter-cultural activities
  - Paper recycling
  - Art and poetry competitions
- Series of workshops with teachers and teacher educators
Majority of ESD efforts are focusing on environment, so reorienting the thinking of stakeholders is urgently needed.

Leadership in ESD efforts at all levels (MoES, College & University...)

Examination oriented school system

School curricula (Primary & secondary) being reviewed – likely changes in TE curricula as well

Capacity in TEIs to spearhead ESD efforts

Funding ESD efforts
Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us

Henrik Tikkanen - 9 Sept 1924 – 19 May 1984
(Finnish author)