



# RCE Bulletin

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

### The 5th International RCE Conference: next steps

Forty-one RCEs, of the seventy-seven in the global network, were represented at the 5th International RCE Conference held in Curitiba, Brazil from 18 to 20 May 2010. Of the participating RCEs, 8 were from Africa, 17 from the Asia-Pacific region, 7 from the Americas and 9 from Europe. The conference follows the ones held in Yokohama (2006), Penang (2007), Barcelona (2008) and Montreal (2009).

The conference was organised to provide an opportunity for face-to-face interaction between RCEs and to act as a spring-board for future RCE actions by providing RCEs opportunities to discuss various operational and thematic issues.

The three-day conference included plenary and parallel working group sessions organised by continent (Africa, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Americas) on the first day and by themes (e.g., biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, climate change) on the third day. On the second day, a World Café method was employed to discuss operational issues such as communications, assessment and RCEs' engagement with policy.

Some significant outcomes are detailed below.

#### Outcomes from the continental meetings

##### Americas

Each RCE agreed to develop a vision answering the question "what the RCE means for us" to, in turn, allow for the development of key messages about RCEs. This was viewed as a way to raise public awareness about RCEs and to develop a profile for RCEs in the Americas.

RCEs in the Americas also committed to ensure ESD projects in the Americas were documented and mapped. This included the documentation of RCE flagship projects in the project reporting portal of the UNU as well as working with the UNU to develop a map of RCEs. It was envisioned this would enable specific networking opportunities between RCEs in the Americas. RCEs also committed to document current methods used for public

education and public participation within their RCEs. The need to facilitate student and professor exchanges, such as Master's and doctoral students in sustainable development programmes, along with faculty and others with expertise was also noted.

RCEs committed to identify youth in each of their RCEs to create an RCE youth structure for the Americas.

##### Africa

Delegates agreed to

- liaise with the other RCEs in Africa and beyond;
- form a committee with the participation of SADC-REEP, West Africa and North Africa and the Francophone countries and to mobilise ideas from all RCEs; and to
- develop a discussion paper on further development of the RCE initiative in Africa.

##### Europe

A discussion on developing a strategy for European RCEs which emerged in the months prior to the conference was discussed in depth. It was agreed that rather than looking at an overall structure for European RCEs an agreement on a strategy to enable European RCEs to have an impact on European policy had to be reached. It was felt that developing a dialogue with European policy-makers would give added value and help raise the profile of RCEs as experts and regional catalysts.

##### Asia-Pacific

The main agenda of the meeting was the role of the Asia Pacific continental platform and its effective management. Participants acknowledged that the Asia-Pacific continental platform would be a way to build collaboration among RCEs. It was also recognised that the vision of the Asia-Pacific continental platform is to promote Asian perspectives on sustainable development and ESD, based on the traditional wisdom of coexistence.

Members of the group also presented various projects on specific themes and set milestones for collaboration. A report on the Sejahtra Centre for ESD in Asia which is to be established in Tongyeong, Korea, was also given.

## A few outcomes of the world café sessions

A draft concept paper on the development of a portal for RCEs was distributed and most participants at the world café session on communications felt that the uses of the portal may be prioritised as:

- Database/library with toolkits, conference papers, Q&A including solutions to common problems, presentation of RCE projects, tools such as technical writing including successful proposals
- Providing a public face to RCEs through web pages
- Offering opportunities for online discussion among RCEs
- Keeping track of RCE progress and achievements through reporting

In the session on RCE engagement with policy, participants felt that RCEs could generate policy ideas by acting as an ESD think-tank regarding possible laws, regulations, and curricula reforms. This role could include developing model policies and programmes based on strategic research that advanced existing or new policy directions of governments and government enterprises. A number of informal areas for policy influence were also identified. These included RCE social events for building ongoing friendships and relations of trust with policy makers and community leaders. RCEs could also be proactive in anticipating and addressing regional sustainability issues gathering the necessary scientific and other forms of research needed to bridge discussions with policy makers. RCEs could also make appeals to a government's broad citizen accountability in justifying policy changes for ESD.

In the session on research, participants noted research could mean a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to common knowledge in the areas of (1) networks and partnerships (2) ESD, and (3) sustainable development. A number of research activities and questions were suggested.

