

EAUC BOARD PAPER
Title: INTERNATIONAL UPDATE
Paper No: 06.09.08



For Information

Purpose

To update the Board on developments in EAUC international activity.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to note these developments.

Background

The Board agreed in December 2010 that the Executive seek to establish formal relationships with overseas organisations in pursuit of opportunities for international collaboration (paper 07.12.11). The Board is invited to note the following developments:

Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability (ACTS)

1. We have established a formal reciprocal agreement with ACTS to grant access to EAUC online services to ACTS members and vice versa, immediately increasing the amount of online resources to our respective members. The Membership Services Team is liaising with ACTS to ensure access to these services is available prior to the ACTS Annual Conference at the end of September 2011.
2. ACTS has collaborated with us on the development of *Learning in Future Environments* (LiFE) and the LiFE Index will be simultaneously launched in the UK and Australia on the 1st November. We will use Australia as our pilot international market ahead of discussions with other international markets (see ISCN below).
3. *Green Gown Awards Australasia* was launched in September 2010 and the second annual ceremony will be held at the ACTS Annual Conference in September. During 2012 we will work with ACTS to more closely align our respective Green Gown Awards. One suggested approach is to use the Awards as a vehicle for promoting an exchange programme between our organisations, i.e. using the Awards to decide successful applicants from the UK and from Australia who can participate in a short-term exchange programme. This is of course resource dependant and may be reliant on corporate sponsorship. We will explore all options with ACTS ahead of our 2012 ceremonies.
4. ACTS and the EAUC continue to support and participates in each organisation's respective events: Leanne Denby, President of ACTS, routinely attends the EAUC's annual conference and has developed and delivered multiple UK workshops, most recently in Edinburgh and Belfast (April 2011). She is attending the forthcoming Scotland Conference (November 2011) where she will deliver several Behaviour Change workshops. In addition, Andrew Chamberlain will continue to attend ACTS' annual conference, this year contributing through the delivery of LiFE workshops at the conference but also in several Australian cities pre- and post-conference.

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)

1. Following our initial approach to AASHE in October 2010, the AASHE Board of Directors has identified collaboration with the EAUC and ACTS as a priority for 2011/12. To that end, Paul Rowland, AASHE Chief Executive approached us in June 2011 to collaborate on a Rio+20 project: ahead of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio (June 2012), our three organisations will collaborate to produce a collective position paper on the role that further and higher education has to play in driving forward sustainable development.

The intended **outcomes** of this project will be to:

- Contribute to the outcomes of Rio+20, positioning the university and colleges sectors as central to delivering global sustainable development;
- Influence regional, national and international policymakers in embedding education at the very core of sustainability policy;
- Facilitate greater global partnership and collaboration amongst universities and colleges, the NGOs that support the sectors and wider business and industry; and
- Engage our respective memberships in regional, national and international policy themes.

The specific **outputs** of this collaboration will be to:

- Engage with our respective memberships on the aims and objectives of Rio+20, consulting and agreeing upon a collective position on the role of universities and colleges in delivering global sustainable development;
- Contribute to the UN Rio+20 *Compilation Document* (<http://tinyurl.com/3o6q7wn>), a guidance document for Member States and other stakeholders to use when considering and agreeing the policy outputs of the Conference; and
- Attend and present at the *World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities* (<http://tinyurl.com/43gfdus>), a Rio+20 fringe event that will facilitate dialogue and ongoing partnership between institutions and/or organisations on a global scale within the context of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

Leanne Denby (ACTS), Paul Rowland (AASHE) and Andrew Chamberlain (EAUC) have produced a framing document for circulation across our respective memberships. We will start formal consultation in early September, with a view to finalising our contribution to the UN *Compilation Document* by mid-October, for submission by the 1st November deadline.

In addition to our organisations, we have also invited the following organisations to contribute to our paper, thus strengthening our position by more reflecting a wider, global constituency:

- International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN);
 - Global University Network of Innovators (GUNI);
 - KACGI (Korea);
 - Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research (ProSPER.Net);
 - Campus Responsables (France);
 - US Partnership on Education for Sustainable Development;
 - Sustainable Futures Academy; and
 - American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment
2. AASHE and the EAUC will support and participate in each organisation's respective events: Paul Rowland, AASHE Chief Executive, will attend and participate in the EAUC's Scotland Conference and Green Gown Awards in November 2011 and plans to attend our annual conference in spring 2012. Although not attending the AASHE Conference 2011, Andrew Chamberlain will liaise with AASHE on future EAUC contributions to AASHE activity.

International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN)

1. Andrew Chamberlain attended the ISCN Annual Symposium in Gothenburg, June 2011. Following meetings with the ISCN secretariat, it transpires that the ISCN is searching for a sustainability performance management, benchmarking and reporting system that they can endorse to their membership. To that end, we have agreed to meet with the ISCN secretariat in December 2011 to introduce the LiFE Index to them and explore the possibility of launching the LiFE Index to the ISCN at their next Annual Symposium at the University of Oregon in June 2012. As well as introducing and/or strengthening international partnerships at institutional level, engaging with the ISCN and successfully marketing LiFE to their members will result in a significant financial return to the EAUC.

Conclusion

Significant progress has been made in developing meaningful international collaboration: through collaboration with ACTS we are steadily realising specific tangible services and benefits for our education members; through the Rio+20 work we will contribute to the EAUC's strategic objective of influencing current thinking in sustainable development and how it relates to the sector; and our potential collaboration with the ISCN could realise a significant financial return for our organisation.

Andrew Chamberlain
Head of Programmes and Scotland Manager
16 August 2011