

ESD for SDGs in Hong Kong  
IV Asia-Europe Forum on Education “Sustainable Development in  
our Society”  
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***Summary***

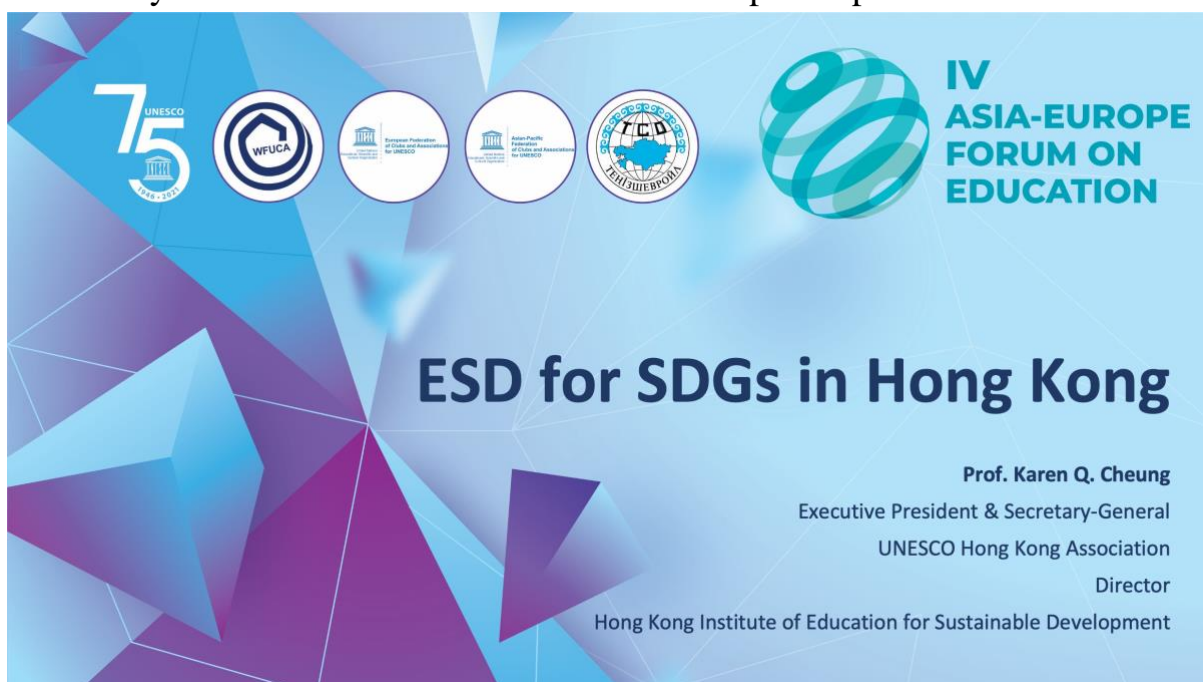
In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, humankind have come to realization that promoting sustainable development should become the top priority of the current time. The establishment of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” urged all nations worldwide to take actions to advance the 17 sustainable development goals. The UNESCO Hong Kong Association (UHKA) aims to facilitate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international cooperation through Education, Sciences, Culture and Propagation, over the last 10 years, UHKA has worked with the Hong Kong Institute of Education for Sustainable Development (HIESD) and the World Institute of Sustainable Development Planner (WISDP) to advance regional and international sustainable development by engaging with government leaders, businesses, the education sector, and researchers. The following article will focus on introducing the different responsibilities of the three organizations, Hong Kong’s role and position within the broad national framework of advancing the SDGs and summarize Hong Kong’s progress in promoting Education for Sustainable Development following the five prioritized areas highlighted during the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development.

