ESD at the Crossroads; Managing the Political Dimension

If you are planning for a year – sow rice. If you are planning for a decade – plant trees. If you are planning for a lifetime – educate your children (Chinese proverb)
Issues for discussion within the Political Dimension

- Facts
- Ethics
- Democracy Vs Sustainability
- ESD and the politics of teacher education
- ESD and inspiring real political change
- ESD – Mind the GAP?
Some industrialized nations seeking to reduce their dependence on imported oil have required that a percentage of biofuel be blended with fossil fuels each year. Above, an oil refinery in Southeast Asia.
Potential Areas of Shale (light red) for Fracking!
Summary of global warming impacts

Increase in global mean temperature relative to the late 20th century

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 °F

Physical
- The risks associated with some extreme weather events increase with temperature
- Other effects include sea level rise and ocean acidification. Warming could be irreversible for several millennia.

Ecological
- The larger the increase in temperature, the more species will be at risk of extinction
- 20-30% of species at risk of extinction further extinctions

Social
- Mix of positive and negative impacts. Low-latitude and less-developed areas are especially vulnerable.
- The negative impacts of climate change tend to increase with temperature. Larger temperature increases will be more difficult to adapt to.

Large-scale impacts
- The risk of large-scale and/or abrupt impacts increases with temperature
- Partial deglaciation of Greenland and West Antarctic ice sheets adds 4-6 m (13-20 ft) or more to sea level rise
ESD, Ethics and the Political Dimension

The indigenous inhabitants of this land had a wise saying - "Every time you take something from the Earth, you must give something back."
The principles & norms of behaviour people espouse and follow in relation to right and wrong action and the good and bad qualities of character and relationships people develop that are relevant to the flourishing of human beings, animals and the planet. (moral philosophy)

Banks (2010)
ESD, Ethics and the Political Dimension

- Deontological: Right Action, Duty, Rights
- Teleological: Being Good, Character, Relationships
- Ethics: Consequences

Diagram:
- Citizens
  - Social Equity
  - Economic Opportunity
- Development of Knowledge
  - Environmental Responsibility
- Faculty
  - Students
  - Practitioners
- Administrators
ESD and Ethical Challenges to the Political Dimension

*Universality* - can similar principles be applied to all people at all times in all places?

*Rational & Objective Decision Making* – Ignores moral life, character, individual motive, emotions and context

*Western World bias on individualism* - rights of individual prioritised over communal rights & the collective
Components of the Political dimension; Democracy Vs Sustainability

Governance is the interface of public decision-making and decision-taking

Decision-making
- Dialogue; collaboration; consultation; opinion-forming; influencing;

Decision-taking
- Exercise of authority; exercise of power; allocation of resources; exercise of oversight and evaluation; imposition of regulation

The attention paid by the decision-takers to the decision-making process outcomes is crucial but is this happening?
Managing the political Dimension – Finding a model that works

Here is the crisis of the times as I see it: We talk about problems, issues, policies, but we don’t talk about what democracy means — what it bestows on us — the revolutionary idea that it isn’t just about the means of governance but the means of dignifying people so they become fully free to claim their moral and political agency. (Bill Moyers, ‘The Power of Democracy’, 2007)
ESD – Mind the GAP!
Decision Taking

1. Advancing **policy**
2. Integrating sustainability practices into education and training environments (**whole-institution approaches**) 
3. Increasing the capacity of **educators** and trainers;
4. Empowering and mobilizing **youth**
5. Encouraging **local communities** and municipal authorities to develop community-based ESD programmes.
ESD in ITE; The Irish Context
Component Model for Integrating DE into the PDE

Introduce DE

Embed DE in core curriculum

Integrate DE into School Placement

1. Dedicated lectures/tutorials/workshops devoted to conceptualising Development Education
2. Development Education links to core components of ITE that complement the DE philosophy - foundation/thematic studies
   - Sociology of education
   - How young people learn
   - Professional portfolio
   - Teacher as professional
   - Philosophy of education
   - Inclusive education
   - Planning for teaching, learning, assessment
   - Reflective practice
   - Teacher as Researcher
3. Development Education is explored in the teaching of Subject Pedagogies
   - Maths
   - English
   - Sciences
   - Languages
   - Geog.
   - Business
   - Technology
4. Student teachers teach DE as part of their subject area and critically reflect on their practice.
5. Student teachers are involved in enquiry based initiatives in schools e.g. observing diversity & equality
6. Students compile a Development Education component to their professional portfolio

Students consider what DE is, why it is relevant to them as teachers and to their subject area.

Student teachers experience the DE philosophy and ideology in an incremental way.

Student teachers apply DE to their subject areas and curricula.

Students teach and reflect on DE in the school setting.
ESD and the Irish context;
5 Principles of Good ESD Practice

1. ESD is about teaching differently rather than teaching more
2. Good ESD is that which promotes critical thinking about development and underdevelopment
3. ESD results in transformation on a number of levels including personal, perspectival, professional and programmatic
4. ESD is effective when it is integrated across the curriculum with multiple entry points
5. Evaluation of the impact of ESD is essential to improving teaching and learning strategies (Ubuntu 2013)
ESD Initiatives that might be considered

- Policy linked to actions
- Compulsory education elements and assessment models?
- International assessment framework
- ESD Units in all ITE Colleges
- Greater inter Institutional Cooperation – targeted and specific, national and international
- Statutory ESD units funded by national governments
ESD Initiatives that might be considered

- Compulsory CPD for teachers in ESD
- Link formal and non formal sectors through ESD initiatives
- Distinctive Urban/Rural models to accommodate resources and community engagement
- Marketing of ESD in a multi-faceted and international context
- Use of an Integrated Area Planning model (IAP) to support ESD initiatives in local Communities
The Road to Sustainability; An ESD Approach

Tolerance for Complexity and Uncertainty
Assumption-Questioning
- A need for connectedness between human activity and the environment - developing the ‘Ecological University’ (Barnett 2011)
- Perspective taking-self mastery before subject mastery?
- Independence
- Courage
- Challenge current opinion-find creative and wise answers
- Maturity-self insight leading to personal wisdom
- Integrity
- Abundant Mentality
The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it comes stronger than their democratic state itself. That, in its essence, is fascism - ownership of government by an individual, by a group.

-FDR