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# RCE Bulletin

R C E A N D E S D N E W S

## In Focus: RCE Makana's Africulture programme bridges science and traditional medicine

RCE Makana located in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa is involved with various community development activities through local NGOs and departments of the Rhodes University. One such NGO is Umthathi, which works on community development issues mainly through Africulture programme and permaculture activities.

The Africulture programme at Umthathi is focused on promoting the sustainable management and use of indigenous medicinal plants that local traditional health practitioners can make use of for their health care practices. This programme also promotes involvement of harvesters and traders of medicinal plants.

The Eastern Cape region is recognised as one of the most important biodiversity hotspots of the eight that are recognised in Africa. However, due to their unique biomes and limited ranges, most of the species that are used for medicinal purposes are vulnerable to extinction from over-harvesting. This unsustainable harvesting has severely impacted the availability of quality medicines for the rural public who depend mainly on traditional health practitioners to provide remedial and sustainable health care.

The overall goal of Umthathi's Africulture programme is to improve access to health care from traditional practices through training and advocacy programmes to support sustainable cultivation of indigenous medicinal plants.

Some objectives of the programme are to:

- reduce stress on wild plant populations
- promote endemic thicket vegetation
- ensure sustainable supply of quality medicinal plants
- empower people with traditional knowledge and health practices
- develop sustainable livelihoods

The Africulture programme has had many teething problems in the initial stages and some of them were eye openers in terms of understanding the traditional health

practices and application of such knowledge. Traditional health practitioners rely on local harvesters and traders for medicinal plants; local traders are very guarded and do not understand bioprotection and biopiracy; traditional health practitioners generally do not cultivate their own or dictate proper maintenance of plants; rural communities are generally illiterate and have difficulty in organising and documenting their practices; traditional health practitioners find it hard to comprehend modern propagation and irrigation techniques; and more importantly traditional health practitioners and cultivators have limited knowledge of variation in phytochemical constituents depending on the species and strain.

In this scenario, there needs to be concerted efforts to understand local health traditions and integrate science to benefit all involved in this sector. This can only be achieved through:

- creating awareness and regular training of traditional health practitioners
- collection and propagation of important and commonly used medicinal plants
- assisting traditional health practitioners to form collection groups and produce medicinal preparations as per traditional knowledge
- include community based programmes to emphasise the use of local traditions to younger generations to ensure continuity of knowledge
- create awareness on prevailing national and international bio-protection and bio-piracy issues

RCE Makana's current activities are mainly focused on the sustainable use of medicinal plants for the economic benefit of local communities; quality, safety and efficacy of complementary medicines; health care education and basic education towards food security; and bioprotection. RCE Makana, through the Rhodes University, has also been working on developing analytical techniques and markers to study commercially important plants. This activity has provided much needed scientific support to all involved in the propagation and use of medicinal plants.

As an example, *Sceletium species spp.* is one of the most widely used cultivated medicinal plants in recent times in South Africa. This plant is claimed to be effective in treating

psychological disorders and has been historically used by the Khoi-San tribes of southern Africa. However due to rampant harvesting and pillaging the plant is near extinction in the wild, and is presently cultivated in green houses. Most of the cultivators have different strains and species which have different alkaloidal composition leading to a major quality control problem. Ongoing chemotaxonomic studies have significantly helped in understanding the *Sceletium* species and the study has successfully been used in its propagation. This ongoing study has helped in the sustainable development of this plant through commercial cultivation in various regions of South Africa.

Seed collection programmes have been organised by Umthathi as an annual event with traditional health practitioners. This activity is scheduled for March-April 2010. There are also plans in place to introduce co-operative societies in rural communities to improve livelihoods.

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## Database on Learning for Sustainable Development launched

RCE Rhine-Meuse and RCE Graz-Styria are involved in an EU-funded project called 3-Lensus (Lifelong Learning Network for Sustainable Development), which aims to create a database to collect and share innovative projects promoting ESD. The 3-Lensus project focuses on the key issue of the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation, for regional sustainable development.

RCE contributions to the database will help build this virtual library and provide knowledge on past and ongoing experiences of research activities and actual delivery of ESD in a variety of formats and settings.

The projects included in the database will focus on:

- multiple stakeholder orientation (a university / research institution + at least one other regional actor involved)
- regional sustainable development
- lifelong learning

An e-learning or blended learning component is regarded as an additional value.

Projects included will comprise all levels of lifelong learning, formal learning such as educational activities at school, and on sustainable regional development focusing on non-formal and informal learning as well as knowledge-creation among participants.

RCEs are invited to contribute their projects on sustainable development to the database. RCEs may register at

<http://www.leuphana.de/3lensus/moodle/login/index.php>; there is no registration fee.

More information on the 3-Lensus project, its aims and contents is available at [www.3-lensus.eu](http://www.3-lensus.eu).

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## Sustainable building

Zuyd University in the Netherlands and a number of regional partners of RCE Rhine Meuse have launched a project called *The District of Tomorrow*, where research and development is organised in a real environment with real buildings. New functional buildings are designed by students, based on a zero concept (zero emission, zero energy, zero impact), and designs are judged. Prize-winning designs are built for further applied research.

An upcoming activity of the project is the Sustainable Building (SB) 10 conference ([www.sb10.nl](http://www.sb10.nl)) to be held in October.

Information on the project, in Dutch, is available at [www.dewijkvanmorgen.nl](http://www.dewijkvanmorgen.nl)

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## Sustainable Mobility Plan for Greater Sudbury

What would it take to get you to walk or ride your bike more? This is the question that Rainbow ROUTES Association, on behalf of the City of Greater Sudbury and partners, has been asking residents in order to develop a Sustainable Mobility Plan for the community.

The Sustainable Mobility Plan (SMP) for the City of Greater Sudbury will assist in moving the community forward in terms of active transportation strategies and initiatives. With a focus on low income populations, the plan will examine the mobility of people and its impact on health, the environment, and the economy.

The plan to foster active transportation (walking, cycling and public transportation) as a viable means of commuting and carrying out daily activities is being funded by the Government of Ontario's Ministry of Health Promotion. Over 1200 members of the community have provided input so far through public sessions, focus groups and online and

intercept surveys. The plan has also attracted wide media coverage.