## ***Introduction***

The UNESCO Hong Kong Association have been working hand in hand with the Hong Kong Institute of Education for Sustainable Development and the World Institute of Sustainable Development Planner to promote Education for Sustainable Development in Hong Kong. While the three interrelated organizations share the same broad vision of promoting regional and international sustainable development, they have different main responsibilities. Following the establishment of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" by the UN in 2015, the three organizations worked collaboratively to engage different stakeholders of the community, including government leaders, businesses and entrepreneurs, the education sector, researchers in different fields of expertise and students to advance the achievement of the SDGs in Hong Kong.

More recently, five priority areas of action, including policy advancement, changing the learning environment, cultivating the capacity of educators, empowering youth, and accelerating local actions, were highlighted during the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, and Hong Kong have made corresponding progresses in each of the areas.

Furthermore, having a comprehensive and interdisciplinary plan that layout the blueprint for cross-industry collaboration towards sustainable development is also extremely important, thus, apart from promoting education for sustainable development in schools, we have also focused on providing professional training and certification for experts from different industries and various stakeholders of the society to become certified sustainable development planner.



## Main Body

### 1. Introducing the three organizations

The UNESCO Hong Kong Association is a registered charitable institution in Hong Kong (UNESCO HKA). The Hong Kong Institute of Education for Sustainable Development (HIESD) is responsible for research, development, consulting, and training. Both UNESCO HKA and HIESD are members of the Chinese National Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (CNFUCA), as well as a regional reporting member of United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), and seek to jointly facilitate the core mission of UNESCO. At the same time, the HIESD is an expert partner and service provider of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization ( UNIDO ), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs ( UNDESA ) global sustainable development goals collaboration project agency, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network ( UNSDSN ) member institutions, as well as a member of the newly established United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education ( UN PRME ) China Academic Committee.



With the establishment of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" by the United Nations in 2015, HIESD proposed that "The Governance and Planning for Sustainable Development" is the blueprint for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). HIESD further developed the "Sustainable Development Planning" - a more comprehensive teaching system. Through years of hard work, more than 600 students have completed the training of "Sustainable Development Planning". People from different industries, various professions

including accountants, engineers, teachers, bankers, property managers, tour guides, and people ranging from senior managers to graduate students, to college students have gathered to become "Certified Sustainable Development Planners ( CSDP )" and initiated the establishment of "World Institute of Sustainable Development Planners"( WISDP )".

**Hong Kong Institute of Education for Sustainable Development**

- An **interdisciplinary research-based and innovative application institute** with the main purpose of proposing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Member of the CNFUCA
- Founding association and secretariat of UNESCO HK
- Partner-expert and service provider of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) (IRD Ref No. 12958).
- Committed to advocating the United Nations Projects of World Sustainable Development Goals (Application Code: #26908) with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- Member of UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)

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With the support of Nobel Laureate, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME), UNESCO & Association , Chair Professor) , Centre, and High Education, WISDP carries out the certification of "Certified Sustainable Development Planner” (CSDP) and “Certified Sustainable Development Corporation”(CSDC). WISDP aims to help CSDP and CSDC by to provide cross-disciplinary and cross-industry sustainable development solutions to sustainable development challenges so as to achieve greater success, and to promote achieving SDGs.




**全球可持續發展規劃師學會 ( WISDP )**  
**World Institute of Sustainable Development Planner**

- A Professional Learned Society advocating the UN Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- a registered non-profit organization formed by a group of Certified Sustainable Development Planners, committed to advocating the United Nations Projects of World Sustainable Development Goals (Application Code: #26908) with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- Provides Professional Training and institutes a Membership framework devoted to Certification and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for professionals in the business, management and education sectors and for those working in the public sector and NGOs.
- established certification processes to recognize the achievements of professionals in sustainable development. These processes lead to the award of **Certified Sustainable Development Planner (CSDP)** and **Certified Sustainable Development Corporation (CSDC)**
- Founding Members include Nobel Laureate in Chemistry in 2010, UNOSSC, UNPRME, UNESCO & Association of Centre and High Education.



The Regional Education, Science and Culture Association of Hong Kong is supported by the three-tier structure, in which HIESD provides training of green talents, professional committees of UHKA speaks on regional and international professional platforms, and WISDP, gather support from CSDP from various industries, all together formed an international, national, and local network, including Member school and professional committees.

