Final Report
ReGEN-Nations
GENOA EDE
2020-2021
Short version

Gaia Education
Ecovillage
Design Education
Programme

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EDE Final Report: **Contents**

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Course Overview

Course Overview (150-300 words):

The ReGEN-Nations program is a 6-month online learning journey and prototyping lab using whole systems thinking to design solutions for sociological, cultural, economic, and ecological resilience and regeneration, created by the Global Ecovillage Network Oceania and Asia (GENOA) based on the Ecovillage Design Education program by Gaia Education. GENOA is a network of people, ecovillages, eco-projects, national ecovillage networks and organisations in Oceania & Asia. GENOA promotes ecovillage living where people live together in a sustainable way, with dignity, in harmony with each other and with nature.

The program welcomed 16 teams from around Asia and the Pacific, with 11 countries represented, Australia, Japan, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Each team joined with two lead members and several supporting members. They started with a project in either ideation or scaling stage and applied the learning from this program to develop and deepen their project design. The program offered a wide range of online sessions from check-in calls, leadership/mentorship/coaching sessions, workshops and webinars on the different dimensions of ecovillage design. In addition to the cohort of 16 teams, the program attached 120 participants through its open webinars and workshops in each dimension.

Journeying through the five dimensions of regeneration (social, worldview, ecological, economic and whole systems design), the ReGEN-Nations EDE program received the participation of 9 workshop facilitators together with 15 webinar speakers. These are renowned leaders, trainers, thinkers and activists from the region who are passionate and knowledgeable about all areas of regeneration.

At the end of the program, the teams had a chance to build a prototype of their project and deliver a presentation to their peers and mentors. Among 10 teams who delivered the final presentation, three were awarded with a seed grant of $150 to boost their project execution.

See our full course summary article here.
Participants (50-150 words):

Sixteen teams were chosen among 24 registrations. Each team was asked to register 2 lead members, the number of supporting members varied among teams. In total there were 32 team leads and 17 supporting members, among which there are 30 females, 19 males. Nineteen participants completed over 80% of the course (including the sessions and action learning activities) and received the certificate. Participants come from 11 countries in Oceania and Asia including Australia, Japan, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The age range is between 13 to 44 years old.

Course rhythms (50-150 words):

The course spreaded over 6 months from September 2020 to the beginning of March 2021 (with 4 weeks off for Christmas and Lunar New Year). Each month, there were four main sessions, three mentorship calls and follow-up action learning activities.

Four main sessions were check-in sessions (2-hour), leadership sessions (2-hour), workshops (3-hour) and webinars (2-hour). Each webinar accompanied three speakers to whom the program would schedule mentorship calls with. There were three one-hour mentorship calls after each webinar with each speaker. These sessions were designed for participants to ask deeper questions and interact with speakers.

After each leadership session and dimension workshop, participants were handed out several action learning activities which they carried out offline and submitted harvesting documents on the GEN Learning platform at learn.ecovillage.org. During the whole course there were two coaching periods in which teams can register for a 30-minute coaching call with the lead mentors.

There were 63 hours of online sessions in total and estimatedly 65 hours of action learning.

Highlights & challenges of each dimension

(For gallery of photos from each dimensions, see here)

Social Dimension (150-250 words)

It was the beginning of our pilot program, so it took some time to get into the rhythm as a team and the flow with participants and fellow facilitators. Once we got into the rhythm, we developed good
working relationships with our team mates, trust was built and each of us took responsibility for our own actions or inactions. We were also learning how to use the GEN Online Learning Platform where the program was hosted. The online platform proved to be a great resource for our team and participants as we were able to create content, with links, readings and action learnings in a systemised way that was easy for participants to follow and use.

One of the early issues with workshop facilitators was not having a clear enough facilitation outline with a timing guide. We realised quickly that this doesn't give participants enough structure for learning and can cause confusion if there are no clear learning outcomes and guidelines for facilitators. We also learned, we need to be strong and stick to our framework, how the program works and what we need facilitators to prepare and be ready to do for ReGEN Nations.

Below is the program outline for the Social Dimension.