The study will assist in fulfilling the City's vision of becoming the Most Pedestrian-Friendly City in Ontario by 2015.

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## Conference on ethnic and religious issues in Samara

A conference on the Ethnic and Religious Issues in the region was held on 11 February 2010 at the Samara State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering (SSUACE) in Russia. The Samara Ministry of Science and Education was also part of the conference organising committee. One of the conclusions reached at the conference was that of the spiritual value of patriotism, a view that veterans, leaders of youth organisations, teaching staff and students of SSUACE agreed upon.

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## RCE Crete launched

RCE Crete, consisting of a wide network of regional stakeholders led by the UNESCO Chair ICT in ESD at the University of Crete, was recently launched. The RCE aims to work with those regional organisations and sectors that have the capacity to integrate the vision of sustainability and to lead personal and community-based transformation. The RCE is currently working on its flagship project to develop an action plan to transform the city of Rethymon into a model sustainable city. An international conference on Sustainable Cities will soon be announced to this end.

RCEs with knowledge on the topic are invited to contribute.

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## RCE Guwahati organises meet for School Eco-Clubs

RCE Guwahati in partnership with Aaranyak, CEE (Centre for Environment Education) North East and Institute of Engineers, India organised a district level meet for the eco-clubs of the district on 27 February 2010.

Students and teachers from 27 eco-clubs affiliated to the National Green Corps of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India, participated in the event.



*Eco-club members*

The main objective of the programme was to provide eco-clubs a platform to share their experiences at the district level, to strengthen the National Green Corps Programme in the District, and promote ESD. Speakers at the event talked about the environmental and conservation challenges in the region and an interactive session discussed lifestyle issues that have sustainability impacts. A poster exhibition was also held at the venue for eco-clubs to showcase their activities.

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## Spring update from RCE Grand Rapids

The City High-Middle Schools, a member of RCE Grand Rapids, now ranks among the top schools in the United States. This is a school that offers interdisciplinary, college preparatory humanities, science and technology curriculum created under the auspice of the Centre for Economicology, a combination of economics and ecology and one of the fundamentals for achieving sustainability.

Another member, Calvin College, is focusing attention on the many aspects of water during 2009-2010. Examples of programmes include caring for local watersheds and

managing water in an urban setting. The Grand Valley State University has progressed the development of a number of sustainability themes, certificates, majors and minors including an Environmental Studies minor, a Liberal Studies major with an emphasis on sustainability, and a Certificate in Green Chemistry, among others. Approximately fifteen percent of all student credit hours are now taken in sustainability-related subject matter.

The West Michigan Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a member of RCE Grand Rapids, is engaged in a study to assess the performance of LEED certified buildings in the region. The organisation is also supporting college students in the area who are participating in the Emerging Green Building-Natural Talent design competition, an annual national competition that encourages college students and young professionals to pursue a deeper understanding of sustainable design strategies in architecture and design.

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## RCE Graz-Styria receives Austrian Sustainability Award 2010

The Austrian Sustainability Award is an initiative by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. Awards are given out every two years in eight categories to outstanding projects at higher education institutions in Austria. RCE Graz-Styria received the award under the category of Regional Integration, at a ceremony in Vienna in March.



*RCE Graz members receive award*

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## Activities of RCE Nizhny Novgorod

RCE Nizhny Novgorod, whose key members include the Nizhny Novgorod State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering, the Volgo-Vyatsky Public Administration Academy, the NGO Social Rehabilitation, NGO Nizhny Novgorod Centre of Socio-economic Expertise, Mega-Ikea Nizhny Novgorod, and Secondary school # 47, has three projects in its portfolio.

The Nizhny Novgorod Youth Programme, one of the three projects, organised a student visit to a Social Rehabilitation Centre for Juveniles recently, and the Nizhny Novgorod Reintegration Programme helped organise a presentation on new approaches for the employment of disabled people. A meeting was also held with the regional government to present the activities of the Reintegration Programme to attract its support, with positive results.

A student conference *Economy and society: social adaptation for sustainable development* was the starting event of the project Social Adaptation Projects for Sustainable Development. A competition on the topic among students of the Volgo-Vyatsky Public Administration Academy and the Nizhny Novgorod State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering was an outcome of the conference. The second stage of the competition will be held between the end of March and early April.

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## ESD Week 2010 Held in Okayama

ESD projects from all over Okayama were brought together under the ESD Week 2010 that ran from 27 February to 7 March 2010. The event aimed to broaden the understanding of the general public. Activities were divided into two: (1) four projects led by Okayama City and (2) 22 projects from the various members of the RCE network. Participants were then organised into three groups: Type A (those previously unaware of ESD), Type B (those already participating in ESD activities) and Type C (ESD promoters).

For Type A participants, environmentally active celebrities gave easy-to-understand and entertaining presentations on sustainable development to an audience of approximately 300. A photo exhibition on the traditions and cultures of the Asia-Pacific region was also held. Around 100 participants in the Type B group had access to information seminars

organised by various RCE stakeholders. A round table discussion was organised for Type C participants around the theme of the Future of RCE Okayama. This brought together 25 influential RCE members and external experts to share the contributions of RCE Okayama in the past five years as well as the future challenges for promoting ESD in the community.

Events of the ESD week were covered by local newspapers and radio stations, with the success of this event prompting plans for a similar event next year.

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## RCE Ilocos launched

RCE Ilocos, the third RCE in the Philippines, was officially launched on 6 January 2010 at the premises of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) in conjunction with the 32nd Anniversary of the University Foundation Day. The launching was witnessed by about 2,500 people composed of MMSU faculty, students, alumni, as well as representatives of local government agencies, nongovernmental organisations, civil society, and other organisations including the Ilocos Norte Science Community and the Commission on Higher Education Zonal Research Centre.

A Garden Show that demonstrated sustainable local food and food-related products and technologies was also part of the event.

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## Sustainability pays!