## ***2. Hong Kong's regional and China's national report submitted to the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development***

The UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development was held online from 17 to 19 May 2021. The ESD for 2030 " Education for Sustainable Development A roadmap " and the UNESCO " Learn for our Planet " report were released. The Conference ended with the adoption of the "Berlin Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development". It prioritizes five actions, including policy advancement, changing the learning environment, cultivating the capacity of educators, empowering youth, and accelerating local actions, emphasizing the importance of community action.

**聯合國教科文組織  
世界可持續發展教育大會**  
UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

17-19 May 2021, Berlin Germany

**ESD integration into education**  
Mr. Zheng Fu-zhi, Vice Minister of Education of PRC

1. National plan incorporation
2. Integration of amended teaching materials into teaching
3. Establishment of incentive scheme

**China's Country Report**      **Hong Kong's Regional Report**

Correspondingly, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education of the Chinese Government, Zheng Fuzhi stated that China has incorporated "Ecological Civilization and Sustainable Development Education" into the national plan, by clarifying action goals and revising curriculum materials, so as to incorporate them into the teaching; improve the incentive mechanism and to ensure effective implementation. UNESCO Hong Kong attended the China branch of the conference online.

Nationally, China submitted the national report in UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development -- "Ecological Civilization and Education for Sustainable Development Promote the Realization of Sustainable Development Goals". Whereas Hong Kong's regional report was integrated into various parts of the "National Report". For instance, the case: "Hong Kong - a lifelong learning system based on the Sustainable Development Goals" was included in "Part Three: Implementation Plan"; the case "Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: Facing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Promoting a Learning City", the project by The Education University of Hong Kong, "Tree conservation to promote life education and science popularization", and the HIESD project of "Smart Health School" were included in "Part V: Case Appreciation".

### ***3. 4 stages of promoting ESD in Hong Kong***

With the core mission of promoting the "UN SDGs", UNESCO HKA and HIESD appreciates the support from various partners and institution, which lead to the

successful publication of "UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, China Education for Sustainable Development Country Report - Hong Kong Regional Report".

Hong Kong has started to promote education for sustainable development since 2003, the past 18 years of development could be split into four main stages. In the first and second stage, the core focus have been on establishing networks, exchange and learning, and promoted the "United Nations Global Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development (GAP)". In the third stage, the establishment of the "Sustainable Development Goals in Lifelong Learning System" was a remarkable progress that sets the fundamental framework for promoting lifelong learning in Hong Kong. The fourth stage starts from 2021 to 2030, it is an important stage to create new opportunities in the global crisis and promote education for sustainable development in 2030. Using UNESCO's forward-looking fundamental research, applied research and local promotion, the three organizations strive to build an inclusive, open, safe, resilient, and sustainable green talent network for Hong Kong. In response to the theme of China's national report on ecological civilization and sustainable development of education, Hong Kong has participated in the UNESCO Learning City Network, and worked to implement the 2030 Educational Roadmap for Sustainable Development.



#### 4. Hong Kong's progress in the 5 priority areas of action

##### 1) policy advancement

UHKA have actively participated in the promotion of regional policies, including launching the Hong Kong Forum "14th Five-Year Plan and the Sustainable

Development of Hong Kong Manufacturers" following the establishment of national "14th Five-Year Plan"; learning and promoting the "National Education Development Plan". The contents concerning with education in the "2021 Hong Kong Government Policy Address" is interactively communicated in the "Dialogue with the Secretary" and policy recommendations in various professional fields: including positive responses to the "Hong Kong Securities Regulatory Commission Consultation Document Response" in promoting green and sustainable finance Training and certification of green professionals, as well as cooperating with the government to promote the "Hong Kong Climate Action Blueprint 2050", "Hong Kong Resource Recycling Blueprint 2035" and so on.