### In conclusion

The conference underlined the issue of identity of RCEs and of the RCE movement which has been a recurring theme in recent discussions. The conference also highlighted the strong engagement of RCEs in the governance of the RCE movement, and the active engagement of RCEs on issues of strategic direction and operation of the RCE community. In some regions, RCEs already have an established reputation and some RCEs have started providing services and advice as experts to authorities.

The conference also spotlighted the need to create a space for RCEs whose everyday working language is not English, and brought up initiatives to develop concept papers on operational issues such as funding. An increasing alignment between communications, assessment and evidence-based strengthening of the RCE brand were also observed.

Continental groups have started consolidating their actions while RCEs continue to search for synergies with other SD and ESD initiatives and networks.

*Note: This summary touches upon only a few of the ideas and issues discussed at the conference. More detailed information is available on request.*

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## NEWS FROM RCES IN AFRICA

### RCE Kakamega works towards ICT integration in education

Over 120 science and mathematics teachers participated in a two-week training on ICT integration in the two subjects. The training was co-organised by RCE Kakamega.

The coordinator of RCE Kakamega in Kenya was also invited as an ESD expert to participate in a training programme on integrating ICT in secondary school curriculum. The training was held at the end of August – early September 2010 at the Chavakali High School. The representative was also invited to speak in a meeting for Pan-African Teacher Innovation held in Mombasa at the Agakhan Academy in August 2010.

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### RCE Kano and Hyogo-Kobe collaborate on fair trade project

Food preservation techniques are used minimally in Kano, northern Nigeria, although most produce is seasonal. RCE Kano has invested in a solar dryer to produce dried tomatoes which may be marketed.

During the 5th International RCE Conference in Curitiba, Brazil, RCE Kano and RCE Hyogo-Kobe discussed the exporting of dry tomatoes from Nigeria to Japan in an effort to help reduce poverty among farmers. Efforts to further the project are now underway.

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## NEWS FROM RCES IN THE AMERICAS

### Environmental fora organised by RCE Bogota

RCE Bogota and the Environmental Education Network organised a series of fora in 2010 within the framework of the Decade for the Education for Sustainable Development. The first forum was held at the end of March 2010 on the importance of biodiversity in Colombia. Presenters included a representative from the Colombian Ministry of Culture who spoke about language diversity in the country, and the coordinator of RCE Bogota who presented the results of a study on indigenous views of the environment.

The second forum on a sustainable industry culture was held at the end of April. Representatives from industry and business, technicians, students, professors, researchers and other interested people gathered for the discussions. The need for promoting environmental training among leaders and workers in industry was stressed at the event.

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### RCE British Columbia launched

RCE British Columbia, Canada was publicly launched in Vancouver on 19 May 2010 during a half-day event and stakeholder dialogue. The RCE is headquartered at Simon Fraser University's Centre for Dialogue in downtown Vancouver.

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### RCE Chaco promotes solar energy

RCE Chaco in northeast Argentina is carrying out a project to promote the use of solar energy in households at a local level. The project is designed and implemented by an expert group on renewable energy from the Faculty of Engineering and the Centre of Environmental Management (CEGAE) at the Northeast National University, in parallel to a government project focusing on the urban upgrading of several sectors in Resistencia City in northeast Argentina.



*Participants with solar equipment at the workshop in Chaco*

Fifteen participants were selected, in collaboration with a local NGO, to undergo a training which includes workshops on the construction of solar boilers and kitchens.

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### Towards a healthy community: a year in retrospect

RCE Greater Sudbury's Healthy Community Cabinet has promoted the design and implementation of a number of projects in 2010. Some of these projects have been recognised with an award from the community. Projects that received awards were:

**Walk & Bike for Life:** A community initiative aimed at making Greater Sudbury the most pedestrian-friendly city in the province of Ontario by 2015.

**Good Food Box:** A community-based food distribution programme that helps everyone include local fruit and vegetables into their meals and snacks.

**Volunteer Sudbury:** A civic engagement hub focused on voluntary action, promotion and education.

**Sudbury Children's Water Festival:** An annual environmental learning opportunity designed to educate children about the use, consumption and protection of water.

**Diversity Advisory Panel:** An initiative designed to create a welcoming and inclusive community for all people, particularly the Aboriginal, Francophone and multicultural communities.

**Eat Local Sudbury:** A co-operative programme with the goal of increasing the amount of locally-grown food products that are both purchased and produced within a 150 mile radius of the City.

