

CONFERENCE PROJECT OUTLINE

The WSC-SD focus meeting on policy for ESD

Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden | October 2009

Hosted by

Chalmers Students for Sustainability

&

the World Student Community for Sustainable Development



Summary

In 2010, Chalmers University of Technology in Göteborg and the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, organizes a conference on Engineering Education for Sustainable Development (EESD 2010). This biannual conference is the fifth in order, the latest was held in Graz, Austria, in 2008. This conference presents a perfect opportunity for us students to voice our thoughts on ESD since students are to take a large part in the conference. In preparation for the EESD 2010 conference, Chalmers Students for Sustainability and the World Student Community for Sustainable Development are planning to host a conference at Chalmers in October 2009 on policies for ESD from a student perspective.

Background

Since 2001 Chalmers has been at the forefront of technology development and knowledge sharing regarding sustainability. There is also a very strong influence of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at Chalmers and the UNESCO chairholder for ESD, John Holmberg, is also the vice president of Chalmers. In October 2010, Chalmers in collaboration with the Royal Institute of Technology organizes a conference on Engineering Education for Sustainable Development in Göteborg. This conference will attract researchers and students within the field of ESD from the entire world.

The EESD conference at Chalmers will provide a stable platform for discussions and learning on the topics of ESD and will provide a stepping stone towards a more sustainable future. The organizers have planned for a large student participation in the EESD 2010 conference to make the student community involved in these issues since they concern the students in a high degree. The student participation in the conference is vital since we students also want to have a say in how ESD is conducted.

The World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSC-SD) and Chalmers Students for Sustainability (CSS) see this conference as a great opportunity to make the voice of students from all over the world heard and their ideas recognized. In light of this, CSS will host *the WSC-SD focus meeting on policy for ESD* at Chalmers in October 2009. The aim of the focus meeting is to produce a document showing the student opinions on ESD from all over the world. This document will then be presented to the organizers of the EESD conference at Chalmers, so that they can use the student opinions in the planning process of their conference. We also want to present our findings and student opinions at the EESD conference in 2010. The document and all data that it is based on will also be made public to all the WSC-SD member communities through the WSC-SD Wiki, so they can use it at their universities and in their home countries, to pull leverage on local policy and decision makers.

Conference preparations

Before the conference, CSS and the WSC-SD member communities are planning to conduct a worldwide survey, using the vast network of students in WSC-SD as a basis for survey inputs. WSC-SD

currently boasts more than 3000 members and by engaging key members and also other connections, the amount of recipients of the survey can be multiplied. CSS is planning to use the Chalmers course evaluation survey system to reach all the students worldwide, by sending them a personal email with a link to the survey. This system has been used before by CSS to conduct surveys at Chalmers and we know that it can accurately measure different indicators in the survey replies.

GLOBAL ESD SURVEY

The survey is going to be based on recent research in the field of ESD, but also on the questions that our member students want to answer. CSS is planning to use the WSC-SD Wiki to collaborate with the other student organizations in building up the survey. The reason for doing this is that more people can come with good ideas as inputs, and also, we in CSS need help with posing the right questions so that the survey will be understandable to students all across the globe. We have already seen that WSC-SD's student communities have different definitions on sustainable development, which makes it prudent to ask all member communities to add questions that are relevant in their region, even though the questions should be able to pose on a global scale so that the questions are comparable.

The survey is planned to take place in May 2009, with the hope that a large amount of recipients have replied by early June. This gives CSS all summer to analyze the results and compile a document with the most important data from the survey. The raw data from the survey will also be posted on the WSC-SD wiki, making it possible for student communities around the world to help out in the analyzing stages. The outcome of the analysis is then going to be presented in late August to all member communities and all individual participants.

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Since we are to present the results from the survey more than a month before the conference, we urge the member communities to arrange workshops discussing the results in their home universities. Hopefully, this makes the conference more efficient, since all participants can have a clear view of what their members in their organization think about ESD and about the survey. This also contributes in making the conference more sustainable, since we do not have to have that many participants travelling to Sweden.