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<tr>
<th>Wed 2-4pm AEST</th>
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<td>Check in session</td>
<td>Leadership session</td>
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**SOCIAL DIMENSION**

- **Introduction and Overview**
  - **Facilitators:** Sarah Queblatin & Trudy Juriansz

- **Leading with Empathy, Stakeholder Mapping**
  - **Facilitators:** Sarah Queblatin & Trudy Juriansz

- **Building Community, Community Values, Agreements, Ways of Working Together**
  - **Facilitator:** Shammi Nanda

- **Participatory Leadership, Peacebuilding, and Mindful Activism**
  - **Speakers:** Dishani Jayaweera, Chris Evans & Ouyporn Khuankaew

**Faculty/facilitators:**

- **Trudy Juriansz**
  - GEN Networking Director/ Learning Journey Designer

- **Sarah Queblatin**
  - GEN Regional Representative/ Learning Journey Designer

- **Shammi Nanda**
  - Founder of Ahimsagram, India; Trainer of NVC, Sociocracy and Holacracy

**Speakers:**

- **Dishani Jayaweera**
  - Peacebuilder & Co-founder of Center for Peace Building and Reconciliation, Sri Lanka

- **Ouyporn Khuankaew**
  - Co-Founder and lead trainer of International Women’s Partnership for Peace and Justice, Thailand

- **Chris Evans**
  - Advisor, Himalayan Permaculture Centre, Nepal/ Founder, Applewood Permaculture Centre, UK
**Worldview Dimension** (150-250 words)

By the 2nd month, focusing on culture/worldview, we started to notice the participants who were committed and were in all the sessions, and others who started to drop off. We started conducting participant evaluations by sending out google forms to participants at the end of each dimension, which proved very useful as it provided us with feedback to improve aspects of the program and gave us realistic gauges of how we were doing as the creators and coordinators of the program.

We also realised that it was challenging to get timely responses from workshop facilitators and webinar speakers. Our team had to do a lot of follow up, while still confirming the list of facilitators and speakers for upcoming dimensions. We had to develop a lot of templates and processes along the way, which will help greatly in the next round of ReGEN.

It was very inspiring and interesting to bring diverse speakers together for the webinar, who represented indigenous worldview, holistic health and slow food. The moderators had a key task to weave the conversation and key points they speakers shared.

Below is the program outline for the Culture/Worldview Dimension.

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<td>Check in session</td>
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<td>Webinar</td>
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**Cultural Dimension/Worldview**

- **Review of Social Dimension and Introduction to Cultural Dimension**  
  **Facilitators:** Sarah Queblatin & Trudy Juriansz

- **Systemic Problems and Mental Models**  
  **Facilitators:** Sarah Queblatin & Trudy Juriansz

- **Introduction to Deep Ecology**  
  **Facilitator:** Sunisa Jamwiset Deiters (Om)

- **The Link between Indigenous Wisdom, Biodiversity, and Health**  
  **Speakers:** Thalea Tane, Elena Aniere, Dr. Romy Paredes

**Faculty/facilitators:**

- **Trudy Juriansz**  
  GEN Networking Director/ Learning Journey Designer

- **Sarah Queblatin**  
  GEN Regional Representative/ Learning Journey Designer

- **Sunisa Jamwiset Deiters (Om)**  
  Co-founder and lead trainer of Gaia Ashram

**Speakers**

- **Thalea Tane**  
  Inquiry Facilitator and Culture Bearer Aotearoa/ New Zealand

- **Elena Aniere**  
  Coordinator, Slow Food Movement Asia and Pacific

- **Dr. Romy Paredes**  
  Holistic Doctor Wellnessland Health Institute, Philippines
Ecological Dimension (150-250 words)

We had a long break in November 2020, when the ecology dimension was facilitated, as GENOA held its Online Regional Gathering, Restore & Re-story. We used this as an opportunity to hold space for a deep dive with participants. However, we realised this ‘deep dive’ wasn't facilitated enough, so there was little cross-pollination and learning from the gathering to ReGEN Nations program. The Introduction to Permaculture workshop was facilitated really well by Morag Gamble with plenty of break out groups so participants had the opportunity to share and learn together. Even though we had a world renowned permaculture teacher like Morag, our participant numbers were low. This helped us realise that the reason could be the workshop was held during the week so it was hard for people to attend. One idea is to hold both workshops and webinars on the weekends to increase participation from a broader audience, in the next round of ReGEN Nations. There was a lot of interest from participants in general around the topic of regenerative agriculture and ecosystem restoration, so we had a good response for the webinar. Below is the program outline for the Ecology Dimension.