**Snowflake Project:** A partnership project linking social assistance recipients with welding skills to fabricate outdoor ornamental snowflakes for the City streets.

**Feel Free to Feel Fit:** An initiative offering free swimming and transportation to all Greater Sudbury residents (158,000) once per week.

**Green Esteem:** A youth driven project aimed at reducing bottled water usage in secondary schools.

**Laurentian University School of Architecture:** A first in Canada in over 40 years, the school will function to revitalise the downtown area, diversify the economy and improve quality of life.

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## Grand Rapids forges ahead with its sustainability programmes

RCE Grand Rapids in Michigan, U.S.A., continues on its sustainable development journey with many additional conferences, workshops, training programmes, and new curricula in ESD. Some of the recent activities last year included a Michigan Energy Conference held at Ferris State University in April; an Energy and Innovation Summit held in Grand Rapids in May; a local sustainability event at Aquinas College in May; and a Leadership in Sustainability event held at the Grand Valley State University in April.

Additionally Aquinas College launched a new MBA programme in sustainability in the autumn. The West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum has also offered a \$5000 scholarship to a local college student in sustainable business practices.

A new City Sustainability Plan 2.0 by the City of Grand Rapids for the period 2010-2015 was adopted and approved by the City Executive Team and the City Commission. All of the City departments have specific goals that can be qualified and quantified during this time frame and cover all aspects of the 'triple bottom line' of environmental, economic, and social impact.

The City of Grand Rapids also hosted a GreenTown: Future Cities conference on climate strategies for sustainable communities. Many Michigan Mayors who have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, as well as other municipalities, gathered at Grand Valley State University to learn about climate mitigation strategies and LEED building, local food, and sustainable business development initiatives. A carbon management toolkit was handed out to the Michigan Mayors and municipalities.

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## RCE Guatemala promotes discussion on knowledge

In 2010, RCE Guatemala continued promoting academic discussions on Indigenous and Universal Knowledge to enrich university curricula and introduce indigenous knowledge into the current academic programme.

The faculties of Graphic Design, History, Social Work, Art and Architecture were involved in organising the discussions, which were conducted by specialists who presented research or analysis of documents or personal reflections that served as a basis for defining a joint strategy for indigenous and universal knowledge.

One of the objectives of the talks was to define strategies to operationalise agreements, rules and declarations relating to cultural pluralism and multiculturalism in the San Carlos University Strategy Plan until 2022.

A number of radio programmes have also been organised with a different stakeholder of RCE Guatemala conducting the programme each week on sustainable development issues.

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## First RCE Montreal Partners Forum

RCE Montreal held its first Partners Forum on 2 June 2010, drawing some forty people from formal, informal and non-formal educational organisations. Organised as a day of cooperative work, the forum's theme was eco-citizenship education aimed at improving the quality of life in the region.

The forum was intended as an opportunity to brainstorm major ideas for RCE Montreal's 2010–2013 action plan. More specifically, partners were mandated with developing thematic directions as well as proposals for actions to be taken. Partners were split up into three workshop groups, each focused on one aspect of quality of life: family and society, land-use planning and development, and democracy and governance.



*Partners discuss future plans of RCE Montreal*

Among the results of the discussions were proposals to:

- Promote educational projects focusing on community action (family and society workshop group)
- Assist the public in acquiring knowledge appropriate to their living environments (land-use planning and development group)
- Promote and encourage the development of tools and the means of measuring the impact of eco-citizenship projects through research (democracy and governance group)

The First RCE Montreal Partners Forum highlighted the interests and needs of partners in the area of ESD. Over the summer, a working group developed a detailed RCE Montreal 2010-2013 action plan towards achieving real results.

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## RCE Montreal and International Year of Biodiversity

Partners of RCE Montreal reached out to students, adults and other stakeholders throughout the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010. Attractive exhibitions, conferences and publications to contribute to the preservation of biodiversity as well as BioKits and inventories of resources were produced.

A mountain, 315 kilometres of shoreline, some thousand neighbourhood parks and 20 other large parks are all part of Montreal's landscape and are rich sources of biodiversity. The city of Montreal, founding partner of the RCE, coordinates a wide range of measures to protect biodiversity and aims for the preservation of urban ecosystems, safeguarding of rare plants, shoreline stabilisation and eradication of invasive species.

