

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT 1999**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION PANEL****Comments from the Institution of Environmental Sciences.**

The Institution of Environmental Sciences is pleased to comment on the second annual report of the Sustainable Development Education Panel. We are pleased:

- that the Panel continues to promote Sustainable Development Education
- with the progress that sustainable development education has made in the past year.

We are particularly pleased that:

- the report recognises the need "to help professionals acquire and regularly update the skills that they need".

Our Institution is currently involved with others in a project with professional associations. It is mentioned in one of the supporting papers on the Panel's web site. However, the description is inaccurate because it only mentions the training materials we are producing and not the inter-professional learning we are facilitating. This learning is providing the basis for the materials and is as important as the materials themselves. It will continue after the materials are completed.

This would not be of great concern were it not for the fact that we have detected a changing role for the Panel in this Report. In the Introduction it states "The Sustainable Development Education Panel advises the Government on education for sustainable development". The 1999 programme has investigated a number of important issues that will help the Panel provide that advice. The information is also useful to the SDE movement when developing its education programmes. However, in the section "Our Future Plans" there seems to be a declining emphasis on advising Government and more emphasis on developing activities. This section also states the Panel will "provide strategic leadership" but the programme for 2000 does not reflect this role. The Panel is becoming another programme-based organisation competing with existing organisations and their programmes. If this is what is intended then it is a development we regret.

We note your interest in helping key professionals acquire and regularly update the skills that they need and would be happy to co-operate with the Panel to build on progress already made.

John Baines