**Priority Action Areas 優先行動領域**

IV ASIA-EUROPE FORUM ON EDUCATION

01 Advancing Policy 政策推進

- ✓ The 14th Five-Year National Plan
- ✓ Education Development National Plan
- ✓ 2021HK Government Policy Address
- ✓ HK's Climate Action Plan 2050
- ✓ .....

Priority action area 1 Advancing policy

## 2) changing the learning environment

In terms of improving the learning environment, action-oriented learning, research-based learning and practical learning was deployed. These innovative teaching methods has integrated SDG content into educational practice. This year also marks the tenth year of the "ESD Learning Programme, nearly 1,000 students were enrolled every year. The programme directors and tutors are all formed by college lecturers, recognized industry professionals, and youth ambassadors.

"Life Education" was the topic for primary schools. As for secondary schools, "Goal 2 " Zero Hunger, "Goal 3 " Good health and well-being, "Goal 4 " Quality Education, "Goal 8 " Decent Work, "Goal 11" Sustainable Cities, "Goal 12" Responsible production and consumption, and "Goal 14" Life below water are included.

The programme is a five-month study, integrating educational, practical, and professional programme design. The content includes theme lectures, field visits,



workshops, report writing and reviews. A 20-hours face-to-face learning time is expected, in a ratio of 1:1.5 to self-study time, which is 30 hours, summing up to a total of 50 hours of study. "Proficiency Certificate in Sustainable Development Goals Learning " will be presented for students who have fulfilled the above requirement, the certificate conforms to the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework 3 (QF3).

In summer holidays, " STEM " summer research camps were our flagship program held every year , so that students could have an immerse experience of living and studying in the university. They will present their research to experts, parents and all students for review before completing the study camp.

In addition, the "Smart Health School" project uses six dimensions of data recording (in addition to physical health data indicators, exercise and health, nutrition and health, mentality and health, environment and health, culture and health are also considered) , which were used to establish an "electronic health passport" for students. The aim is to provide students with more personalized courses in the relevant courses of the school through big data analysis. The goal is to train students to become physically, mentally, and socially adaptable, and to maintain moral health.

Before COVID19 , 8 secondary schools and 1 primary school participated in the program. The number of students participated reached approximately 18,000. The cumulative number of valid data points collected on students throughout these years reached a remarkable 2.86 million (53 items / person / year). The basic building block for big data analysis have been concretely established, although the epidemic has had an impact on the advancement of our plan, further implementation of the programme in participating schools in 2022 is still one of the prioritized agenda.

# Priority Action Areas 優先行動領域



## Field Trips and Research Based Student Activities

### 02 Transforming Learning Environments 改善學習環境

#### 必要設施 Necessary facilities

Priority action area 2  
Transforming learning environments

# Priority Action Areas 優先行動領域



### 02 Transforming Learning Environments 改善學習環境

## 3) cultivating the capacity of educators

The SDGs training for teachers and UNESCO World heritage and intangible cultural heritage teacher training courses are examples of our effort to advance priority three. Furthermore, the "World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Hong Kong Schools Case Book" is also expected to be published in Traditional Chinese in November, followed by the publication of the Simplified Chinese and the English version. In addition to the teacher training, training of tour guides for the preservation of architecture and cultural heritage was also launched successfully. The training of knowledge on historical sites and culture heritage can be practically used by tour guides.

Apart from the courses mentioned above, SDG Campus - our online education platform is also approaching matured construction. Teachers can conduct online teaching, course promotion, and at the same time, establish a resource centre for various professional fields to enrich the sharing of various disciplines and cases in SDGs solutions.

In terms of improvement of classroom teaching quality, HIESD is leading the progress of the "Artificial Intelligence and Classroom Teaching Analysis Application" project, which uses artificial intelligence to conduct efficient, standardized, and intelligent classroom reviews, to maximize the value of data, and to provide direction for teachers to improve the quality of classroom teaching in schools following the guidelines. The project will begin with a pioneer school program in Hong Kong. Improving the quality of education is essential to promoting sustainable development in Hong Kong, so teaching quality, classroom and curriculum design, and high-quality teacher-student interaction are all the criteria for good education. This is currently the only compatible system for biliterate and trilingual classroom settings.