BioKits, produced by the Biosphère in collaboration with the City of Montreal and RCE Montreal, encourage families to explore natural areas and urban landscapes. Through a variety of interactive outdoor activities, simple tips and a dynamic website, families learn about surrounding biodiversity and what they can do to help preserve it. BioKits are also being developed for specific areas and for several cities across Canada.

**For more information please visit the Biosphere's website**  
**[www.biosphere.ec.gc.ca](http://www.biosphere.ec.gc.ca)**

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## RCE Saskatchewan presents at UNESCO's 50th AGM

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO hosted the 50th UNESCO Annual General Meeting and Anniversary celebration in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, from 6 to 8 May 2010 and invited 400 international delegates and members associated with UNESCO. RCE Saskatchewan was one of the invited guests to the celebration and meetings that focused on the theme: 2010 – International Year of Biodiversity and International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures.

RCE Saskatchewan was also invited to present on its activities and was chosen as one of 10 international groups to present a poster session and have a kiosk on the topic of Education and Biodiversity-Planting the Seeds of Sustainable Tomorrow. The presentations and kiosk sharing sessions were done by Lyle A. Benko and Jon Yee of RCE Saskatchewan.

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## NEWS FROM RCES IN ASIA-PACIFIC

### RCE Cebu's initiative to provide alternative livelihoods

Masanori Kobayashi, a representative of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies-Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (IGES-APFED), visited various projects at the Camp 7 Forest Community in Minglanilla, Cebu during a visit in June 2010.



*Representative of IGES-APFED inspects anthurium production in Cebu*

As part of an initiative to provide alternative livelihoods to farmers living near the forest, projects to produce and market anthurium flowers, candles, organic fertilisers and tourism shirts have been initiated by RCE Cebu with the

support of IGES-APFED. IGES-APFED is also encouraging the use of filtering systems to treat community sewage water that flows back into the river system downstream. RCE Cebu is talking with experts and stakeholders in the region who can provide the required technology.

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## RCE Chubu builds bridges with football

When Japan beat Tunisia and moved to the top 16 category during the 2002 FIFA World Cup, fans all over Japan put on the national team's colours, took to the streets and partied all night. It was the world cup fever taking control of the otherwise reserved Japanese. Television screens were set up everywhere so that people would be able to watch the games.

In 2002, at the same time, bombs were being dropped in a war that started the previous year in an attempt to combat terrorism. Many people died and thousands were displaced in Afghanistan.

This contrast made the NGO Ai-Chikyu Platform, a partner of RCE Chubu today, launch a project that aimed to nurture peace using footballs. Since then they have been sending footballs to children all over the world to promote the idea of global citizenship and to demonstrate that friendship can exist across cultures.

The project received further support during the Aichi EXPO 2005 held in Nagoya, where RCE Chubu is located. The concept of peace building and sustainable development was expressed in the main theme of the EXPO, Nature's Wisdom.

To date, more than 500 balls have been sent to children in over 20 countries. As the 5th International RCE Conference was held in Brazil in 2010, RCE Chubu wanted to donate a football to Brazilian children as well.

With the help of RCE Sao Paulo, Casa do Zezinho, an internationally-recognised NGO working with Brazilian children in educational and capacity development projects, was chosen to receive the football. On 7 July 2010, Oswaldo Massambani, coordinator of RCE Sao Paulo, together with RCE Sao Paulo members donated the football to Dagmar Garroux, founder of Casa do Zezinho.

**More on the activities of Casa do Zezinho at [www.casadozezinho.org](http://www.casadozezinho.org).**

**For more information**

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## RCE Greater Phnom Penh organises eco-contest

RCE Greater Phnom Penh organised a drawing contest for students of five elementary schools in Phnom Penh and Kampong Cham province of Cambodia. The contest encouraged participants to think about organic agricultural practices and environmental conservation.



*Students show their drawings at the contest in Phnom Penh*

More than 200 students from grades 3 to 6 participated in the competition and 143 drawings were submitted individually or in groups. Three of the best drawings were selected from each school by a competition committee and fifteen drawings received prizes.

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## Environment awareness programme in Guwahati

RCE Guwahati in partnership with CEE North East organised a student interaction programme at a high school on 5 June 2010, the World Environment Day. The programme touched upon the issues of air pollution, climate change, clean energy and waste management.