Sustainability pays! is a concept developed by the city of Kerkrade and RCE Rhine-Meuse. It is a series of annual events to showcase the benefits of sustainable behaviour and actions. Best practices, projects, job markets, educational offers and interactivity for the participants is the formula. This year the event was split over two days. On 20 January a games day was organised for primary school children. On 28 January a day of activities and discussions was organised for secondary school kids. Workshops where participants made batteries with raspberry juice or learned about recycling materials were organised, along with presentations and discussions. The climate debate between a group of children, local politicians and business people was especially successful.

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## RCE Greater Sendai: ESD in wetlands and rice paddies

2010 has been declared the International Year of Biodiversity. This coupled with the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) to be held in Nagoya in October is expected to contribute to an increase in people's concern on biodiversity in Japan.

RCE Greater Sendai has been working in the Osaki-Tajiri area over the last several years. The area is characterised by wetlands and rice paddies, and is recognized by the Ramsar Convention. Every winter, hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, particularly geese, come to the area. People in the communities have therefore adopted ways in which the natural environment can coexist with human needs.

This year, on 14 February, Osaki city held the Ramsar Festival 2010 and invited participants from Changwon City in Korea, to report on a similar wise use approach to wetland and rice paddies. At the event, students of Tajiri Junior-High School reported on their research about biodiversity in rice paddy environments and local cultures. Students of Tajiri Sakura High School made a presentation about the youth conference on biological diversity held in Osaki city in 2009, and talked about their ESD actions in their school. The youth conference is expected to be held again in June.



*Young children learn about paddy ecosystems*

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## New partner of RCE Skåne

The non-governmental organisation Sustainable Development Skåne (Hållbar Utveckling Skåne, [www.hutskane.nu](http://www.hutskane.nu)) works with ecological, social and economical sustainability issues and for increased

collaboration with other organisations. The 80 member organisations of Sustainable Development Skåne include Lund and Malmö Universities, Swedish Red Cross National Centre, the private energy company E-on, the international technical consultant company Sweco, and 30 municipalities in Skåne.

One of the network's projects is ClimateEveryday, a collaboration aimed at increasing public participation in sustainable development.



*The logo of Climate Everyday*

ClimateEveryday is a collaborative project run by Sustainable Development Skåne together with Region Skåne and Skåne Association of Local Authorities. As part of the project, 176 families in Skåne will learn more about energy-consumption, food, transportation and waste management through lectures and group discussions. Participating families apply to the project voluntarily and undertake to take five steps towards a more sustainable lifestyle during the year. The aim is to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle and in the long run to reduce the families' carbon footprint.

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## RCE Swaziland: community youth work to restore eroded land

In the last year, RCE Swaziland has been working to mobilise youth for sustainable development actions. Students at the University of Swaziland (UNISWA) were provided assistance to organise themselves and pursue environment and sustainability-related activities. Students were also tasked with influencing other youth organisations to adopt the ESD agenda.

The students' organisation — UNIGEPS (University of Swaziland Geography, Environmental Science and Planning Society), is funded by the students themselves through annual subscriptions. Their parent department, Geography, Environmental Science and Planning (GEP), at the University of Swaziland provides them with support in kind. UNIGEPS' mission is *the quest for a sustainable environment* and their slogan *The environment is our responsibility*.

Deep gullies formed as a result of soil erosion are one of the environmental problems in Swaziland. Dlangeni, a rural

settlement situated 30 kilometres to the north east of the capital Mbabane, has faced severe soil erosion due to surface run-off. Dlangeni is one of the two areas where UNIGEPS, in collaboration with three member institutions of RCE Swaziland, have implemented environmental awareness activities. The other area is Mhlangatane, a rural settlement in the north-eastern border of Swaziland with South Africa.

The institutions which collaborated with UNIGEPS were the Swaziland Environment Authority, which hosts RCE Swaziland, Mbabane-Mbuluzi Rotary Club and UNISWA Rotary Club. The activities involved teaching the community about the causes of soil erosion, the importance of the prevention of soil erosion and strategies to rehabilitate eroded land. Thereafter, community members participated in the rehabilitation of eroded areas by applying the methods of construction of gabion cages and tree planting. Community members were taught how to handle and plant tree seedlings for land rehabilitation, and to construct gabion cages.

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## RCE Tongyeong : launching ESD curriculum at elementary schools

Based on ESD school curriculum development efforts since 2006, RCE Tongyeong is officially launching ESD curriculum for all elementary schools in Tongyeong area in collaboration with the Tongyeong education office.

The generalised curriculum for all grades and subjects contain the essence of programmes developed and implemented by the ESD model elementary schools of Inpyeong, Yongnam and Nampo in the past four years.



From April, RCE Tongyeong will offer online assistance to teachers to download and manage the curriculum, and provide budgetary support for schools to actively invite experts and citizen teachers to classes. Events to promote

teachers' participation, such as ESD curriculum development contests, are to follow.

RCE Tongyeong plans to promote the use of ESD curriculum in kindergarten, middle and high schools and university in all of Tongyeong by 2011, thus enabling all young people educated in Tongyeong to acquire basic knowledge of local and global sustainability.

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## RCE London's flagship projects underway

RCE London's three flagship projects are now under progress.

### London Teacher Education Network

The network is developing fast and now has representatives from over 10 teacher education organisations. Its objective over 5 years is to include all London teacher education organisations in order to push forward the reorienting of teacher education towards ESD.

Three research and development projects have already found some funding and support and will be taking place over the next year. RCE colleagues who are interested in teacher education would be greatly welcomed at this conference (**Information at [www.lsbu.ac.uk/ccci](http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/ccci)**).

### London Place Based Learning Network

Several research and development projects have already been started with schools in Tower Hamlets (East London) and Southwark (SE London). In addition a site-based ESD distance learning course is being developed in partnership with Botanic Gardens International, UK Field Studies Council, London Zoological Association, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. This will respond to the needs of staff who are responsible for education and communication to the various publics that they serve in botanic gardens, zoos, wetlands centres, museums and other sites.

In collaboration with the LSBU Education for Sustainability programme, a London Conference on Place Based Learning and ESD is being organised on 11 June 2010.

### London HE Curriculum Network

A partnership with University of East London has been established to develop the HE ESD network. A high level event is being planned for Senior Managers in London universities to get them on board. The project will build capacity and facilitate the embedding of education for sustainability in HE curriculum in London South Bank University and partner HE organisations.