**Priority Action Areas 優先行動領域**

IV ASIA-EUROPE FORUM ON EDUCATION

03 Building capacities of educators  
培養教育工作者能力

2021 UNESCO World Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage Teacher Training Programme

Training for Teachers to understand Sustainable Development Goals, equipping them with knowledge to implement sustainable development education in school curriculum and lesson designs to promote the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Opportunity to further apply to become Certified Sustainable Development Planner (Education)
- 6 hours CPD

Seminar Series on Sustainable Development Goals for Teachers

ESD Member school, Experimental School, Example School

Certified Sustainable Development Planner

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<http://sdgcampus.hk>

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#### 4 ) empowering youth

Empowering youth has always been a focus of the Hong Kong Association. We've launched the "UNESCO Green Citizens Youth Ambassador" (referred to as "Youth Ambassador") programme. Young ambassadors have their own projects or professional directions, they are joining us on the "Dialogue between youth and entrepreneurs" section of "HI 17SDGs" broadcast, expressing the perspectives of youth and discuss them with leading entrepreneurs. The show is published on multiple platforms including Facebook, YouTube, SDG Campus,

Anchor, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Overcast, and other social media. At the same time, youth ambassadors also participate in School Programmes as mentors to provide guidance for secondary school students.

## Priority Action Areas 優先行動領域



UNESCO HKA Green Citizen Youth Ambassador Project  
聯合國教科文組織綠色公民青年大使計劃



The UNESCO Green Citizen Project comprises innovative local citizen projects that strive to make more positive impacts. The UNESCO HKA Green Citizen Youth Ambassador is the local project initiated by UNESCO Hong Kong Association and Hong Kong Institute of Education for Sustainable Development.

**The Project aims to:**

- Promote a more in-depth understanding of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals among University Students in Hong Kong
- Enhance the ability of university students to carry out self-led research, cultivating proactive thinking and learning
- Build up a network of students passionate about sustainable development

●

04 Empowering and mobilizing youth  
賦權青年



SDGs 逐個行

Podcast and video show that engage Youth in conversation with business leaders to discuss how businesses implement Sustainable Development Practices.

Multiple distribution channels:  
#Youtube #Facebook  
#SDGcampus #Spotify  
#Apple Podcast





Priority action area 4  
Empowering and mobilizing youth

## 5) Accelerating local actions

In enhancing local and community actions in Hong Kong, apart from launching HI17 SDGs broadcast, in which a CSDP will explain one of the SDGs to the general public in each episode, UHKA also frequently participate in UN\UNESCO global activities. For example, this year, UNESCO Hong Kong Green Citizen Youth Ambassadors has participated in the recording of the COP26 “ACTNOWFILM!” video to represent the voice from Hong Kong youth; they also led primary and secondary school students to speak for the youth in a video recorded for the World Food and Agriculture Conference in September, promoting to all sectors of society to "reduce food waste" and to "consume local seasonal food". As the regional member, we are also actively responding to and participating in activities promoted by UN organizations that promote sustainable development goals regionally, such as UN75 last year.

## Priority Action Areas 優先行動領域



05 Accelerating local level actions  
增強地方、社區行動

- ✓ “Certified Sustainable Development Planner”  
CSDP
- ✓ “Certified Sustainable Development Corporation”  
CSDC
- ✓ Sustainable Development Forum, training and workshops



