ESD International Forum 2008
The Asia-Pacific Regional Session
December 2, 2008
United Nations University
Tokyo, Japan

# ESD as a Key to Change: Korea & Asia-Pacific

KANG Sangkyoo

Programme Specialist, Education Unit

**Korean National Commission for UNESCO** 

#### A Green New Deal

"We are now on the threshold of a global transformation – the age of green economics."

 United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

#### Low Carbon, Green Growth

"We are preparing to utilize our collective wisdom to transform the climate crisis facing our planet into an opportunity."

President of the Republic of Korea
 Lee Myung-bak

#### 1st Half of DESD at National Level

- <u>Declaration</u> of National Vision for Sustainable Development (2005)
- Adoption of National Strategy for SD including the Action Plan for ESD (2006)
- Approval of the Basic Law on SD and the Environmental Education Promotion Act (2007)

#### 1st Half of DESD at National Level

- Announcement of a Low Carbon, Green Growth policy (2008)
- Application of the revised 7<sup>th</sup> National Curriculum reflecting ESD (2009)
- <u>Development</u> of ESD teaching materials (2009)

# **Challenges and Gaps**

- Coordination among national bodies while maintaining the political will of government and legislature
- Collaboration among partners and stakeholders with different mandates and foci on diverse thematic areas

# **Challenges and Gaps**

- Reorientation of existing education structures and programmes in order to open a new avenue for ESD
- Provision of committed human resources for all sectors of society through professional training opportunities

## Suggestions for the 2nd Half

- Involvement of the broader UNESCO family at national, regional, and international levels
- Enhancement of links between UNESCO initiatives and UNU Regional Centre of Expertise for ESD (RCE)

#### Suggestions for the 2nd Half

- Expansion of capacity-building workshops for national commissions, experts, and key ministerial officials
- <u>Utilization</u> of key national, regional, and international meetings and events to keep DESD momentum viable and sustainable

## **World Conference in Germany**

- Encouragement of global political willingness, pipelined to the national level, moving into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the decade
- Exploration of the possibility of regional initiatives, flagship projects, and/or annual meetings

#### For Our Common Future

# Thank you