An extempore speech competition was held on environment-related topics such as biodiversity loss, deforestation, air and noise pollution and industrialisation. A cleanliness drive in the school campus was also organised, as was a poster display on related themes.

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## International Year of Biodiversity activities of RCE Lucknow

RCE Lucknow in India observed the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 through various programmes and events for different stakeholders. The year's programme began with the observation of the World Wetland Day in February when a school event was organised with the help of Forest Department.

The RCE organised a two-day community awareness programme on the International Day for Biological Diversity 2010, in partnership with CEE North, WWF Dudhwa and the Forest Department, in May 2010. The programme, held in and around the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve on the theme *Biodiversity is Life, Biodiversity is Our Life*, aimed at motivating the tribal community living near the forest to understand the importance of biodiversity and to get involved in conservation. About 370 community members from nine villages participated in the event which included interactive discussions and a puppet show on the importance of biodiversity.

CEE North, as the lead institution of RCE Lucknow, joined hands with institutions in Lucknow to celebrate the World Environment Day 2010 by organising the *Paryavaran Mela* or Environment Fair, which was attended by more than 300 people. The *mela* included games and puppet shows for children to explore various aspects of biodiversity.

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## NEWS FROM RCES IN EUROPE

### Biodiversity: Links of Values and Local Traditions event organised in Açores

RCE Açores, Portugal, celebrated the International year of Biodiversity - 2010 with a series of integrated events designed to foster greater communications among the nine islands as well as encourage mutual learning between various sectors of society.



Ninety photos with short narratives were submitted in three age categories (under 13; 13 to 17; and, over 17 years old) and from all islands, as part of a contest seeking to highlight Azorean perspectives about local biodiversity. An exhibition of the winning entries traveled between multiple festivals during the summer. A full exhibition of all entries was also on display in the autumn and winter with prize ceremonies and further activities on multiple islands.

Between 9 and 12 September, thirty educators from crèche to high school, science centres, and various environmental organisations attended a workshop, Biodiversity and Art for Educators, organised by RCE Açores. Local and guest facilitators from Lisbon and Canada encouraged the group to explore the biological, social and spiritual aspects of biodiversity and to embrace the historical global connections between small local identities.

A speakers' series ran from May until the end of the year with presentations from local and international researchers aimed at highlighting multiple views of Azorean biodiversity to a general audience.

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### Chairman of RCE Hamburg to participate in the Fifth Climate Assessment Report

Walter Leal, Chair of RCE Hamburg and Region, has been appointed as a Review Editor of Working Group II, which will contribute to the IPCC's /Fifth Climate Assessment Report/ (AR5).

Working Group II assesses the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the vulnerability (sensitivity and adaptability) to climate change of, and the negative and positive consequences for, ecological systems, socio-economic sectors and human health, with an emphasis on regional sectoral and cross-sectoral issues. The work towards AR5, which will also produce a summary for policy-makers, has commenced and will be completed in early 2014.

**Details on IPCC are available at [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).**

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### The Heart of Whitehaven

Through the early part of 2010, a learning partnership, involving RCE North East and Newcastle University's newly formed Institute for Research on Sustainability

(NIREs) with the Haig Colliery and Beacon Museums, Storytree community theatre group, Cumbria Library Service and the County Council archives, songwriters, and three primary schools in Whitehaven, West Cumbria, grew. Educators there are responding in a positive way to the narrative of a coal mining tragedy which happened in the area a hundred years ago: one of a succession of such events which have beset the people of the town for much of its history. Through discovering the narrative of the place, the value and strength of its community can be understood.

On consecutive Saturdays around the centenary of the Wellington Colliery Disaster, 11 May 2010, commemorations took place involving many townspeople, and civic and religious representatives. A memorial was unveiled by the last living survivor of the 1947 William Pit disaster. Also present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Copeland, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, MP and Council leader. Education partners and youth were involved in making banners to carry through the town.

RCE North East will build upon this project to create new and innovative learning partnerships for the young people there.

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## Award for Life Long Learning RCE Partner

The North East Centre for Lifelong Learning, member of RCE North East, U.K., has won the 2010 UALL Lifelong Learning Award for its revolutionary Explore programme. The prize was awarded by the Universities Association for Lifelong Learning at the University of Oxford in March last year.

Each entry was assessed on the criteria of creativity, innovation, sustainability, impact and transferability, and the decision in favour of Sunderland University's Explore Programme was unanimous. The scheme brings the idea of a gym membership with members funding the scheme with a monthly fee which entitles them to pick and choose which sessions to join.

