

ANNOUNCEMENT

In December 2002, by Resolution 59/237, the UN General Assembly declared the years 2005-2014 the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). The aim of this worldwide endeavor is to integrate the principles, values and practices of sustainable development into all education and learning. Five years into the implementation of the DESD, the World Conference on ESD, to be held 31 March to 2 April 2009 in Bonn, Germany, will provide an opportunity to examine the contribution of ESD in the effort to achieve quality education for all, provide a platform for international exchange on ESD, review progress achieved, and develop strategies for the way ahead for the Decade.

Moving into the second half of the UN Decade, **UNESCO** and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in cooperation with the German Commission for **UNESCO**, have joined together to organize the World Conference on **ESD**, which will bring together some 700 participants representing all world regions and reflecting the nature of the **DESD** as a multi-stakeholder undertaking.

It is our pleasure to announce that the Sustainable Management of Marginal Drylands (SUMAMAD) project, which was implemented in Egypt (2003-2008) and 7 other countries was internationally selected to represent Egypt in this important event. This project studies sustainable management and conservation of marginal dry lands in northern Africa and Asia. The project, which kicked off in 2002, uses harmonized methodology for 7 selected study sites, allowing results comparing and knowledge sharing. Scientists from Belgium, China, Egypt, I.R. of Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia and Uzbekistan collaborate in this project. The general purposes of the **SUMAMAD** Project is to **improve alternative livelihoods of dry land dwellers; to reduce vulnerability to land degradation** in marginal lands through rehabilitation efforts of degraded lands; and to **improve productivity through identification of wise practices using both traditional knowledge and scientific expertise**. Sharing of scientific knowledge among participating countries is an additional aim.

Prof. Boshra Salem, the head of the Department of Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Science and the national coordinator of this project will be delegated as a key person to represent the above project as the best project on sustainable development in Egypt (selected from 10 projects internationally), and to represent Egypt in the Conference on ESD in Bonn.