



The Learning Centre: Education for sustainable development

The Learning Centre will once again be an important component of this year's session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13).

Introduced on an experimental basis during CSD-11, the Learning Centre now provides courses for CSD participants on a regular basis at the annual sessions of the Commission. Learning Centre participants include representatives of governments, major groups, and intergovernmental organizations, which are designed to impart useful knowledge and practical advice on implementing Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation at the ground level.

Classes are typically structured as 3-hour courses offered during the regular sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development and are linked with the themes under discussion. In 2005, these include the three themes of water, sanitation and human settlements as well as a number of cross-cutting issues such as poverty eradication, protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, health and education.

Instructors are experts from various types of institutions including governments, academia, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and thus represent a wide range of stakeholders. Many course instructors incorporate case studies in their lectures and most courses include question and answer periods as well as interactive discussions.

At CSD-12 held in 2004, eighteen courses were offered by the Learning Centre which were well attended by participants from various backgrounds. Some courses had a particularly broad appeal, such as those on How to Apply for GEF funding, Integrated Water Resources Management and National Sustainable Development Strategies.

Discussion sessions encouraged lively interactions among participants with various professional backgrounds from both developed and developing countries, and represented a significant component of the learning experience. Participants have expressed enthusiasm for the Learning Centre and its inclusion in the regular sessions of CSD, and feedback on individual course offerings has been positive.



Week 1	Monday 11 April	Tuesday 12 April	Wednesday 13 April	Thursday 14 April	Friday 15 April
10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.	<No activities>	Institutional Aspects of Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Harvard (Science and Technology)	Programming for Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion: How to do it WSSCC – Water Supply and Sanitation and Collaborative Council	How to Focus Integrated Water Resources management on Poverty Reduction CAP-NET/The Institute@ managed by UNDP and the Smithsonian	Trans-boundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Programme & National IW/RM Planning Global Environment Facility/International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF-IW:LEARN)
3:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.	Water Pricing in Australia: How to Achieve Water Conservation Objectives and Sustainable Use Australia Department of the Environment and Heritage	Strengthening Governance of Water Resources: Environmental Laws, Enforcement and Indicators US-Environmental Protection Agency	How to Apply for GEF projects UNDP/GEF	UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – Engaging Teacher Education Institutions UNESCO/UNU	Creating a Home in the City – Achieving the MDGs in Urban Centers University of Rome, Columbia University

Week 2	Monday 18 April	Tuesday 19 April	Wednesday 20 April	Thursday 21 April	Friday 22 April
10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.	Managing Water Resources through the Ramsar Convention – Negotiation Simulation The Ramsar Convention	Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Sanitation The Institute@SEI/SIDA/UNDP	Sustainable Development Law: Access to Water, and Water Tenure Systems Center for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL)	<No activities>	<No activities>
3:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.	The Way forward towards Sustainable Wastewater Management – Problem Identification for Project Formulation UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education	Attracting Private Finance for Water and Sanitation USAID	Women and Sanitation – A Growing Problem - EcoSan, a Sustainable Solution Norwegian University of Life Sciences	<No activities>	<No activities>

This schedule is subject to change. Please see the CSD-13 website for the most up to date schedule at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/csd13.htm