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<th>Wed 2-4pm AEST</th>
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<td>Webinar</td>
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**ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION**

- **Review of Cultural Dimension and Introduction to Ecological Dimension**
  - **Facilitators:** Sarah Queblatin & Trudy Juriansz

- **Landscape Leadership**
  - **Facilitators:** Sarah Queblatin & Trudy Juriansz

- **Introduction to Permaculture**
  - **Facilitator:** Morag Gamble

- **Rethinking Ecological Practices and Designs - Regenerative Agriculture, Ecological Restoration, and Appropriate Technology**
  - **Speakers:** André Leu, Sion Zivetz, Joshua Guinto

**Faculty/facilitators:**
- Trudy Juriansz
  - GEN Networking Director/ Learning Journey Designer
- Sarah Queblatin
  - GEN Regional Representative/ Learning Journey Designer
- Morag Gamble
  - Founder, Permaculture Education Institute/ Ethos Foundation, Australia

**Speakers**
- André Leu
  - Author, International Director of Regeneration International
- Sion Zivetz
  - Founder of Moonshadow Naturals, Sri Lanka; Facilitator for Gaia Education Ecosystems Restoration Camps online course

**Joshua Guinto**
- Founder of Bahay Teknik, professor and consultant, Philippines
**Economic Dimension (150-250 words)**

In general we saw an increased interest from the ReGEN Nations cohort in this topic - Economy, as well as from the broader public for the workshop and webinar. It was important for participants to talk about resources in particular money and widening their perspective to include other forms of capital.

We had an excellent workshop by Amanda Kiessel (co-found of the Good Market), which ensured there was engagement by participants with the variety of activities and break out groups. It really helped participants ground in understanding social enterprise and how to develop their own, which connected well to the intention of ReGEN Nations.

The webinar also included great speakers from the Asia and Oceania regions, who provided real time examples (Jo Jondai from Pun Pun Ecovillage and Thamturakit Social Enterprise, Thailand) and Shi Yan (Community Support Agriculture, China), while also acknowledging the importance of integrating traditional and indigenous worldviews into how we see the economy and our place in relation to that (Teina Boasa Dean, Maori Doughnut or Spiral Economy).

We also decided that it was important to increase the time of the webinars from 1.5 hours to 2 hours, as we wanted to dive deep into conversation with speakers and 1.5 hours wasn't enough.

Below is the program outline for the Economy Dimension.

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**ECONOMIC DIMENSION**

- **Review of Ecological Dimension and Introduction to Economic Dimension**
  - **Facilitators:** Sarah Queblatin & Trudy Juriansz

- **Building resilience & exploring self-sustaining models**
  - **Facilitators:** Sarah Queblatin & Trudy Juriansz

- **Social Enterprise and Resilient Local Economies**
  - **Facilitator:** Amanda Kiessel

- **Designing Circular and Local Economies for Regenerative Ecosystems**
  - **Speakers:** Teina Boasa-Dean, Shi Yan, Jon Jondai

**Faculty/facilitators:**
- **Trudy Juriansz**
  - GEN Networking Director/ Learning Journey Designer
- **Sarah Queblatin**
  - GEN Regional Representative/ Learning Journey Designer
- **Amanda Kiessel**
  - Co-founder of Good Market (Global)

**Speakers**
- **Teina Boasa-Dean**
  - Co-author and inspirational speaker, the Maori worldview of Donut Economics
Design Dimension (150-200 words)
By the last month, we found more participants were attending the final sessions, completing their action learnings and preparing for their final presentations of their prototype project using ecovillage design.

We had a great workshop led by Transition Towns, led by representatives from Japan and Australia, which will prove to be a great partnership for GENOA in the future, as they have expressed their gratitude to work with us and to be involved again in the future or possibly collaborating on a project together.

