

**11<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference: Education for the Sustainable Development Goals**  
**7-9 December, 2018, Cebu, the Philippines**



**Plenary IV**  
**Closing of Day 1**  
**7 December, 2018, Cebu, the Philippines**

**Presenter: Prof. Mario Tabucanon (UNU-IAS)**

Prof. Mario Tabucanon from UNU-IAS began the final session of the day by explaining it would comprise of a brief recap of the day. The recap was then presented:

“This morning, Cherry [Maria Rosario Piquero-Ballescas] mentioned this conference is a celebration of local and global partnership. This is the 11th time that the global RCE community have celebrated the activities that have been undertaken over the last decade and three years. Cherry also mentioned and gave us a message that said that at the end of the day, we should end up with laughter from the heart. Today, we will complement that with another message, that we will be ending the day with reflections from the mind – reflections from what you’ve heard, lessons we’ve learned from this morning and this afternoon. To give a comprehensive recap and a true and accurate reflection is mission impossible. So I will cite some of the features and messages in bits and pieces, and leave it to you to assemble the messages we heard.

The Vice President of the University of the Philippines started with the message that multi-stakeholder partnership for community service is an essential element for implementing sustainable development (SD). She also said that in the Philippines it is by law that universities must engage in community service, which is part and parcel of curricula. That was a strong and powerful message to begin with. Then the University of the Philippines Cebu Chancellor also underscored that the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should take centre stage, because these goals provide entry points for the RCEs to focus their actions on. She encouraged that we use the SDGs for this purpose and integrate the framework of SD in design of all curricula in all fields. As you know, Japan has been the champion in advancing Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). In 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, it was the Japanese Government that proposed that the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) be adapted from 2005-2014. Therefore we commend the leadership of the United Nations University (UNU), and also the generosity of the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ) for all of the resources to keep the RCE movement sustainable, vibrant and alive over the years. Also, the Global RCE Service Centre, providing a service to the global network, provided you with a progress of development over the last year. In response, we need from you to get involved, to use the communication, tools, and media to showcase what you have done and are doing.

We were fortunate to have the Philippines Vice President appearing on screen, and she also underlined the importance of education as a key to solve SD problems. It is verifying to hear that from someone at the national level. A representative of the Mayor mentioned they have been doing this partnership with civil society since 1988 – three decades ago, but now with SDGs, they are trying to align these with the 17 goals, and he gave us examples of what they have been doing. He talked about localising, and how they fit the conditions of Cebu City.

Then we heard UNESCO's role on leadership and experience on the challenges and mapping of SDG 4.7 strategies, the gap areas and RCE actions that could be done. That is a good overview of the synergies and what could be entry points for the RCEs. We had an exciting panel discussion where RCEs from all the four regions gave us examples and others gave us possibilities for how we could engage with RCEs, as well as good suggestions we can pursue.

This afternoon, we had real case studies and activities of the RCEs shared in the context of SDGs – People, Prosperity and Planet. Very exemplary actions by the RCEs that you could learn from each other from. I was in the People session and I was very impressed, where they were cultivating the role of the youth in the SDG movement. One thing was clear, that all the presentations had one message, that is the education agenda and the development agenda are getting closer. They used to be far apart. You cannot talk about education without talking about development, and vice versa. I am sure that was the case in all presentations, the bridge getting shorter, actions getting more coherent – that is a very positive development. It is up to you to look at it from your own perspective.

Tomorrow we will have Regional Meetings – continue what you have done at your regional meetings a few months ago. After that, we will break into capacity building workshops where we will all learn. It's from the RCEs, for the RCEs, by the RCEs, all learning together. We hope you had an exciting day and that tomorrow will be the same.”