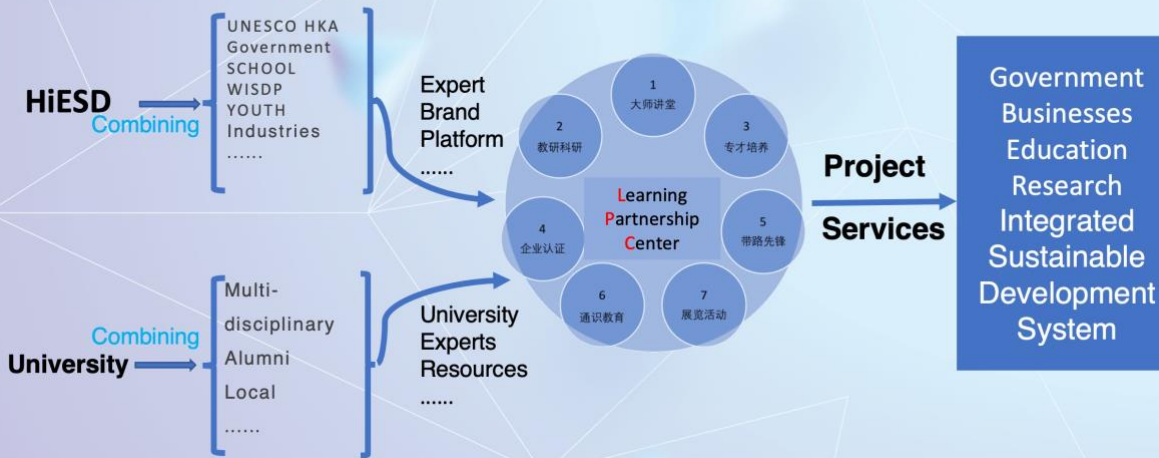
## Priority Action Areas 優先行動領域



05 Accelerating local level actions  
增強地方、社區行動

「UN SDGs」 -

Learning Partnership Center



### 5. cultivating talents

Hong Kong has been promoting Education for Sustainable Development – ESD since 2016, with a main focus on the establishment of a lifelong learning system for the Sustainable Development Goals. In response to the adoption of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, the "Sustainable Development Planning" curriculum system and series of teaching materials were developed to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The "Qualifications Framework" competence specification standards are used as benchmarks to establish a lifelong learning system that can be participated learners from different professions, combined

with the support of Nobel Laureate, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME) and other professionals, the establishment of the WISDP to develop CSDP and CSDC is the blueprint to promote Sustainable Development. At present, about 1,000 people have participated in and passed the CSDP training, more than 200 are certified as CSDP, and more than 30 corporates are certified, they are all leading corporate in their industry, including: Shiu Wing Steel Company Limited, Government organization such as the Hong Kong Housing Society, department store including Lane Crawford, Henderson Land Development Co. Ltd. from the real estate industry, and much more. Every CSDP serves as a core talent to promote the sustainable development goals.

Talent training has been one of the priorities across the three organizations, highlighting the notion that “What kind of talent we train determines our future.” The "sustainable development planning" professional training that we are providing is supported by different training institutions. For instance, the joint admissions foundation certificate class with the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA), and the HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education jointly ran the sustainable investment professional course with HiESD. The ESG report course has also been launched with international professional certification bodies, and the basic certificate class and advanced diploma class have been developed with the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions. The advanced diploma has been recognized by the British Industrial Institute and exempted from the University of Sunderland, two-thirds of the master's degree program. After negotiating with UNU, our students could also continue with sustainable development related professional training in UNU's master's and doctoral degrees.

## **Conclusion**

2021-2030 is an important stage in the current global crisis to create new opportunities to promote the 2030 education framework - ESD for 2030. UHKA, HiESD and WISDP are working collaboratively towards the goals, hoping that the regional government, industry, academia, researchers could join hand in hand together, and build a Safe, resilient, and sustainable cities to cultivate talents.

By using international and local networks and platforms to serve the local area, we take advantage of Hong Kong's international talents to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between local and international parties, and seek to establish interdisciplinary and inter-departmental cooperation in finding the solution to

advance sustainable development, promote learning cities, cultivate ecological civilization and sustainable development education, to implement the 2030 sustainable development education roadmap.

