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# RCE Bulletin

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

## Report on the 3rd International RCE Conference

*Yoko Mochizuki & Sampreethi Aipanijguly*

The Third International RCE Conference, hosted by RCE Barcelona, at the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) between 2 and 4 July 2008 in Barcelona, Spain, provided acknowledged and candidate RCEs an opportunity to meet and discuss challenges in development and future direction of the global RCE network.

Building on the achievement of the First Conference in Yokohama (2006) and the Second Conference in Penang (2007), the Barcelona conference aspired to enhance networking among RCEs and develop inter-RCE plans of action. Over a period of three days, more than 130 participants – representatives of acknowledged RCEs, RCE candidates and experts – exchanged experiences and held discussions on operational issues related to the development of RCEs, such as evaluation and communication, as well as on six thematic areas—sustainable production and consumption, biodiversity, e-learning, health, youth and teacher training.

Representatives from UNESCO, UNICEF and UNIDO discussed potential synergies between their work and RCEs on the first day of the conference in the session "ESD Dialogue: Dialogue 4 Sustainability".

### Networking along Thematic Lines

The clustering of RCEs according to specific themes for strategic collaboration started in 2007. Working groups on six themes discussed partnerships, management, promotion, activities and fundraising at the conference.

The group on **Sustainable Production and Consumption (SPC)** explored several approaches to the topic including fair-trade, local production and consumption issues and multi-stakeholder engagement. Actions proposed were a situation analysis to establish the baseline on food-related SPC practices, developing modules to train trainers on SPC pertaining to food, identifying best practices on SPC of

cereals and grains and developing a process to ensure documentation and action research on the topic as relevant to ESD.

The discussion of the working group on **Youth** began with a definition and prioritisation of the target audience. NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) youth will be considered first priority, followed by students. RCEs participating in the group agreed to identify key issues and challenges in educating youth for Sustainable Development (SD), determine the needs of youth in terms of SD, ascertain existing international partnerships for youth education on SD, and assess the added value of working in partnership with other RCEs on youth activities.

The working group on **Health** identified three areas for cooperation—knowledge sharing, raising awareness and capacity building, and community projects. The group proposed developing a process of technology adoption, establishing a virtual technology learning centre, providing information on procedures and requirements to import new technologies, and devising educational strategies for the dissemination of the technology.

The group on **Teacher Training** suggested supporting existing networks wherever possible, encouraging the development and writing of local case studies, supporting change through strengthening positive and constructive elements within existing disciplines and curriculum and encouraging adaptation and localisation of existing learning support materials. A three-tiered working structure comprising policy and supplementary guidelines, activity-based learning and fieldwork was put forward.

The working group on **Biodiversity** explored joint activities that integrated awareness raising and education, maintaining ecological landscapes and adaptation of strategies for business and industries with the immediate target of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)-COP 10 in Nagoya in 2010. Areas of joint activities chosen were exchange of educational materials, experiences and good practices, including a depository of materials, developing a project on Satoyama—the traditional agricultural landscape of Japan that symbolizes sustainable use of natural

resources in rural areas, and holding a forum on business and biodiversity with possible links to the SPC thematic group.

Since the UNU envisions the global network of RCEs to constitute what it calls the 'Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development', **e-learning** is a particularly important theme to be explored in terms of achieving this broader vision. It was agreed that e-learning is a priority issue within the RCE community, and a network involving eleven RCEs and three RCE candidates was launched as a concrete outcome of the discussion of the Working Group on E-learning. The ambition of the network is to share experiences, knowledge and education modules and develop a 'community of practice' amongst the RCEs that participate in the online learning initiative.

### **Improving RCE operations**

Although RCEs are in different stages of maturity—some are recently acknowledged and some have been operating since 2005, they share similar operational challenges. While challenges specific to different world regions were addressed at the session on continental discussions on the final day of the conference, a half-day session was organised on the first day to discuss and share ideas on issues of communications, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, so that shared concerns as well as challenges to enhance inter-RCE networking would be addressed.

Online tools for better information-sharing were proposed during the communications session. These included UNU's Our World 2.0, <http://ourworld.unu.edu/en/>, a web magazine that examines the critical problems of our time with a focus on sharing knowledge about solutions that are emerging across the globe, Ning, <http://rcesed.ning.com/> and Basecamp—both tools for online group discussions and document sharing, an RCE server for information sharing between RCEs, and an internet-based virtual office proposed by RCE Rhine-Meuse for use among stakeholders of an RCE.