Through the project RCE London will seek to address the key challenge of climate change within both policy and practice and engage with curriculum leaders, HE senior managers, tutors and students in order to promote the interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning which are essential for tackling the challenges of climate change within the wider framework of sustainable development. The project will recommend pathways to support current and future decision-makers to embed education for sustainability in curricula.

At LSBU an audit of sustainability in the HE curriculum has already been carried out and it is planned to extend this to universities across London. The HE network is also working with community groups promoting ESD to establish student internships with the support of the student led group *People and Planet*. This will help build links between the community and HE institutions in ESD. The London HE network is also working to reduce the carbon footprint of academics in the area of conference attendance by promoting sustainable travel and the use of video conference.

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## Eco-leadership programme for young workers in Montreal

The Eco-Leadership for Young Workers Programme, then in its early stages, was presented at the 4th International RCE Conference, in Montreal in May 2009, as part of a showcase of five outstanding ESD initiatives.

A first group of 15 young adults working in various areas participated in the programme in 2009. The goal was to support, stimulate and equip them to act proactively in their social environment. Their eco-project could take shape in the context of their regular professional activities (at their workplace) as well as within other areas of the community (at cooperatives, NGOs, municipalities, political parties, etc). Training and appropriate supervision for the projects was provided at evening or weekend meetings.

The Eco-Leadership for Young Workers Programme helped participants identify their needs and linked them with organisations or specialised institutions as well as with other youth facing similar challenges.

In the long-term, the programme will help young professionals set examples and eventually become mentors for other youth while establishing a network of young eco-leaders in a workplace setting.

A guide on the Ecoleadership Programme is being

developed for use by Canadian and other RCEs globally. The guide presents the various stages of the projects including those of identifying potential leaders and evaluating proposed initiatives, evaluating motivations and resources, identifying support and training needs and programme delivery.

The Eco-Leadership for Young Workers Programme was developed by RCE Montreal in partnership with the City of Montreal, the Biosphère and I.C.I. Environnement (a network of Québec universities active in the areas of technology and engineering related to the environment and sustainable development). It is also one of the actions included in the 2007-2009 phase of Montreal's First Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development.

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## RCE Wales launched

RCE Wales, launched on 1 February 2010, is led by the Swansea University and the University of Wales, Newport, and supported by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

The RCE is set to become a significant player in building an educational legacy that is expected to outlive the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014, and will help ESD players across the region to research, develop and promote high quality ESD and to increase its uptake and impact.

RCE Wales will serve as a focal point, facilitating coordination and increasing the impact of efforts of the individuals and organisations throughout Wales who are working voluntarily and professionally for sustainability aims, including further and higher-education institutions; schools; non-governmental organisations; private businesses and local authorities.

In Wales, ESDGC (Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship) is used as the formalised equivalent to the more usual ESD, and is considered equivalent to ESD as used in connection with the UN Decade for ESD. GC was added to the acronym to make explicit the social and global dimensions inherent in ESD[GC] and to avoid narrower interpretations which thereby lose some critical aspects of meaning.

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## International collaboration to develop student community services in Yogyakarta

The Gadjah Mada University, through RCE Yogyakarta, received student visitors from the Hanseo University of South Korea and Adger University of Norway, who worked on student community services for one week in February. One of the projects implemented by the students was the Green Project which included tree-planting activities and campaigns on sanitation and hygiene. Visiting students from Korea also presented their culture to community children, while the students from Norway conducted a capacity development training.

The visit also provided 15 scholarships to elementary school students. This collaborative activity between the three universities was aimed at sharing experiences and at providing examples to students about the importance of learning through community services.

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## Engineering Education for Sustainable Development

In view of the increasing need of qualified professionals to address sustainable development challenges of our modern life, engineering educators have also started to review and discuss current curriculum, methodology and pedagogies, aiming at a transformation of teaching and learning practices that will provide graduates the necessary instruments to deal with contemporary complex problems.

With this in view, UNU-IAS' ESD Programme, supported by the Australian Embassy and ProSPER.Net, organised an event on 10 February 2010 at UNU-IAS, to present initiatives on reorienting engineering education. The speakers Cheryl Desha and Karlson 'Charlie' Hargroves work with The Natural Edge Project (TNEP), an independent Sustainability Think-Tank based in Australia.

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## Teachers' training programme in Kyrgyzstan

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has adapted the Sustainable Development Strategy and continues its efforts to create a sustainable society. However there is a general lack of understanding of the main principles of sustainable development and its link to human development as well as a low awareness on ESD.

RCE Kyrgyzstan has been working at raising public awareness on ESD since September 2007 and has recently developed two projects to improve the capacity of teachers and state officials. The overall project objective is to build the capacity of decision makers and educators on sustainable development and on the DESD.

In particular the projects focus on the implementation of sustainable development principles in schools and higher education institutions, on the introduction of sustainable development principles in government systems, and access to information materials on SD and ESD.

So far, six training modules on SD and ESD have been conducted for government representatives and educators in the country. A training module, publication and CD in Russian have been developed and project materials disseminated. The module has also been translated in Kyrgyz.

The RCE is disseminating the training module among Kyrgyz school teachers and Higher Education Institutions. Participants in the training receive a certificate.

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## Finding synergies between four Graz Universities: Sustainability4U

In 2008 four universities in Graz—University of Graz, Graz University of Technology, Medical University Graz, and the University of Music and Performing Arts, jointly initiated Sustainability4U to combine their efforts on sustainable development.

This year, the team developed a lecture of 12 lessons each focusing on sustainable development from university specific view points. Starting in March lecturers from the four universities presented their research issues connected with sustainability, and demonstrated multiple perspectives and approaches. The initiative won the Austrian Sustainability Award this year under the category of Communication and Decision-making.

**More details are available at [www.sustainability4u.at](http://www.sustainability4u.at)**

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## RCE Bogota launched

RCE Bogota was launched on 12 February 2010 at the Human Sciences building at the National University of

Colombia. Directors and representatives from several other universities, from the Ministry of Environment, from other education institutions, from NGOs including the foundation School for Sustainability and the Young People's Network for the Environment, public agencies, media, business enterprises, students, professors and researchers attended the launch.

