



*A remote eco-lodge
run by a traditional Bedouin tribe,
A spectacular mountainous backdrop,
A delicate desert ecosystem,
A group of inspiring, intelligent
individuals from around the world,*

The perfect opportunity to reconnect
with the unique YES course experience!

In the last 10 years 800 individuals from over 90 countries around the globe have experienced the unique YES approach to education for sustainable development. For many, this was a once in a lifetime experience that broadened their horizons and provided new friendships and opportunities around the world. Today the international network of YES Alumni has enormous potential to play a key role in shaping solutions to global challenges. In order to build on this potential ETHsustainability has partnered with the Wadi Environmental Science Centre (WESC) in Egypt to offer the very first course especially for YES Alumni! The course aims to build on the valuable knowledge and skills gained in the YES program with a specific focus on issues of water and sustainability.

Water is Life

Water is essential for development – not just for direct human consumption but for growing food crops, industry and manufacturing, sanitation, energy, transportation, cultural and religious needs, and for maintaining the

ecosystem services on which all life depends. Virtual water is around us in almost anything we do or consume. Despite of this, we are facing increasing physical and economic water scarcity around the world, due to human intervention in nearly all stages of the water cycle, growing populations, increasing consumption and changing climatic conditions. The social, environmental, political and economic implications of this are enormous and there is certainly no one size fits all solution. Rather, we must pay careful attention to the particular cultural and historical context of each individual case. The special YES alumni course on water provides an exceptional opportunity to come together with young leaders and professionals from around the world to confront these challenges together and shape creative and innovative solutions.

The Magical Sinai Desert Experience

Join us for 10 days of simple, sustainable living in one of the world's natural wonders, far from your normal hectic daily lives. The Sinai desert in Egypt offers you a truly spectacular desert experience, giving you the chance to be confronted first hand with issues of water scarcity and creative water resource management. The UNESCO world heritage area is home to ancient sites such as the St. Katherine monastery and provides the perfect location for an exclusive retreat. You will be hosted at the Bedouin run Al Karm eco-lodge in the distinctive Wadi

Gharba, which operates on principles of sustainable tourism (simplicity and minimal environmental impact) with solar water heating, local produce, composting toilets and no electricity. This will allow the participants to have the luxury of working without computers, internet or telephones during the course. The lodge assures employment to the local Gebaliya Bedouin community and provides opportunities for transferring their knowledge, traditions and practices to guests of the lodge. Participants will experience the traditional Bedouin lifestyle, including handicrafts, cooking, medicinal plants and witness creative techniques for survival in the harsh desert environment.

The final days of the program will be spent in the Basata Eco-lodge on the red sea coast, giving you the opportunity to appreciate the coastal landscape and witness first hand the pressure of tourism on local water resources and local solutions to this. This lodge has bamboo huts on the beach set on idyllic coral reefs and blue waters and is operated by Bedouins working with an NGO dealing with waste management for the local costal region.

Program highlights

The course program includes lectures and workshops from local experts and ETH faculty (from the renowned Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries division of EAWAG) on topics that transcend from global issues to local challenges and solutions.

Participants will build up practical skills in identifying and formulating solutions that understand the boundaries of technology and consider the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental forces that come into play. A major component of the program will be the development of a practical project, with the opportunity to receive funding for its implementation.

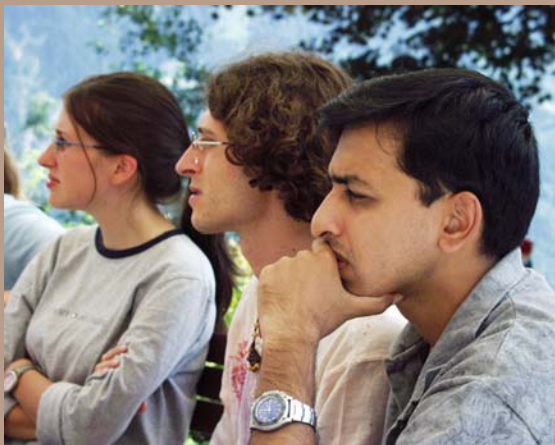
A highlight will be the participation of our famous YES artist, Klaus Elle, who will bring his usual creative flair and enthusiasm to the program!

The cultural program includes hiking and camel riding to St. Katherine monastery; handicrafts, cooking and medicinal herbs with the Bedouin community; a YES cultural night; astronomy and star gazing; an opportunity to contribute your skills to the local community and just generally enjoying the solitude and peace of the exceptional setting.

The Wadi Environmental Science Centre (WESC) is an Egyptian NGO dedicated to environmental education and community development, and provides the ideal local partner for the program. WESC has many years of experience running field based immersion learning programs for youth and adult learners all over Egypt. The involvement of WESC in the YES special course provides a direct link to the Egyptian cultural context and to initiatives that are addressing Egypt's critical water issues.



Please see final page for application information, course fees, deadline and application form



Application Procedure

Participation in the course is open to any member of the YES Alumni who has already attended a YES course in Switzerland, Japan, Slovakia, Costa Rica, or Kenya. You do not have to be a water professional to join the program, rather have an interest in and an understanding of the importance of water for sustainability. To apply for the program please submit all relevant information outlined in the application form below via email (complete with the requested attachments) to:

Ms. Michelle Grant, Project Manager: michelle.grant@sl.ethz.ch

Application Deadline: 15th June 2008

The course partners have heavily subsidised the cost of participation for the course. Selected participants will be requested to cover their own international return transportation to Cairo, health insurance and visa. All local costs will be covered by the course partners. Limited financial assistance will be available to participants travelling from Less Developed Countries.

Application form: YES Alumni Special Course – Water and Sustainability

Location: Sinai Desert and Red Sea Coast, Egypt

Dates: 1st -11th November 2008

Personal Information

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

YES Course

Year / Month: _____ Location: _____

Education and Employment Background

Undergraduate Program: _____

Institution: _____

Date Completed: _____

Postgraduate Program: _____

Institution: _____

Date Completed: _____

Current Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Location: _____

Contact Information

Email : _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Please email the above form to michelle.grant@sl.ethz.ch and attach the following two documents with your application:

1. Your CV / Resume with a photograph included
2. A short statement of motivation (max. 400 words) to attend the course. Please consider the following guiding questions:
What have been your key achievements since completing your first YES course?
What do you believe your participation can bring to the course?
What do you plan to do with the knowledge and skills gained in the YES special course?
What appeals to you about participating in the YES special course?