Explore offers more than 1600 hours of teaching a year by 50 tutors in 40 distinct subject areas. According to team leader Ian Ground "This national recognition by experts in lifelong learning and adult education is an achievement of which our university, staff and members, as well as our RCE partners will be very proud".

**For more information**

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## RCE Porto celebrates International Year of Biodiversity

To celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, RCE Porto promoted a training course on biodiversity. The Biodiversity Ambassadors programme aimed at non-experts comprised a mix of several practical activities such as visits to natural areas within the region, thematic workshops and conferences, promoted by the 25 member and partner institutions of RCE Porto.

Through hands-on activities, over 500 participants learnt about fauna, green roofs, organic agriculture, biodiversity values, various ecosystems and other topics. The initiative ran from 22 May until November 2010 and six citizens were awarded the Biodiversity Ambassador Certificate.

Additionally, a special edition of the e-magazine Education and Sustainability ([www.crenews.info](http://www.crenews.info)) summarising the regional biodiversity and natural areas was produced.

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## Sustainable development actions in Samara

RCE Samara undertook several activities in the spring and summer of 2010. These included research on social environment acceptance by migrating ethnic minorities, supervised by the Marketing and Social Research Center, a partner of the RCE; the seminar Youth and tolerance for students of Samara State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering, supervised by the Marketing and Social Research Center; and the development of a joint Dutch-Russian programme *Samara Partners in Water Treatment*.

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## RCE Graz organises courses in sustainable development

A course on NGO Development and Social Entrepreneurship, held at the University of Graz in Austria, aimed to develop initiatives for implementing various approaches concerning social or environmental issues. Projects developed as part of the course included:

- the establishment of a meeting place, with supervision and leisure activities, in Guatemala City for youth. The project is the brainchild of NGO AbrazArte which aims to offer alternatives to youth to minimise delinquency and criminality.

- podcasts (in German) on climate friendly cooking
- a business plan for the introduction of studienaktie.org in Austria. The association, based in Switzerland, aims to enable education for people who are unable to study due to financial constraints.
- the development of a sustainability trail in the municipality of Imst in Tirol aimed at children
- the organisation of a one-day festival on environmental issues
- the organisation of a youth camp for a local community and the development of a manual to organise other such camps.

Another course on Sustainable Development in Science and Society focused on RCE Graz Styria's projects to gain new insights. Some of the outcomes from the course include:

- a paper comparing the new evaluation and annual reporting mode of RCEs and their projects with the former evaluation model, which provides views on further development;
- a study comparing conventional and organic farming in Austria;
- a paper on a concept for a sustainable high school system for the Independent Montessori School Altsch; and
- a paper that discusses the situation of Graz city in relation to human rights.

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## RCE Severn supports World Environment Week Events

RCE Severn and the University of Gloucestershire developed a week long programme of events to celebrate the World Environment Week from 5-12 June 2010. These included events organised by RCE partners as well as by staff and students at the University of Gloucestershire.

**More information is available at:**

<http://www.glos.ac.uk/vision/sustainability/news/Documents/worldenvironmentweek2010.pdf>

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## Entrepreneurship for Sustainability: a free masterclass

This masterclass was organised by RCE Severn as part of the World Environment Week celebrations and took place on 11 June 2010 at the University of Gloucestershire. The class was delivered by Elisabeth

Bittner, an international speaker with 30 years' experience in education policy and capacity development in a lifelong learning context. She has worked at a senior level for the of the EC in Brussels and for several German State Ministries. A number of RCE Severn partners and local businesses, as well as staff and students at the University participated in the event which explored how enterprising skills and behaviours can support sustainable development.

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## Sustainability4U : a joint effort of Graz universities

In 2008 the four universities in Graz jointly agreed to establish the initiative Sustainability4U to foster and combine their sustainable development efforts. The cooperation includes the four universities in Graz: University of Graz, where RCE Graz Styria is hosted, the Graz University of Technology, Medical University Graz and the University of Music and Performing Arts.

In 2010 the interdisciplinary team of Sustainability4U, including members from RCE Graz-Styria, developed a lecture consisting of 12 lessons each focusing on sustainable development from university-specific view points. Starting March 2010, different lecturers from all universities presented their research connected with sustainability and demonstrated multiple perspectives and approaches.