The RCE is led by the Environmental Training Network co-ordinated by the Institute of Environmental Studies – IDEA, at the National University of Colombia.

**For more information**  
**Olga Maria Bermúdez Guerrero**  
**RCE Bogota**  
**Professor IDEA-National University of Colombia**  
**[olgaber@gmail.com](mailto:olgaber@gmail.com)**

## RCE Phnom Penh launched

RCE Phnom Penh was launched on 3 March 2010 in conjunction with the 1st International Conference on Environmental and Rural Development (ICERD), held at the Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia. The conference was held to provide a platform to discuss sustainable rural development.

The lead institution of the RCE is the Royal University of Agriculture. The RCE aims to raise public awareness on the importance of harmony between farming practices and the natural environment. Among the challenges of the new RCE are enhancing food security, agriculture and environment education for elementary schools. The training of elementary school teachers with the collaboration of government agencies, universities, local NGOs and the local community is one of the activities planned by the RCE.

**For more information**  
**Sophea Tim**  
**RCE Greater Phnom Penh**  
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## Youth meet on climate change in Delhi

The two-day YUVA Meet 2010 on Understanding Climate Change through the social glass was organised by TERI (Tata Energy Research Institute), RCE Delhi, on 2-3 February 2010.

YUVA stands for Youth Unite for Voluntary Action, and the event aimed at providing youth with an overview of the emerging social challenges of climate change. The Meet brought together about 120 participants from India and 30 international participants from Asia and Europe. The two days of interaction and deliberation looked at both challenges and solutions. The meet touched upon the topics of population, culture, consumerism, urbanization, migration, ethics, environmental justice and sustainability, health and gender, as related to climate change. A contest

for the youth participants had them designing advertisements based on environmental problems.



Youth participants at the YUVA Meet in Delhi

A special session for youth members from Asia-Pacific RCEs was also organised during the event. Youth representatives from RCEs Chubu (Japan), Tongyeong (Korea), Penang (Malaysia), Kodagu (India), Lucknow (India) and Delhi presented some of the RCE's youth activities and brainstormed on joint collaborative projects that could be implemented across regions.

**For more information**

**Ranjeeta Buti**  
TERI, RCE Delhi  
[ranjeeta@teri.res.in](mailto:ranjeeta@teri.res.in)

## Conference on EU as Global Actor – Lund Calling 2009

The conference *EU as Global Actor – Lund Calling 2009* was an international event in association with the Swedish Presidency of the European Union and the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009. The aim was to strengthen the concept and the practice of ESD in the European context.

The conference gathered 400 policy makers, researchers, NGO representatives, teachers and school leaders, from 30 countries. Altogether 10 seminars and 17 workshops were presented by various stakeholders and organisations during the event. One of the workshops presented the concept of RCEs and RCE Skåne's work.

An 8-page baseline document on the EU as a global actor is now available at [www.lucsus.lu.se/lundcalling](http://www.lucsus.lu.se/lundcalling).

**For more information**

**Kerstin Sonesson**  
RCE Skåne  
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## UNESCO Chair on knowledge transfer

A UNESCO Chair on *Knowledge Transfer for Sustainable Development Supported by ICTs* is now situated at the School of Science at the Dutch Open University. Rietje van Dam-Mieras, Professor at the Open University of Netherlands, vice-rector of the University of Leiden, and member of the Dutch National UNESCO Committee is Chair-holder.

The Chair programme will help strengthen RCE research activities, particularly ones that address e-learning in formal and non-formal settings.

The official launch of the chair will be organised in cooperation with the other UNESCO Chair on ESD in the Netherlands at the Wageningen University, the National UNESCO Commission and the official National Decade Programme Learning for Sustainable Development. A seminar entitled *Crossing Boundaries and Expanding Horizons: Rethinking Education and Learning in an Era of (Un)sustainability* will be held, in the context, from 26-28 May.

**For more information**

**Jos Rikers**  
RCE Rhine-Meuse  
[j.rikers@rcerhine-meuse.org](mailto:j.rikers@rcerhine-meuse.org)

## RCE Guatemala's ESD activities

RCE Guatemala has recently initiated a programme of academic discussions on Indigenous and Universal Knowledge to encourage dialogue that would enrich university curricula and to explore the possibility of introducing indigenous knowledge into the current academic programme. Talks have been held in the history, social work, political science and architecture faculties at the national San Carlos University. Discussions are expected to be held in six other faculties this year.

In collaboration with the University Radio, RCE Guatemala has also initiated a half-hour radio programme every week on ESD. Each week one of the RCE's stakeholders introduces their activities as well as the activities of the network.

An Environmental and Conservation Programme has also been started through one of RCE Guatemala's members, the EFPEM (School of Teacher Training for Secondary Education). An abandoned nature park, *Las Ardillas*, belonging to the University is now being used to promote ESD activities, such as evaluating the human impacts on the environment and seminars on respecting the environment and helping the community, among university students, families, professors and other visitors.

**For more information**

**Eduardo Enrique Sacayon**  
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## ESD fora planned in Bogota, Colombia

RCE Bogota has planned six ESD fora to take place this year on issues related to natural and cultural diversity. The six fora planned are on the *Importance of Cultural Diversity in Colombia*, to be held at the National University of Colombia; *Towards a Sustainability Business Culture*, to be held at SENA, the Centre of Industrial Action; *the Importance of being a Megadiverse, Pluri-ethnic and Multicultural Country for Fostering Sustainable Development*, to be held at the Foundation - School for Sustainability; *Perspective toward Traditional Medicine*, to be held at the Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca University; *Cultural Diversity and Environmental School Projects (PRAES) within the Urban and Rural Context*, to be held at the Libre University; and *Cultural Adaptation to Climate Change* to be held at the Santo Tomás University.