In preparation for the Barcelona Conference, the Global RCE Service Centre requested all RCEs to submit the mandatory annual reporting questionnaire and asked select RCEs to pilot the participatory self-assessment process. Those RCEs that piloted self-assessment—RCE Chubu, RCE Kuwa Zulu Natal, and RCE Rhine-Meuse—noted that the important goals of RCE assessment should be to verify whether RCEs meet the expectations of stakeholders, whether RCE activities conducted are in line with UNU's DESD strategy, and to evaluate the monitoring of internal processes by each RCE. The challenge is now to apply these observations develop an integrated Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) scheme and using the M&E process for improving the mobilisation and implementation.

### **Continental Discussions**

On the final day of the conference, RCEs grouped according to their geographical location to discuss continent-specific issues.

The group of African RCEs emphasised the point that it is the community that makes communications, and that the network should focus on communications without being technicians. They concurred that the principles governing African RCEs would be thoughtful action and seeking conceptual depth, a spirit of cooperation, consideration of the people as a whole, and a sense of humanity. Food and nutrition, health and sanitation, rethinking schooling and education, energy risks, functional literacy and south-north, north-south, and south-south dialogues are all challenges that RCEs in Africa need to address.

The group of American RCEs put forward the idea of establishing sister RCEs to promote inter-RCE networking. It was felt that graduate student involvement with exchange opportunities for teachers and students between RCEs would help create cross-linkages at the local level. A means would have to be provided for smaller ESD groups to tap into larger RCE networks.

There are twenty-two RCEs across ten countries in Asia. It was felt that regional issues and challenges were diverse and there was little to unify Asian RCEs by their geography. Asian RCEs felt that grouping by thematic areas of interest rather than by continent was more appropriate for them.

Funding and marketing was an important area of discussion for European RCEs. A marketing plan and clarity of funding was considered to be integral for the network. Priorities for European RCEs are the development of funding strategies, gathering information on subsidy options and regular communication between RCEs on successful bids.

**Discussions are underway on the date and venue of the 4th International RCE Conference to be held in 2009.**

**For more information**  
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### **A web-based communication environment for the RCE network**

As a follow-up to the International RCE Conference in Barcelona, RCE Rhine-Meuse has opened up its web-based project and communication environment for the RCE community. RCEs in Europe have already been invited through the RCE Ning site to send in their data.

The online communications environment acts as an RCE portal and allows each individual RCE a webpage to

present its activities and to link to its website. RCEs that do not have a website can use additional facilities within the system.

Advantages of the system are:

- A web based system offering advanced flexibility.
- Centralised presentation of the global RCE network.
- Centralised entry to all relevant project information of all RCEs.
- Facilities to support inter-RCE projects.
- Centralised system maintenance and updating, creating more efficiency and cost reduction.

RCE Rhine-Meuse is in contact with the Global RCE Service Centre to discuss further development of services. The next service to be installed is a matching service. This service allows RCEs to present their specialisation and area of expertise. Other RCEs can thus find the right RCE for collaboration.

Visit <http://www.european-rce-network.eu/> and contact RCE Rhine-Meuse to develop your RCE's presence online.

**For more information**

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## RCE Grand Rapids' partnerships for sustainable communities

RCE Grand Rapids has been working with other West Michigan communities over the summer to create new Community Sustainability Partnerships (CSP), modelled after RCE Grand Rapids as well as with one of the Grand Rapids' sister cities in Perugia, Italy. Four new Community Sustainability Partnerships have formed or are in the process of forming in Muskegon, Michigan; Holland/Zeeland, Michigan; Northwest Ottawa County, Michigan; and Portage, Michigan. These new partnerships are organising into a formal Regional CSP that will work on broader regional sustainability issues that continue to foster new partnerships, sustainability education, and community stewardship.

RCE Grand Rapids continues to encourage dialogue with multiple community stakeholder groups with specific interests throughout the City and West Michigan region and several new working groups have developed around specific community issues such as renewable energy, sustainable purchasing, neighbourhood improvement, and community education. A CSP Summit is planned for late October or early November to present the work of the various interest groups and report progress.

**For more information**

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## Leadership Forum in the Netherlands

RCE Rhine-Meuse has initiated a Dutch national initiative called the Leadership Forum, which is an alliance of representatives from the government, education, research and business sectors. The alliance was created to formulate an integrated concept for ESD. This concept will enable schools and other educational organisations to embed their new, ESD-based views into their regular educational activities. By implementing this new ESD concept learning will take place in continuous learning paths, combining the formal, non-formal and informal learning.