The final webinar was well attended, with over 50 participants. We realise this could be due to having a prominent leader and trainer, such as David Holmgren. The three speakers for the webinar represented a different aspect of whole systems design using the ecovillage lens. Although it was challenging to weave the conversation, it went well and we also had a little time at the end for questions from participants.

Below is the program outline for the Whole Systems Design Dimension.

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<td><strong>WHOLE SYSTEM DESIGN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Review of Economic Dimension and Introduction to Whole Systems Design</td>
<td>Project Prototyping Setting up the final output (presentation of projects)</td>
<td>Transition Town Workshop</td>
<td>Applying Whole Systems Design in Enabling Regenerative Communities - Retrosuburbia, Ecovillage Design &amp; Revitalising Rural Villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facilitators</strong>: Sarah Queblatin &amp; Trudy Juriansz</td>
<td><strong>Facilitators</strong>: Sarah Queblatin &amp; Trudy Juriansz</td>
<td><strong>Facilitators</strong>: Shunro, Paul &amp; Mary.</td>
<td><strong>Speakers</strong>: David Holmgren, Verena Maclean, Karen Xintong Wang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Call - Closing</td>
<td>Seed grant, presentation of certificates &amp; closing circle</td>
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We held two sessions for the teams to do their final presentations, having 10 teams who pre-registered so we coordinated for five teams to present on one day and 5 the next. All presentations were well thought through, with creative and impactful intentions at their heart. We shortlisted 7 projects, and from that group, we shortlisted to 3 projects. These projects will receive a small seed grant of $150 USD each to support their project to start and develop. The 3 shortlisted projects are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jalan Senang - urban community garden aiming to be a CSA in Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eco-community - rural education community center for youth in Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaia’s children - a well-being initiative to support people who are facing cancer in Vietnam</td>
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In our last session with participants, we announced the finalists who will receive this seed grant, presented the Gaia Education certificates and had a beautiful closing circle. It was a bit emotional for some participants as we have been journeying together for the past 6 months and this will indeed be closing of a beautiful chapter in their lives.

**Faculty/facilitators:**

**Trudy Juriansz**
GEN Networking Director/ Learning Journey Designer

**Sarah Queblatin**
GEN Regional Representative/ Learning Journey Designer

**Shunro Yoshida**
Co-founder & Trainer of Transition Japan; representative of Transition Network in Asia

**Mary Stringer**
Co-founder of Transition Towns Australia and Transition Banyule; Co-editor of the Transition Streets Workbook

**Paul Shelton**
Founder of Growing Spaces, Convener of Transition Australia & National Hub of the Transition Towns

**Speakers**

**Verena Maclean**
Chair of Narara Ecovillage, Australia; Founder and Director of The Working Journey

**David Holmgren**
Co-originator of the permaculture concept; Author of RetroSuburbia and Our Street

**Karen Xintong Wang**
Director-General of Sunshine Ecovillage, China; Secretary of China Ecovillage Network
Design Studio Case Studies

Chrisdel de la Flor and Jestan Mendame formed the team E-commune to join the ReGEN-Nations program with a project idea in mind. However at that point they did not know where to start and how to utilize the resources around them. They shared that the program equipped them with “important skills and knowledge of all aspects to organize and approach the project”. “The ReGEN-Nations program has guided our leadership and perspective in approaching the Project. We were able to incorporate significant (whole systems) principles into our practices. It has expanded the scope and added so much value to our project. The Program has enabled us to organize our strategies and has given us specific ideas and steps on how to work on our project successfully.” - shared E-commune.

(Left: Hilway project members/ Right: Children and youth involved with the community project)

At the end of the program, together with their project members, Chrisdel and Jestan developed the project into **Project Hilway: Rebuilding a Communal Space for a Rural Village in Iloilo, Philippines.** The aim of project Hilway is to create a shared space and community learning center for children and youth at a rural village Barangay in Iloilo, Philippines whose education were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

See other project-featured stories of the program here.
Lessons Learned (50-300 words)

As a prototype, we learned so much along the way. While running an EDE was not new for most of the team members who have facilitated them in the past, doing it entirely online was a big adjustment. Given that different countries participating may have different levels of access, connection, and most importantly – capacity to gather as a team due to quarantine restrictions during the pandemic, participation became sporadic at some point. Despite this, out of 16 teams, only 3 were not active.

