

## 10<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference | Working with local communities

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

### Asia Pacific (AP) Continental Meeting

15:00-17:00, 23 November 2016



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute for the Advanced Study  
of Sustainability

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Facilitators: Jen Dollin (RCE Greater Western Sydney, GWS) and Munirah Ghazali (RCE Penang)

The interest in collaboration to implement the GAP and the SDGs was strong. Action points had been defined in the regional action plans as discussed during the last regional meeting of 2016. One of the major issues was only 30 % of RCEs were reporting so there was little or no information on specific RCEs' activities.

### Key Discussion Points

#### 1) Inter-RCE Collaborations

The AP network celebrated and shared the 2015/2016 collaborations, with at least 30 RCEs collaborating and connecting across the region. Projects outlined included research programmes, virtual meetings and conferences, university and school students study exchanges and school students virtual connections. Below is a list of examples:

- **RCE Cha-am** hosted the latest 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Meeting in June with representation from 26 RCEs. This was held in conjunction with the International Conference on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the SDGs: Policy and Practice and the 1<sup>st</sup> IPBES Capacity Building Workshop on Policy Support.
- **RCE Penang** had an inter-RCE project with RCE Greater Phnom Penh and RCE Southern Vietnam, supported by the Ministry of Education, Malaysia. Three workshops had been held.
- **RCE Tongyeong's** Sejahtera Forest Centre "Wellbeing Harmony and co-existence": 23 RCEs celebrated the opening of the Sejahtera Forest Centre in 2015; During the 8<sup>th</sup> ESD International Forum 10 RCEs visited in 2016; Bridge to the World programme connected South Korean High School students with RCEs globally for a one week exchange in one research area; Upcoming opportunity for a youth camp in 2017 for participating Bridge to the World students and partnering with other RCEs; Business of Sustainable Tourism programme led by RCE Greater Western Sydney for a two week study programme with participation from Yonsie University and Gyeongsang National University in July 2016; RCE Penang virtual collaboration; Sejahtera Forest Centre Research Fellowship with RCE Penang for a three-month comparative research study.
- **RCE Waikato** Climate Change Initiative ESD with RCE Skåne and RCE Iskandar; The Marrakesh COP City based initiative links with non-state stakeholders around policy.
- **RCE Iskandar** was working on a living lab project with La Trobe University (host of RCE Murray-Darling) and other international partners.

- **RCE Okayama** created the ESD Okayama Award in collaboration with UNU-IAS, and had received a number of applications from RCEs globally; Student language exchange program with RCE Greater Western Sydney (GWS), including a visit to RCE GWS in October; Exchange and sharing visit with RCE Tongyeong around ESD.
- **RCE Yogyakarta** River Restoration programme

## **2) Inter-governmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and Asian Pacific RCEs**

The IPBES Capacity Building Workshop was held during the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (24 RCEs participated), with its main purpose to identify the knowledge gap for self-assessment. A number of RCEs volunteered to undertake the IPBES assessment/scoping exercise to assess their work on biodiversity and ecosystems. The database is connected with 1,200 experts and can be very informative for policy-relevant work.

A key point from the meeting was to find a programme that all RCEs could connect too, with a focus on biodiversity, river health, food, ecosystems health and services and indigenous knowledge. It was suggested that the database should have a stronger indigenous knowledge component.

## **3) Future Collaborations**

The current AP RCE coordinating committee was in need of volunteers. The current committee consisted of RCE GWS, RCE Tongyeong, RCE Waikato, RCE Iskandar, RCE Chennai and RCE Pengang. In addition, the Asia-Pacific RCE network had a new Regional Adviser Kiran Chhokar.

Potential Future Collaborations:

- **RCE Tongyeong:** Bridge to the World programme to connect with RCEs; An international youth camp for 15 days would welcome applicants from their RCEs; Sejahtera Forest Centre Research Fellowship programme; 24/24 program to virtually connect 24 schools in 24 hours to share project stories.
- **RCE Chennai:** VET eye health programs training 300 students to assist with new optical shops and treatments/intervention. Looking to upscale across India, or regionally.
- Expansion of IPBES programme to look at including more RCEs and RAMSARS wetlands (RCE Iskandar)
- **RCE Central Semenanjung:** Disadvantaged Children programme
- **RCE GWS:** future collaboration with a multi-discipline university student study in partnership with RCE Bohol.
- Indonesian RCE youth groups had a yearly call for applications

## **Action Points**

### **1) AP Action Plan to be circulated and further discussion on strategic definition of the region**

As part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Meeting three action plans were created around three themes namely community, higher education and schools and youth. Each action plan had inputs from RCEs and looked at addressing the GAP and SDGs. The points submitted were compiled by the secretariat around each theme and will be circulated to the AP network for commenting. At each future annual meeting the progress will be documented. Things to consider when looking at the Action Plans towards SDGs include:

What aspects require more attention? How would that look in more detail? How can one mobilise and activate RCEs?

### **2) Organising Committee**

The AP RCE coordinating committee was now represented by RCE GWS, RCE Tonygeong, RCE Waikato, RCE Iskandar, RCE Chennai and RCE Penang. Five new volunteers will join the committee.

### **3) Reporting**

Many AP RCEs were keen to share (especially verbally during the meeting) what they were doing, however many RCEs did not submit annual reports. Although most RCEs asked for information on expertise in certain areas and resources on 'who is doing what', some still had difficulties in accessing the report template. The network was trying to encourage all RCEs to complete and submit their end of year reports.