

Learning for Sustainability in a World of Cultural Diversity

Workshop for students and teachers from ASPnet schools in Arab countries and Europe

Within the framework of the Euro-Arab Dialogue a seminar for young people and teachers from ASPnet schools in Arab countries and Europe took place in Berlin from 2 - 10 December 2006. Main Topic was "How do we build our Future on the Foundation of Different Cultures?" The Seminar was jointly organised by the German Commission for UNESCO and the Regional Coordination of the ASPnet of Lower Saxony.

The students summarized their results in the "Berlin Declaration" committing themselves to promote and realize sustainable development, especially concerning the enforcement of human rights, protection of cultural diversity and promotion of mutual understanding among people from different cultures.

The Seminar was a contribution to the UN Decade "Education for Sustainable Development" (2005 - 2014). The 40 participants from ASPnet schools in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Spain and Germany were dealing in multinational working groups with cultural aspects of education for sustainable development. The results of the different working groups were presented in the closing ceremony. The teachers from six different countries developed a model curriculum for education for sustainable development with a special focus on cultural aspects, which will be tested within the ASP network and then transferred to schools beyond the network.

The students creatively realized their ideas for sustainability in workshops in the domains of theatre, dance performance and arts. The young people got information on the possibilities of sustainable development and understanding of the problems of their realization not only within the working groups, but also by visiting the senate administration for urban development and the Berlin City Hall.

A central goal of the seminar was the reduction of prejudices and encouragement to mutual understanding among different cultures and religions. The workshop was supported by the Foreign Ministry of Germany.