Conference plan

The WSC-SD focus meeting on policy for ESD is planned to take place at Chalmers campus Johanneberg in Göteborg, Sweden. Campus Johanneberg was founded in 1929 and has since then evolved into a lively campus. The venue for the conference is planned in the MC2 building, which is the home of the Microtechnology center at Chalmers. The building offers a large lecture room and several smaller rooms where workshops can be held. The building also offers a café where breakfast, lunch and also light dinner will be served. The facilities are of high technological standards, since the building is just eight years old.

The conference is planned to be a three day event, starting on a Sunday in October 2009 with a welcome meeting in the evening. The seminars and workshops starts the following Monday and runs till Wednesday lunch. The conference is highly aimed at creating a meeting place for students from

all over the world to meet up and discuss ESD in their home countries and how the issue can be taken forward, both on a national and regional level, but also on a global level.

The main focus of the conference is the workshops, since the delegates can meet and discuss during the workshops and through them form the policy document intended to be the outcome of the conference. There will of course be seminars to highlight different aspects of ESD and they are also planned to inspire discussions in the later workshops.

Accommodation and travel

Accommodation and travel within Göteborg and during the conference, pre- and post-meeting will be organized by CSS.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation in Göteborg will be arranged together with the student accommodation foundation, SGS Studentbostäder. They have a number of hostel-like rooms that are of high standards and affordable. They include bed linens and there is also a possibility to store food in the fridge in the rooms. The accommodation will be arranged in rooms with four beds in each. There are possibilities if special arrangements are needed.

LOCAL TRAVEL

The travel within Göteborg will be facilitated in cooperation with the local transport company, Västtrafik. Västtrafik will be approached and asked if they want to sponsor the conference with 3-day passes for all conference participants. Travel to and from the pre-meeting venue will be facilitated using a chartered bus.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS

The WSC-SD has many members that cannot afford to fly to Sweden. This means that we as organizers must arrange for a way of getting these people here. A travel grant scholarship is proposed for those who cannot pay their own tickets and CSS will assist in buying the tickets as well. CSS and the WSC-SD hope that at least ten students from developing countries can attend the conference which means that ten flights will be paid for by the organizers. These travel grants are proposed to be set at a maximum value of 10,000 SEK. The applicants for the grants will be asked to submit reasons for their participation in the conference and their interest in ESD and a committee will then select the people that are to be given the grants.

CSS also encourage the participants to travel by train when possible.

FOOD DURING THE CONFERENCE

All meals are included in the conference, i.e. breakfast, coffee breaks, lunch and dinner. The breakfast, coffee breaks and lunches are all served in conjunction to the conference venue.

Application

The application for the conference is planned to open in April 2009. CSS and the WSC-SD invites one member from each student community in the WSC-SD to participate in the pre-meeting and also in the conference. Aside from that, ten spaces are left for individual WSC-SD members from developing countries, for which people travel grants can be awarded. The WSC-SD executive board is also invited to the pre-meeting and conference. The remaining 10-15 spaces are going to be allocated as invites to organizations that helped out during the survey.

Each organization is to select a member that they want to send to the conference, which makes the local SC more involved in the decision making and also makes it easier for the local organizers.

Annex

ANNEX I - PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

All the lectures and workshops are in the MC2-building, unless otherwise indicated.