Because running more time virtually beyond a maximum of 3 hours was too much, we had limited spaces for interactions and peer to peer learning. Having more than 2 persons representing a team in key sessions (except for webinar and workshop), may have limited active engagement of team members to help complete their action learning outputs. The pandemic restrictions to gather and consult stakeholders have limited the teams to put together their action learning outputs given some may be more effective if done in person or on site. Adjustments for the above to give flexibility are something we are considering for the next cycle.

Because whole systems thinking is at the core of the design process, having it at the end as the last segment may limit the understanding of a holistic paradigm at the start of the session.

While a seed fund was sourced towards the end of the program, we hope to generate more funds to have a better amount that teams that receive it can work with.

Lastly, it is our aim that a more long term design to see this as a high impact, self sustaining program can emerge from what we have started.

Key trends from the Gaia Education Survey Monkey evaluations, using words and charts if possible.

Our team has analysed all the results and created a report from the results. Please go here to see the report. To date 16 participants from the ReGEN Nations cohort, have responded to the survey.

We generally received good feedback about the course, participants' expectations, its delivery as per advertised, well organised and fulfilled learning outcomes, with between 55 to 60% of the survey respondents rating the course “very well” (highest rating) for these 4 areas. The table below gives an overview.
The overall quality and the organisers of the program also received high ratings, with between 50 to 77% respondents giving a rating of 5, the highest, as below.

Most respondents said they joined the course so they could learn about GEN, ecovillages, design and implementing projects.

The overall quality of all dimensions also received high ratings, with over 80% respondents giving ratings of 4 and 5 (highest scores) for each dimension as summarised below.
Their experience with the ReGEN Nations learning community (zoom, GEN Online Learning platform, time balance) overall also received excellent ratings as below.

Key strengths identified by the participants of the course were:
Some ideas for improvement were suggested:

We also found that the course was useful for many participants in applying the knowledge and skills to their project prototypes and thinking through ideas as well as other applications. See below for the summary of how participants will apply their knowledge and skills gained from ReGEN Nations.

Summary of projects/activities participants intend to engage in, inspired by their attendance in the course (50 - 150 words):

Majority of the 10 prototypes that emerged were largely ecological in nature from community gardens, to food forests, regenerative agriculture, and support for farmers. Unique projects were for health care and well-being and peacebuilding.
At the end of the program, many participants shared the intention of applying further the models and frameworks that they've learnt from the program. Some were also inspired to pass on their learning to local communities by creating learning hubs, exchange groups or regenerative networks.

Concise financial information showing income/expenditure.

The project did not receive funding from Gaia Education.

Participant Quotes

(Please find participant photos here)

“All the speakers were very poignant! A great diverse range of speakers - yet complimented each other (philosophically, practically and from indigenous world views)! Excellent! “ - Thalea Tane, New Zealand (Economic webinar participant)

“I want to take this opportunity to thank the ReGEN Team for the amazing learning you have offered me and I would like to say that I have learnt an immense amount throughout the last 6 months. I look forward to one day to be able to become a ReGEN Ambassador in the future.” Eve Ballard, Australia (program participant)

"I am sharing my gratitude here for taking part in the ReGen Nations program, that it’s a life changing two hours in my life. It helped me to collect myself to think of life. Connecting from only what I have learnt today, I got a complete picture of what Ms. Dishani (my mentor and coach) always says about " COMMUNITY ", and the dream of healing vibes (the name of the community we are dreaming collectively), listening to people who live in that kind of vision... I could see how it functions and how we can connect with people .... It is Exciting, it is revolutionary ! Because it's about how we are going to build the planet of ours, having its authentic governing system in a nonviolent way and to find the nation we want without harming anyone. Glad that I am sharing the most divine moment with you all!" - Sinsan, Sri Lanka (Whole Systems Design webinar participant)

“We are just deeply grateful for the experience and the excellent program! The genuine passion of the organisers is evident and inspiring. This Program by GENOA is one of its kind and we'd like to congratulate the Team for a job very well done. ” - Anonymous (extracted from evaluation form)