

**“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  
UN Secretary-General

The United Nations, through its Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD 2005 – 2014), stressed the need to reorient existing education towards sustainability. Education for sustainable development (ESD) helps people better understand themselves and their links to the wider natural and social environment; it also helps individuals and communities adopt behaviours and practices that enable all to live a full life without being deprived of basic necessities.

In 2003, in response to that call, the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies launched an ESD programme, which works on research and capacity development to integrate components of ESD

into curricula at all levels of education and in all sectors of society. ProSPER.Net is one of the flagship initiatives of this programme.

Membership in ProSPER.Net is limited to higher education institutions located in the Asia-Pacific region that offer postgraduate education and research in sustainable development and in ESD related fields. ProSPER.Net also has an affiliate membership category for higher education institutions located outside the Asia-Pacific region working for the benefit of the region. Inquiries about membership should be made through the network's Secretariat (UNU-IAS) at the email address below.

For more information or to become a ProSPER.Net member, please contact:  
The ProSPER.Net Secretariat  
[prospernet@ias.unu.edu](mailto:prospernet@ias.unu.edu)  
[www.ias.unu.edu/prospernet/](http://www.ias.unu.edu/prospernet/)



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



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies



ABOUT ProSPER.Net



ProSPER.Net is an alliance of leading universities in the Asia-Pacific region that are committed to integrating sustainable development into postgraduate courses and curricula. The network, dubbed ProSPER.Net: Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network, is developing a new generation of leaders who can best tackle global sustainability challenges in the face of rapid environmental degradation. By changing the way higher education institutions teach students about sustainability, ProSPER.Net improves the ways in which future professionals manage sustainability issues across a wide variety of disciplines.

There are currently 30 ProSPER.Net members, spread throughout Asia-Pacific, each having strong education and research programmes dedicated to sustainable development and related fields. Together, they work towards a common cause: creating multi-disciplinary solutions – including education and research programmes – to respond to a wide range of sustainable development challenges.



ProSPER.Net members work together to build a force for transformative change in the field of higher education. Using ProSPER.Net as a platform of collaboration, members pursue groundbreaking research on sustainable development, with a strong emphasis on education for sustainable development (ESD).

Since its establishment as a formal network in 2008, ProSPER.Net members have helped integrate sustainable development into business school curricula throughout the region, trained educators and researchers on sustainable development, and established a postgraduate programme in public policy and sustainable development.



Young Scientist Award

In 2009, ProSPER.Net partnered with Elsevier, a leading provider of scientific and technical information products and services, to create the ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award in Sustainable Development. The annual award is given to young scientists and researchers in recognition of their outstanding work for sustainable development. It encourages them to apply their cutting-edge research to concrete initiatives that improve the well-being of individuals, families and communities.

In order to positively influence the widest possible range of topic areas, the award categories change each year. Categories have ranged from energy, agriculture and food security to biodiversity and information and communications technology for sustainable development.



The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation supports the award by providing a Humboldt Research Fellowship, which allows award recipients to travel to Germany to work on their research projects together with a host and collaborative partner in a German institution.



Young Researchers’ School

Each year, ProSPER.Net organizes a Young Researchers’ School to provide graduate students and young post-doctoral researchers with an opportunity to better understand the spectrum of challenges that underpin sustainable development. The school takes place over an intensive two weeks on the campus of a ProSPER.Net member institution; every year there is a new theme and a new location. Participants are exposed to expert lecturers, on-the-ground field visits and collaborative group work.

Over the course of the programme, students prepare a focused and structured research proposal and are given training to develop their research communication and dissemination skills. The ProSPER.Net Young Researchers’ School is a unique programme that builds the sustainable development knowledge of students from across the region and gives them the tools and expertise to launch innovative new research projects to improve sustainable development.

Innovative Research Projects

ProSPER.Net projects involve members across the Asia-Pacific region in collaborative research undertakings around areas such as engineering, business, biodiversity 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 sustainable development. The ProSPER Network has entered a new phase of project development, looking at sustainability challenges and bringing together members’ expertise in different disciplinary areas, according to specific strengths and experience. ProSPER.Net thus functions as a truly dedicated platform for multi and inter-disciplinary dialogue, pursuing scientific-based options for cross-cutting problems that affect the region and its inhabitants, and formulating policies that can serve as adaptable models for other parts of the globe.



Leadership Training

The world needs agents of change who possess a deep understanding of the intricate and complex connections between issues as diverse as education, health, and peace, to name a few. The approach towards tackling these interrelated problems varies considerably. How to balance and reconcile diverging concerns and goals whilst pursuing optimal levels of societal development that benefit the majority of communities? These are some of the issues that ProSPER.Net invites their members and partners to reflect upon during a leadership programme that brings together academia, public officials, private sector and local communities to explore ways in which partnerships can be fostered towards more sustainable practices. The training process will forge and consolidate a growing network of sustainability researchers and practitioners, and partnerships that will help build a more sustainable and resilient Asia-Pacific.