The Role of Higher Education for Achieving the SDGs

**Venue:** Meeting Room F, 1st floor UNCC  
**Date:** 27 March 2019  
**Time:** 12:00-13:15

**Organizers:** United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Bangkok Office, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MOEJ)

**Background:**
In empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality in the context of the 2030 Agenda, local authorities, communities, civil society organizations, and the scientific and academic community are key stakeholders for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to accelerate local implementation, further efforts are needed to explore how local communities can be engaged and empowered.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) can play an important role in bringing transformative actions to local communities as a key enabler of all the SDGs. In particular, higher education institutions can support the capacity development of communities at the local level, through research as well as through education in many fields that are crucial for the SDGs.

The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) is advancing efforts towards a more sustainable future, through policy-oriented research and capacity development focused on sustainability and its social, economic and environmental dimensions.

With the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (MOEJ), UNU-IAS leads the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network (ProSPER.Net). This higher education institution alliance in the Asia-Pacific region is working towards integrating sustainable development in postgraduate education and curricula.

**Scope:**
ProSPER.Net links local initiatives to international SDGs and ESD platforms and processes. ProSPER.Net member universities (TERI School of Advanced Studies, Keio University, University of the Philippines Diliman and Chulalongkorn University) have been working collaboratively on the joint project on “Development of a Framework for the Local Implementation of the SDGs,” in cooperation with UNU-IAS and UNESCO Bangkok. Based on the outputs of the project, the Side Event will explore how higher education institutions can contribute towards developing the capacities of local
communities that enable local stakeholders to effectively implement regional efforts towards achieving the SDGs.

**Key Questions:**

The key questions to be discussed in this side event are as follows.

- How can higher education institutions contribute towards developing the capacities of local communities?
- What is the current implementation of the SDGs at the local level?
- How can local communities be engaged and empowered to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the local level, ensuring inclusiveness and equity?

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