In its second meeting in early-September, the Leadership Forum adopted its mission. RCE Rhine-Meuse will now coordinate the implementation and further development of support tools.

**For more information**

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## ESD sensitisation and river basin management in Nairobi

RCE Greater Nairobi is currently involved in ESD sensitisation programmes targeting the coalition government's ministries and departments, the private sector, civil society organisations and institutions of higher learning.

So far, the ministries of labour, health, agriculture, forestry and wildlife, environment and mineral services, the ministry of education, the Office of the Prime Minister, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Kenyatta University have appointed a representative to the National ESD steering Committee and to the RCE.

The RCE, in collaboration with the Government of Kenya, UNEP, and other stakeholders are jointly planning activities geared towards managing and reducing pollution in the Nairobi River Basin. Of the eleven activities identified are surveys of the riparian reserve, halting illegal dumping, rehabilitation of a 2.5 km stretch along the river as a demo site, restoration and landscaping of the riparian zone and developing a river basin management plan.

**For more information**

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## RCE Rhine-Meuse's exchange programme with Ghana

North-South dialogue is a high priority for RCE Rhine-Meuse. It is the ambition of the RCE to bring this discussion to the attention of the new generation. Awareness raising and solidarity are keywords that drive the programme.

To realise this ambition, an exchange project has been initiated with the help of regional partners in the Netherlands and in Ghana. The exchange is open for young professionals in vocational training in both countries. The objectives of the exchange programme are capacity building, particularly entrepreneurial skills; networking; mutual understanding and respect. A group of Dutch participants left for Ghana in early-September. The group from Ghana will arrive in the Netherlands in mid-October.

**More on this project at <http://bnf.euregio-office.eu>.**

**For more information**

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## First meeting of Latin American Sustainable Universities

The Encontro Latino Americano de Universidades Sustentáveis (ELAUS) 2008, held in Passo Fundo, Brazil, from 1-3 September brought together 400 participants from ten Latin American countries, in a shared enthusiasm for sustainable development. The occasion provided the opportunity to exchange knowledge and sum up efforts in implementing ESD in Latin America. RCE and DESD activities were presented at the event.

The coordinators for the event came from the University of Passo Fundo, Brazil, the National University of Cordoba, Argentina and from the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

About a hundred papers were presented at the conference. Participants, mainly teachers and students from environmental and technical backgrounds, discussed ways to embrace new challenges in developing sustainable communities, sustainable cities and developing ESD curricula.

**For more information**

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## RCE Swaziland hosts environmental education conference

Members of RCE Swaziland hosted the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa's (EEASA) annual conference, workshop and annual general meeting from 28-31 July. The vibrant event attracted many participants from southern African countries.

Plenary sessions, key-note papers, poster sessions, round-table discussions and workshops all provided useful forums to discuss environmental education processes and ESD orientations.

This high-profile event also included a session by the acting Prime Minister of Swaziland and various ministers. The President of EEASA, Dr. Justin Lupele, and Professor Heila Sisitka of Rhodes University both provided thought-provoking and inspirational sessions at the conference.

**For more information**

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## Community gathering in Sudbury

A community session was held with approximately 80 individuals representing various community organisations in Sudbury on 19 June. An overview of the Healthy Community strategy and information on RCE Greater Sudbury were shared at the sessions. Guest speakers at the event talked about corporate social responsibility, community-based social marketing and RCE activities. The healthy community logo was unveiled on the occasion.

A Healthy Community Recognition award has been established to recognise the efforts of individuals, groups and corporations in being leaders in establishing a healthy sustainable community. The Healthy Community/RCE lenses will be used to ensure that any initiatives recognised fall within the scope of the Healthy Community Strategy and Charter.

The Healthy Community Cabinet acts as the representative of the Greater Sudbury RCE.

**For more information**

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## Summer art school in South Durham, UK

The Hartlepool Art Summer School in County Durham, North East UK is an annual event which ordinarily involves all Hartlepool secondary schools. This year, in partnership with RCE North East, it expanded to include a further ten Catholic Partnership schools in South Durham, with 120 year ten students of mixed abilities. Art teachers from all sixteen schools taught at the event, and three professional artists joined the programme.

Work began with a study day, and the students were brought to two seashore locations with a broad brief to investigate lichens, rust and other textures and growth forms visually. Students then convened at English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College, where they worked in six workshops: painting, ceramics, sculpture, photography, textiles and mixed media. Scientists from Newcastle University joined the study, and introduced the students to the effects of pollution on plant life, and the study of organisms composed through the association of microscopic algae with filamentous fungi.



