

An Assessment of the United Nations Principles for  
Responsible Management Education (PRME)

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## **Abstract**

Although the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) was introduced in 2007, there is little or no research examining the impacts of PRME on its signatories. PRME introduced a Sharing Information on Progress (SIP) Policy in 2008 requiring its signatories to produce SIP reports on their progress on the implementation of PRME. The study aims to measure the impacts of PRME, influential reasons for supporting PRME, activities reported in 212 SIP reports written in English by 180 signatories and how PRME differs from other voluntary declarations on sustainability in higher education. The study comprises a six part methodological process, comprising; (1) surveying 171 signatories to examine impacts of PRME and influential reasons in supporting PRME, (2) the first part of content analysis of 212 SIP reports to examine the quality of reported activities, (3) the second part of content analysis of 212 SIP reports to examine the quality of reports, (4) the content analysis of the website information of six Australian non-PRME business schools to examine whether activities of the PRME signatories differ from those of non-PRME institutions, (5) examination of characteristics of the PRME signatories in terms of the size of institutions, locations, countries of origin, their accreditation statuses and academic membership in the United Nations Global Compact and (6) a comparative assessment of PRME and other declarations in the higher education sector. The study shows that PRME does not make significant changes in the activities of its signatories. The signatories do not understand the principles and their concepts due to lack of clarity of the concepts framed in the principles.

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## List of Abbreviation

AACSB	The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business
AAS	African Academy of Science
AAU	Association of American Universities
ACE	American Council on Education
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
ACU	Association of Commonwealth Universities
ACUPCC	American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment
AMBA	Association of MBAs
AUCC	Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada
CHEA	Council for Higher Education Accreditation
CRE	Conference of European Rectors
EESD	Engineering Education in Sustainable Development
ELT	Experiential learning theory
EQUIS	European Quality Improvement System
EUA	European University Association
FT	Financial Times

GHESP	Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership
GULF	Global University Leader Forum
IAU	International Association of Universities
IUCN	World Conservation Union
ICSU	International Council for Science
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ID	Interdisciplinary
IGU	International Geographical Union
ISCN	International Sustainable Campus Network
MD	Multidisciplinary
NGO	Non-governmental Organisations
PBL	Problem based learning
PRME	Principles for Responsible Management Education
RCE	Regional Centre of Expertise
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
RSI	Regional Sustainability Initiative
SCA	Science Council of Asia
SIP	Sharing Information on Progress

TUG	Technical University Graz
TWAS	Third World Academy of Sciences
UK	United Kingdom
ULSF	University Leaders for a Sustainable Future
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDESD	United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNU	United Nations University
US	United States
WFEO	World Federation of Engineering Organisations