**FOROS AMBIENTALES 2010**  
Diversidad Cultural y Natural

Organiza: RCE-BOGOTÁ RED TEMÁTICA DE EDUCACIÓN AMBIENTAL

**FORO 01**  
Tema: La importancia de la diversidad cultural en Colombia.  
Organiza: IDEA Universidad Nacional de Colombia.  
Fecha: 25 de Marzo 2010  
Hora: 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
Lugar: Auditorio Instituto de Genética Universidad Nacional de Colombia

**FORO 02**  
Tema: Hacia una cultura de la sustentabilidad empresarial e integración a la asamblea de la mesa de servicios ambientales.  
Organiza: SENA Centro de Gestión Industrial.  
Fecha: 30 de Abril de 2010  
Hora: 9:00am - 11:00am  
Lugar: Auditorio el giro hacia oriental - CR 15 N°31-42

**FORO 03**  
Tema: La importancia de ser un país megadiverso, pluricultural y multicultural, para apostar al Desarrollo Sustentable.  
Organiza: Fundación Escuela para la Sustentabilidad.  
Fecha: 19 de Agosto 2010  
Hora: 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
Lugar: Auditorio Teresa Cuervo Borda Museo Nacional de Colombia.

**FORO 04**  
Tema: Medicina tradicional, una mirada a la diversidad cultural y biológica.  
Organiza: Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca.  
Fecha: 10 de Septiembre 2010  
Hora: 9:00am - 12:00pm  
Lugar: Aula magna Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca.

**FORO 05**  
Tema: La diversidad cultural y los proyectos ambientales escolares en la urbanidad y la rural.  
Organiza: Universidad Libre.  
Fecha: 24 de Septiembre 2010  
Hora: 8:00am - 5:00pm  
Lugar: Auditorio Facultad de Ing. Ambiental

**FORO 06**  
Tema: Adaptación Cultural al Cambio Climático.  
Organiza: Universidad Santo Tomás.  
Fecha: 01 de Noviembre 2010  
Hora: 4:00pm - 7:00pm  
Lugar: Aula Sala Magna "Ramundo de Peñafar" Cra. 16 N°7-100

En el marco de la **Década de la educación para el desarrollo sostenible de UNESCO.**

Poster advertising ESD fora in Bogota, Colombia

The fora are free to the public, aiming to promote student, teacher and citizen participation.

### For more information:

**Olga María Bermúdez Guerrero**

**RCE Bogota**

**Professor / IDEA-Universidad Nacional de Colombia**

**olgaber@gmail.com**

## Sustainable schools in Porto

The Porto Metropolitan Area RCE has created a working group on Schools and Sustainability, which aims to be a think tank on the subject and promote ESD best practices at

schools of every level. Fifteen RCE partners, including the Ministry of Education's regional office, NGOs, municipalities, universities, Eco-Schools coordination in Portugal, as well as six schools are members of this group. The first event organised by the group was a conference on Schools and Sustainability, held on 10 March 2010.

### For more information

**Marta Pinto**

**RCE Porto**

**mspinto@intervirmais.pt**

**Additional info (in Portuguese) at [www.creporto.blogspot.com](http://www.creporto.blogspot.com)**

## River Ambassadors in Porto

A training programme to help citizens learn about the water cycle, water conservation and about ways to help make a difference is soon to be held in Porto. The programme will include conferences, debates, site visits, laboratory experiments and in situ observation and study. The programme is coordinated by the team of RCE Porto in collaboration with fourteen regional organisations.

### For more information

**Marta Pinto**

**RCE Porto**

**mspinto@intervirmais.pt**

## Young People and Sustainable Schools Project Planning Day

Members of RCE Severn's Young People and Sustainable Schools Working Group met for a Project Planning Day at the University of Gloucestershire on 9 February 2010.

One flagship project that would involve approximately 10 schools each producing 5-10 videos of pupils interviewing people at work in private, civil and public sector settings about how sustainability is integrated into their work was developed on the day.

The videos would be made available, possibly via YouTube, as a resource for careers services as they will demonstrate how sustainability-related skills and values are impacting the world of work. The videos will also have direct relevance to citizenship education.

### For more information

**Paul Vare**

**RCE Severn**

**learning4i@aol.com**

## Graduate Challenge – Gloucestershire, UK

RCE Severn partners have been invited to participate in an innovative programme developed by the University of Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire First. This provides local businesses with the opportunity to hand-pick a recent Higher Education graduate to participate in a structured four-month work placement that fulfils a project brief designed by the business.

A number of RCE Severn partners have submitted project proposals for suitable placements to the Graduate Challenge team, and successful placements are now taking place with a range of local organisations that promote sustainability messages. These include Vision 21, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Cheltenham Festivals and the Waterways Trust. Applications are also in the pipeline for sustainability-related placements with the University of Gloucestershire and Westonbirt Arboretum.

**For more information**

**Carol Rabbette**

**RCE Severn**

**RCESevern@glos.ac.uk**

**More information can be found at**

**<http://www.glos.ac.uk/businessandpartnerships/graduatechallenge/Pages/default.aspx>**

## MDG training with sports tournaments

RCE Kakamega, Western Kenya, held an MDG tournament in which schools from the western province of the country participated in football, volleyball, table tennis and netball matches, on 13 March 2010. Trainings on global health, MDGs and other relevant topics were held prior to the matches.

**For more information**

**Ombajo Misava Edward**

**RCE Kakamega-Western Kenya**

**[emisombajo@yahoo.com](mailto:emisombajo@yahoo.com)**

## Sustainable Schools event at Yorkshire and Humberside

The Government Office North East and Government Office Yorkshire & Humber, UK, along with their respective Sustainable Schools partnerships organised a Sustainable Schools Showcase event highlighting the practice of six local authorities who developed a corporate approach to supporting Sustainable Schools over the last 18 months.

The event included a series of workshops and was aimed at local authority staff and their partner organisations that support schools who wished to investigate how they could do so more effectively.

**For more information**

**Craig Johnson**

**RCE Yorkshire and Humberside**

**[Craig@yorkshireandhumber.net](mailto:Craig@yorkshireandhumber.net)**

## Documentary project for young people in Northeast UK

RCE North East and The Great Debate have obtained funding for *Living in a Changing World*, a documentary-making project delivered by, about and for young people (see [www.thegreatdebate.org.uk/LICW.html](http://www.thegreatdebate.org.uk/LICW.html)).