**More details are available on the website of Sustainability4U: [www.sustainability4u.at](http://www.sustainability4u.at)**

**For more information**

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## European Network on Higher Education for Sustainable Development launched

The kick-off meeting of the newly established COPERNICUS Alliance was held in July 2010 at the University of Graz. The COPERNICUS Alliance is a network that aims to integrate sustainable development in higher education institutions in Europe. The network is connected to and based upon the COPERNICUS Charter that was developed in 1993 and signed by 326 universities. The charter includes the goals of institutional commitment, environmental ethics, education of university employees, programmes in environmental education, interdisciplinarity, dissemination of knowledge, networking, partnerships, continuing education and technology transfer.

More information on the network is available at [www.copernicus-alliance.org](http://www.copernicus-alliance.org)

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## Certificate in Sustainable Business

In cooperation with Munich University of Applied Sciences, RCE Munich has developed an advanced training on sustainable business addressing personnel in business, administration and sciences.

In view of a gap in the sustainability and business ethics programmes in Germany's higher education system, the University of Applied Sciences and the RCE Munich have started offering courses starting from winter term 2010 comprising relevant subject areas, such as:

- Sustainability Management
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
- Management of the Value Chains
- Social and Environmental Innovations
- Stakeholder and Diversity Management
- (International) Cooperations
- Sustainability Communications

The course imparts key skills for organisations to manage and employ instruments for sustainability.

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## RCE North East: Learning about change in attitudes to energy production and consumption

Two events last year demonstrated the diverse aspects of learning about energy resources and utilisation involving scientists and engineers from the Sir Joseph Swan Centre for Energy Research at Newcastle University.

The North East was once synonymous with coal production. Accessible reserves are now all but exhausted, and this has provoked new research in energy. A new publication edited by Swan director Professor Dermot Roddy *Advanced power plant materials, design and technology* brings together a distinguished international team of contributors in a new standard reference for engineers, operators and researchers in the field.

This new text book provides a comprehensive reference on gas-fired and coal-fired power plants and their performance improvement options. The book also covers biomass resource utilisation, integration of underground coal

gasification and the application of carbon dioxide capture and storage.

At the other end of the learning spectrum Elisa Lopez-Capel from the Swan Centre has been working with primary school children to investigate renewable energy technologies and how these can be implemented in the local environment. Children from North Tyneside schools worked in teams to carry out experiments involving temperature and light and interpret data using graphs and equations. They were also helped to design their own projects, encouraging creative thinking into the design of sustainable buildings, such as their own school, and use of new energy sources, and were also taken on trips to raise awareness of their local energy resources.



*Children learn about renewable energy*

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## RCE Rhine Meuse supports technical school in Ghana

The collaboration between RCE Rhine Meuse and the Producer Enterprises Promotion Service Centre (PEPS-C) in North Western Ghana has reached a new milestone. Both partners have successfully organised exchange programmes between Dutch and Ghanaian young craftsmen in the building and construction industry in 2008 and 2009. The exchange in 2009 focused on starting a project to build a student dorm at the Technical School in Wa, Ghana. The dorm will mean less expenses for students from remote areas. The building continued into 2010 with funding from the Dutch development aid organisation NCDO and with money raised by the Dutch participants in the exchange programme and was completed towards the end of the year.

**For more information**

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## London Higher Education Curriculum Network

RCE London held a successful meeting with the Guild of Educators for London, an influential body which takes pride in promoting and supporting the role and profession of educators, in May 2010, to engage their support for the RCE higher education curriculum project across London universities.

A partnership with the University of East London was also established to develop the HE ESD network. The project will build capacity and facilitate the embedding of ESD in the HE curriculum in London South Bank University and partner HE organisations. Through the project the RCE will seek to address the challenge of climate change within both policy and practice and engage with curriculum leaders, HE senior managers, tutors and students 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 is expected to be extended 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 conferencing.

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## RCE Graz-Styria at scientific fair Research 2010

RCE Graz-Styria was represented in a fair for science, research and innovation which was held in Graz on 11 and 12 June 2010. It was an opportunity to present the RCE's activities and to meet members of the scientific community and the public, as well as institutions involved in various fields of research. The RCE promoted the concept of ESD at the event.