Day	Time	Activity	Venue	Notes
Sunday	19.00-23.00	Welcome meeting, conference registration and light dinner	Club Avancéz (Chalmersvillan)	The conference starts with a welcome meeting and registration
Monday	7.00-8.30	Breakfast and registration	Canyon	For those who did not attend the welcome meeting, registration is available during breakfast
	8.30-9.20	Seminar and discussion, topic TBA	Kollektorn	Seminar (20 min), followed by a discussion on the topic (30 min).
	9.20-9.30	Short break		
	9.30-10.20	Seminar and discussion, topic TBA	Kollektorn	Seminar (20 min), discussion (30 min)
	10.20-10.45	Coffee break	Canyon	
	10.45-12.15	Workshops	Group rooms	Divide into teams and discuss the topics from the seminars and their implications on ESD
	12.15-13.15	Lunch break	Canyon	
	13.15-14.20	Presentation of workshops results	Kollektorn	The different teams presents their conclusions from the workshops (5-10 min each)
	14.20-14.30	Short break		
	14.30-15.30	Presentation of WSC-SD ESD survey	Kollektorn	The results from the global ESD survey will be presented
	15.30-15.50	Coffee break	Canyon	
	15.50-16.50	Workshop on WSC-SD survey results	Group rooms	
	16.50-17.00	Short break		
	17.00-18.00	Presentation of workshop results	Kollektorn	
	19.30-23.00	Dinner and evening discussion session	“Kyrkan” (Student Union building)	In “Kyrkan” all the participants can meet for a light dinner, some pool table games and relaxed conversations
Tuesday	7.00-8.30	Breakfast	Canyon	
	8.30-9.20	Seminar and discussion, topic TBA	Kollektorn	Seminar (20 min), followed by a discussion on the topic (30 min).
	9.20-9.30	Short break		

	9.30-10.20	Workshops	Group rooms	Workshops on today's seminar and how it reflects on the conclusions from yesterday's sessions
	10.20-10.45	Coffee break	Canyon	
	10.45-12.15	Workshops (continuation)	Group rooms	
	12.15-13.15	Lunch break	Canyon	
	13.15-14.20	Presentation of workshop results	Kollektorn	
	14.20-14.30	Short break		
	14.30-15.20	Seminar and discussions , topic TBA	Kollektorn	Seminar (20 min), discussion (30 min)
	15.20-15.40	Coffee break	Canyon	
	15.40-16.30	Seminar	Kollektorn	Student seminars, presentation of how ESD is conducted around the world
	16.30-17.30	Poster presentation	Canyon	Posters presenting how ESD is conducted, future scenarios in how ESD could be conducted, other related ESD issues
	19.00-22.00	Conference dinner	Club Avancéz (Chalmersvillan)	
Wednesday	7.00-8.30	Breakfast	Canyon	
	8.30-9.20	Presentation and discussions of conference summary	Kollektorn	
	9.20-9.30	Short break		
	9.30-10.30	Workshop on conference summary	Group rooms	Discussions on how to summarize the conclusions from the conference and prepare the policy document
	10.30-10.50	Coffee break	Canyon	
	10.50-11.50	Presentation of workshops and summarizing	Kollektorn	
	11.50-12.00	Short break		
	12.00-13.00	Finalizing session for the policy document and discussions on how to take it forward	Kollektorn	Decision session on what to add to the policy document
	13.00-14.00	Lunch		

ANNEX II - PRELIMINARY BUDGET

This budget is preliminary and it is subject to change, when and if we need to change. The budget is also a first estimate of the costs and a more thorough and precise budget will be presented in March 2009.

	Cost	# persons	At a rate of (SEK/piece)	Cost units	Subtotal (SEK)
Food	Breakfast	40	37	3	4,440
	Lunch & dinner	40	125	5	25,000
	Conference dinner	70	150	1	10,500
	Coffee & cake	40	20	5	4,000
	Catering		4,000	3	12,000
<i>Subtotal food</i>					55,940
Accommodation	Accommodation (participants)	40	150	3	18,000
	Accommodation (speakers)	4	1,000	1	4,000
<i>Subtotal accommodation</i>					22,000
Pre- & post-meeting	Pre-meeting (food)	20	100	2	4,000
	Pre-meeting venue		1,200	2	2,400
	Pre-meeting transportation		2,000	1	2,000
	Post-meeting accommodation	20	150	1	3,000
<i>Subtotal pre- & post-meeting</i>					11,400
Travel	Local travel	40	130	1	5,200
	Travel and expenditures (speakers)	4	4,000	1	16,000
	Travel grants	10	10,000	1	100,000
<i>Subtotal travel</i>					121,200
Misc	Venue		4,000	3	12,000
	Conference material		40	70	2,800
<i>Subtotal miscellaneous</i>					14,800
Total	Subtotal				225,340
	Contingency				25,000
	Total conference cost				