The core group of young people involved in this project will explore what they think are the issues facing them in the future and which most concern them. The participants will form a production team to create a documentary and will be given training and guidance in sound production, lighting and camera work, interview techniques, scripting questions, storyboarding, presentation and editing. Guidance from creative media professionals will be available at each stage of the process, but both the content of the film and decision-making processes will be driven by the young people involved.

One focus of the film will be a one-day workshop on 20 March, *Getting Real About Climate Change*, organised by The Great Debate, RCE North East and North East Centre for Lifelong Learning on the theme of how humanity should respond to climate change (see [www.thegreatdebate.org.uk/GDDSE5.html](http://www.thegreatdebate.org.uk/GDDSE5.html)). The focus of the workshop was decided based on the high level of interest expressed by young people who participated in The Great Debate / RCE North East workshop *Don't Shout at the Telly, Change What's on it!* held in March 2009. The film-making element of this previous event and the content of the discussions caught the imagination of participants, inspiring the topics for the forthcoming workshop and this project.

The Great Debate team aims to link project participants with vocational pathways, such as apprenticeships, artist / film-making mentorship schemes with dedicated organisations, Northern Film & Media's training and development initiatives, and routes into further education.

**For more information**

**Caspar Hewett**

**Director and Chair, The Great Debate**

**RCE Northeast**

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**<http://www.thegreatdebate.org.uk/>**

## Call for Applications - ISCN Sustainable Campus Awards 2010

The International Sustainable Campus Network ISCN– a global network of leading universities who are committed to sustainability – is pleased to announce the call for applications for the Second Annual International Sustainable Campus Awards.

These awards recognise sustainable campus projects that demonstrate leadership, creativity, effectiveness and outstanding performance in four categories: University Executive Leadership, Excellence in Construction, Excellence in Impact and the Oikos Student Leadership Award.

**Deadline for preliminary submission is 12 April 2010.**

Awards will be given during the *Symposium Better Campus – Better Cities* at the Shanghai World Expo, China, by an outstanding university leader. The jury will select one awardee from the four categories to Shanghai, expenses covered, to receive their award in person.

**For more information and the detailed call for applications, please visit [www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/](http://www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/).**

## Greening Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curricula

*University of Bradford, U.K., 22 April 2010*

**More information at [www.goodcampus.org](http://www.goodcampus.org)**

## Conference on Reorienting Higher Education for Sustainability

*University of Mysore, India, 22 – 23 April 2010*

A 2-day conference is being organised at the Department of Economics, University of Mysore and Institute on Climate Change and Sustainability, to bring together academics and others involved and interested in Re-Orienting Higher Education for Sustainability. This conference is seen as a preparatory conference to evolve short-term, medium term and long terms plans to reorient higher education in India towards sustainability.

The conference and three parallel workshops focused on Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences and Engineering will examine interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary approaches to introduce sustainability on campuses and introduce/infuse sustainability in curriculum, pedagogy and teaching across disciplines. Common sessions will provide resource inputs on the challenges to sustainability in the Indian context and look at ways of cooperation across disciplines.

**More information at [www.iccsindia.org](http://www.iccsindia.org)**

**Contact: Institute on Climate Change & Sustainability [iccsfee@gmail.com](mailto:iccsfee@gmail.com)**

## Learning exchange for traditional health practitioners

*Uganda, 7-14 May 2010*

An Asian-African inter-regional learning exchange between traditional health practitioners and a training on documentation and assessment of local health traditions (DALHT) in Africa is to be hosted by PROMETRA, Uganda.

In November 2009, the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), India, with UNDP's Equator Initiative, ETC-COMPAS and the Indian Government's Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (AYUSH) supported an International Healers' Exchange and Conference in southern India that brought together traditional healers from Asia, Latin America and Africa to share their ideas and visit model projects. A two-day conference was held in Bangalore that resulted in a declaration and the establishment of a national task force to discuss policy guidelines for self-regulation of traditional health professions.

The Declaration from the International Healers' Exchange and Conference (November 2009) recommends to 'Provide technical assistance to national, regional and international programmes for the exchange of knowledge, resources and resource persons, with a focus on learning from the Indian experience in pilot projects and centres of excellence'. In order to implement this recommendation, an Asian-African International Learning Exchange is organised from 7-9 May 2010 in Uganda, followed by a training on DALHT from 10-14 May 2010 in Uganda.

**Contact: Unnikrishnan Payyappalli [unnipm@yahoo.com](mailto:unnipm@yahoo.com)**

## 5th International RCE Conference

*Curitiba, Brazil, 18-20 May 2010*

The 5th International RCE Conference, being organised by UNU-IAS and RCE Curitiba-Paraná, is expected to offer opportunities to meet and interact with Latin American educators and representatives of the RCE community worldwide. An international ESD conference will also be held in conjunction with the event, to share ESD knowledge and practices. The event also aims to stimulate partnerships for the development of innovative ESD projects. A full programme is currently under development.

**Contact: Global RCE Service Centre [rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu)**

## Conference on Greening Human Capital

*Karlsruhe, Germany, 27-28 May 2010*

A two-day international conference on Developing Human Capital for Sustainable Economies will bring together education professionals and specialists, policy makers, senior executives of public and private organisations, human capital practitioners, economists, members of international development agencies and other relevant stakeholders to discuss

key emerging issues including: global warming and the emergence of the green economies; ways in which the transformation from high to low carbon economies is impacting human capital management; and effective initiatives needed to develop and manage human capital for sustainable economies.

The event also provides a networking opportunity with education institutions, international agencies, governmental and non-governmental institutions, private organisations and sustainable development practitioners in Europe and beyond.

**More information at <http://www.etchgermany.com/HCCConference.pdf>**

### **Sustainable Laboratory Chemistry – New Challenges and Effective Responses**

*University of York, U.K., 14 June 2010*

Featuring the Green Chemistry Network, micro-scale chemistry, chemistry lab auditing and operational improvement, and greening the chemistry curriculum.