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## RCE Severn fosters partnership with the National Arboretum

With more than 350,000 visitors a year, and having gained National Arboretum status in 2001, Westonbirt Arboretum is the largest paying visitor attraction in Gloucestershire. In September 2010 the Arboretum signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Gloucestershire to formalise the existing working relationship between the two organisations, a collaboration which has been supported and nurtured by RCE Severn.

Staff at Westonbirt have been actively involved with RCE Severn since it was established in 2008, and have been keen to explore opportunities for cooperative collaboration with RCE partners to enhance engagement with young people and students. The agreement between Westonbirt and University of Gloucestershire seeks to engage with young people about the importance and relevance of trees to their lives and to enrich students' learning experiences.

The collaboration will include looking at opportunities to integrate the facilities and expertise at Westonbirt into academic teaching and learning across a wide range of subjects, exploring field trips and projects based around trees, as well as work placement and volunteering activities. Staff are also hoping to collaborate on a number of community projects inspired by Victorian plant collectors, the inspiration of trees and how trees may be impacted by climate change.

**More information is available at**  
**[www.glos.ac.uk/vision/sustainability/unurce/Pages/westonbirt.aspx](http://www.glos.ac.uk/vision/sustainability/unurce/Pages/westonbirt.aspx)**

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## From Skåne to Yunnan on ESD

A group of twelve teachers and principals from three upper secondary schools in Ystad and Malmö in Sweden, four teacher educators, a deputy head and a head of department from the School of Teacher Education, Malmö University, participated in a Global Journey to Yunnan, China, during three weeks in September 2010.

The project started with seminars in Skåne in January 2010 and was organised by the Global School, a programme of the International Programme Office in Sweden, in collaboration with the Yunnan Federation of Social Science. The mission of the seminars and the journey was to look at ESD in an intercultural and global context.

During the trip, the Swedish teachers visited several schools in cities and in rural areas with Chinese colleagues. They also visited the Teacher Education Department at the

Kunming Normal University.

The International Programme Office for Education and Training is a Swedish government agency that promotes academic exchanges and cooperation across national borders. The Global School is a programme that supports teaching of global sustainable development issues, from an environmental, economic and/or social perspective.

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## Helping children access leisure activities

A pilot project in Lund, Sweden, devised by the city in conjunction with the National Traffic Administration (Trafikverket), Kristianstad University and Lund Institute of Technology, has been initiated to increase children's accessibility to sport and leisure activities. Public transport focuses on commuting for work, and extracurricular activities often fall at the off-peak times of public transport. Scientists are now looking at evaluating activities, the groups that take part in them, the areas the activities are located in, children's and parents' attitudes and actual experiences on public transport in order to design collective transport solutions which make activities more accessible to children.

The project is expected to be completed in 2011.

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## A book of good examples

RCE Skåne in Southern Sweden has recently supported the production of an anthology of good examples from the city of Malmö. The book presents green building in a secondary school and using the school yard as a pedagogic tool, the first sustainable school in Malmö and the magazine Education for Sustainability, among many other examples. The book includes a useful toolbox with ideas and links and can be downloaded from [www.rceskane.se](http://www.rceskane.se) (in Swedish only).

**For more information**  
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## Youth participate in developing a sustainable society

A 3-year project Öresund Classroom – Young people's participation in developing a sustainable future society – consisting of a partnership between the cities of Copenhagen in Denmark, Lund and Malmö in Sweden, and the universities of Lund and Malmö, has been granted financial support amounting to 2 million euros. Students and teachers in eight schools will participate in the project focussing on young people's learning and involvement in connection with developing a sustainable future society.

The main purpose of the project is to promote everyday integration in the region. Students from both sides of the Öresund bay will meet and connect with each other around the common theme of social development and the environment. Teachers will focus on education methods that increase involvement in the community and will participate in learning circles with colleagues supported by mentors and researchers from the universities.

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## Food, Climate and ESD

A conference on Food, Climate and ESD was organised by the City of Malmö and Malmö University on 27 April 2010. About 170 pedagogues, school restaurant staff and headmasters from pre-schools, primary and secondary schools from all over Skåne, Sweden, participated in the event which was part of RCE Skåne's project Food and ESD. A new ESD tool, a platform useful for teachers interested in ESD, was presented during the event. The tool can be accessed at [www.hutiskolan.se](http://www.hutiskolan.se).



*Providing healthy food for students. Photo by Peter Adamsson, City of Malmö*

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