Eco Commerce Review

EDITOR'S PICKS

Pasi Sahlberg & Minna LeVine, April 8, 2013, Atlanta, Georgia

Education and Workforce Training play a key role in understandings of Sustainable Development

April 8, 2013, Atlanta, CEC - During the past decade, Finnish students have ranked top of the charts in international studies of standardized testing (PISA). "Creativity is becoming an important objective in lifelong learning, with the knowledge society demanding people with **better education and the ability to work with ideas.** It is argued that education systems have difficulty adapting to the need for including innovation and creativity in current teaching and learning processes. **Knowledge and innovation** are claimed to be the main sources of progress in **modern knowledge-based economies** and knowledge plays a key role in **increasing human capital and understandings of sustainable development**", says Pasi Sahlberg, winner of the 2013 Grawemeyer Award in Education, and Author of 'Finnish Lessons'.

"Finland is also **one of the most innovative EU Member States, as a matter of fact #1 in Eco Innovation",** says Minna LeVine, Chamber of Eco Commerce (CEC). The Finnish national innovation system is an extensive entity, based on **education**, research, product development as well as **knowledge-intensive business and industry**. The innovation policy is bound to science and technology policies, which together aim at ensuring balanced development and extensive cooperation within the innovation system. **Eco-efficiency and environmental approach has traditionally been a baseline of Finnish production technology, which has been apparent through the research and development (R&D) funding and development of increased eco-efficiency in industrial processes.**

Today, the national innovation system in Finland is explicitly involved in the environmental sector. Ministry of Employment and the Economy is developing operational preconditions for **ecologically sustainable and competitive business life**, and for the growing field of environment and eco-export. Hence the innovation policy includes a principle of integration of environmental considerations within all aspects of R&D.

However, Eco Innovation needs and challenges are strongly associated with material efficiency. Performance in material efficiency because of the large share of energy and material intensive industries. The greatest challenges for Eco Innovations concern high material consumption, the aging of society as well as low material productivity, energy-efficiency and high GHG emissions, which result from energy intensive industrial sectors, freight transportation and traffic as well as extensive earthworks and hydraulic engineering. The Finnish economy is based strongly on added value obtained from natural resources. At the same time Finland has abundant natural resources in terms of the clean forest, fresh water as well as peat, mineral reserves and arable land.

Eco Commerce Experts and Leaders from around the world have joined the global Eco Commerce Exchange (ECE) to transfer their knowledge and new technology to the global marketplace. "We invite companies and organizations to join our global B2B platform and partner projects. We urge our stakeholders to mobilize their organizations and employees to support the development of high quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) knowledge and skills for all American students. It is essential that we act now to ensure all of our children and American society as a whole can continue to prosper in the 21st century technology-based economy. We at CEC offer our assistance in any way that will be helpful in achieving the critical objectives for students and workforce at home and abroad", adds LeVine.

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Eco Innovation Scoreboard 2012: the Updated Composite Index

The Eco Innovation Scoreboard developed by the EIO is the first tool to assess and illustrate eco innovation performance across the 27 EU Member States. The Eco-IS shows how well individual Member States perform in different dimensions of eco innovation compared to the EU average. The 2011 scoreboard is based on 16 indicators in 5 areas. A detailed analysis of the scoreboard and its components will be provided in the upcoming EIO Annual Report 2012. You can also explore the scoreboard with the EIO data visualization tool. More information on the indicators included in the scoreboard and the calculation details can be found here.