**More information at [www.goodcampus.org](http://www.goodcampus.org)**

### **Course on Educating for the 21st century**

*UPEACE Centre for Executive Education, San Jose, Costa Rica, 20-27 June 2010*

This dynamic course is designed for educators at all levels, incorporating case-studies and field visits, and will demonstrate techniques for the integration of peace education into curriculum and teaching. The course is being offered by the United Nations mandated University for Peace's Centre for Executive Education.

The main themes include Educating in a Changing World; Pedagogies for the 21st Century; Leadership Skills for Educators; Learning from Living Cases; and Education for Sustainable Development.

**Detailed itinerary is available at <http://www.centre.upeace.org/images/PDFs/Educlitinerary2010.pdf>.  
More information is available at [www.centre.upeace.org](http://www.centre.upeace.org)**

### **Conference on Tomorrow's Sustainable Universities**

*University of Bradford, U.K., 15-16 July 2010*

This conference provides a strategic examination of current and emergent best practice in embedding sustainability within a whole institution, and also the way that such practice might be enhanced or held back by broader changes in higher education. It will therefore provide a unique opportunity for institutional leaders, academic staff, student support, estates managers, policy makers, funders and sustainability practitioners to come together to share evidence on trends, direct experience and future directions. It draws on the experience of the HEFCE-funded Ecovercity project but will have also have many examples from other universities in the UK and internationally.

The event has two distinctive, but linked, days which can be attended separately. Rather than presentations of papers the event will maximise time for interactive workshops.

Key topics include leading large scale institutional change; innovation and emergent good practice in curriculum, student engagement and sustainability management; the future role and purpose of campus; sustainability and new economic directions; and global partnerships.

To maximise participation and sharing of experience there is no charge for attending either of the two days. Numbers for the event will be limited hence there will be an application process. The conference is not calling for presentations but invites colleagues who wish to present their work to do so via a short written paper prior to the event which will be posted and help to shape the workshop discussions.

**Details for the event can be found at <http://www.brad.ac.uk/events/cpd/sus-uni>**

### **EESD 2010**

*Gothenburg, Sweden, 19-22 September 2010*

Under the heading Learning for Transformation, the biennial conference Engineering Education in Sustainable Development (EESD) is being organised for the fourth time. After Delft (Netherlands), Barcelona (Spain) and Lyon (France), this next conference will take place in Gothenburg (Sweden)

**More information at [www.eesd10.org](http://www.eesd10.org).**

### **14th UNESCO-APEID International Conference**

*Bangkok, Thailand, 21-23 October 2010*

Over the years UNU-IAS has been participating in the annual UNESCO-APEID conferences by organising sessions relevant to the theme of the conference. This year too, participation by the RCE and ProSPER.Net network is expected.

The Conference will provide a forum to:

- increase understanding and knowledge of education for human resource development;
- showcase and promote innovative and educational approaches, projects and practices that enhance education for human resource development;
- encourage national, regional and global collaboration across all sectors and levels to improve education for human resource development; and
- facilitate networking and exchange of experiences among policy makers, researchers, educators, administrators, youth and private sector personnel.

The theme of the Conference is Education for Human Resource Development. The sub-themes are:

- Scope of Education and Training for Human Resource Development in the 21st Century
- Pathways to Education and Training for Human Resource Development
- Institutional Frameworks to Support Education and Training for Human Resource Development

More information on the conference is available at  
[www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid/conference2010](http://www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid/conference2010)

Contact: Global RCE Service Centre, UNU-IAS  
[rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu)

### Training on ESD in Formal Education

Sweden, South Africa and India, 27 September – 15 October, 2010  
 and Nov/Dec 2010

The International Training Programmes offered by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), as part of its bilateral development assistance, are of strategic importance to the social and economic development in the participants' countries.

The programme is intended for decision makers, planners, specialists, trainers and managers involved in formulation and implementation of ESD at all levels of the formal education system – from primary education to University education. The main objective of the programme is to provide an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences in ESD in the formal education sector.

The programme is divided into four interlinked modules:

- Change Processes in Institutional Settings
- Understanding Sustainable Development
- Education Responses for Sustainable Development
- Institutional Frameworks in Formal Education

The total duration of the programme is 9 months out of which 5 weeks are scheduled. The Swedish component will take place between September 27 and October 15, 2010 in Stockholm and Uppsala. The two regional followup sessions will be in South Africa and India. Both regional sessions will be held in November/December 2010.

**Application deadline: 1 March 2010**

**Contact: Ms. Mia Zacco**

**Adm. Co-ordinator**

**Ramboll Natura AB**

**[mia.zacco@ramboll.se](mailto:mia.zacco@ramboll.se)**

### Conference on knowledge collaboration and learning for sustainable innovation

Delft, Netherlands, 25-29 Oct 2010

The Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), The Hague University of Applied Sciences (THU) and research organisation TNO are jointly organising the 14th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ERSCP) conference and the 6th Environmental Management for Sustainable Universities (EMSU) conferences in Delft in collaboration with other international partners.

The conference entitled *Knowledge Collaboration & Learning for Sustainable Innovation* aims to bring together over 400 academics, educators, business representatives and policymakers involved in sustainable innovation, sustainable consumption and production, and sustainability in higher education.

More information at <http://www.erscp-emsu2010.org/>

### World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day

Across the world, 3 Dec 2010

The Research and Transfer Centre Applications of Life Sciences of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany is organising the World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day (WSD-TD) as part of the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP).

On Friday, 3 December 2010, hundreds of universities across the globe will organise and run lectures on sustainable development. The aims of the WSD-TD are:

- \* to disseminate information on the concept, aims and purposes of sustainable development
- \* to raise awareness among university students on the complexity of matters related to sustainable development and the need for personal engagement and action;
- \* to provide an opportunity to introduce projects and other initiatives on sustainable development that are being undertaken at international, regional and local level by schools, universities, government bodies, NGOs and other stakeholders;
- \* to discuss the problems, barriers, challenges, opportunities and the potential achievements with regard to implementing sustainable development, globally, regionally and locally.

The event will promote greater networking and exchange of information and is hoped to spark collaborative initiatives.

The event is a project of RCE-Hamburg. RCEs across the world are invited to participate in the event.

More information is available at  
<http://world-sustainability-day.net/en.html>

Contact: Walter Leal

RCE Hamburg

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