*Students in the carving workshop*

The final work will contribute to their examination coursework and will be exhibited publicly at the community art gallery in Hartlepool from 16 September for three weeks. All of the participating schools will bring other students and their local communities to see the work. The work will then be displayed at Newcastle University Botanic Gardens, and will be celebrated in the usual RCE North East style with a schools' music event. Both exhibitions will serve as the platform for further project development.

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## ESD Seminar in Bogor

RCE Bogor organised its second ESD seminar on the theme ESD Concept and Application in Indonesia, on 14 August. The seminar attracted around seventy participants, including high-school teachers, from various institutions. Speakers at the seminar were from SEAMEO BIOTROP, the organisation that hosts RCE Bogor, the NGO Kehati, the University of Indonesia, Bogor Agricultural University and the University of British Columbia, Canada.

Earlier in the month, the RCE held a debate on the environment and a poster competition for high-school students. Twenty teams participated in the debate and eight schools in the poster competition held at the SEAMEO BIOTROP Campus on 7-8 August.

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## JUNEC Toyako Summit and Youth Conference on Sustainable Development

JUNEC (Junior United Nations Eco Workshop) organised two 3-night 4-day events in the summer of 2008, one in Muroran, Hokkaido, where the G-8 Japan Summit was held from 7 to 9 July 2008, and another in Tokyo, drawing more than 200 secondary school students in total.

The JUNEC Toyako Summit was held as a post G-8 Toyako Summit, where world leaders discussed not only the world economy but also pressing environmental problems such as climate change and African development. The Summit was held from 25 to 28 July with the participation of Japanese secondary school students from Hokkaido, the Greater Tokyo Area and college students from China.

JUNEC Asia Conference 2008 Summer Session was held between 18 and 21 August in Tokyo. Yoko Mochizuki from UNU-IAS' EfSD programme served as a facilitator for both events.

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## Asia-Pacific training workshop on EIU and ESD

APCEIU (Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding) organised "The 8th Asia-Pacific Training Workshop on EIU : Towards a Culture of Peace and a Sustainable Future" between 22 September and 2 October at Hanyang University Ansan Campus in collaboration with the national commissions of the region and the university, sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology. Drawing 31 teacher educators, teachers, and decision makers in teacher education from 24 countries, the ten-day workshop sought to promote synergies between Education for International Understanding (EIU) and ESD. Zinaida Fadeeva and Yoko Mochizuki from the EfSD programme of UNU-IAS served as resource persons for the workshop.

**For more information**  
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## Partners for change

Read RCE Pune's account on developing a field-based activity on participatory budgeting for students on the **new RCE experiences page** at [www.ias.unu.edu/efsd](http://www.ias.unu.edu/efsd).

To contribute articles to this section, please contact **Sampreethi Aipanjiguly**  
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## RCE Cha-am launched

RCE Cha-am, Thailand was launched on 19 July in the gracious presence of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The launch was held in conjunction with the official opening of the Sirindhorn International Environmental Park – the lead organisation and secretariat of the RCE – and the various international events held during the week including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Environmental Education Action Plan Implementation Workshop, the ASEAN Leadership Training Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption, and the ASEAN Plus Three (China, Japan and Republic of Korea) Youth Environment Forum. The three ASEAN events were organised in collaboration with UNU-IAS.

**For more information**  
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## Potentiality mapping of SD managers in Yogyakarta

A survey to map the potential among sustainable development managers has been developed and data collected in Yogyakarta. Government institutes, research institutions and NGOs in Bantul, Sleman, Kulonprogo, and Gunung Kidul districts, and Yogyakarta municipality, were interviewed. Ten surveyors, with two covering each district or municipality, administered the questionnaire.

Results showed that, in 2005-2007, 141 government and non government institutions had programmes related to sustainable development—education, including early age education, environment conservation, waste management, economy-based empowerment, etc. The results have been digitally mapped and compiled in a database.

**For more information**  
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## RCE Tongyeong's Global Youth Challenge

Through RCE Tongyeong's Youth Global Challenge Programme 'BRIDGE TO THE WORLD 2008', three teams of seventeen young people successfully completed their study tour of RCE Munich (Germany), RCE South Pacific (Fiji, Tuvalu) and RCE Toronto (Canada).

257 middle and high school students applied in teams with strong self-researched proposals to visit fellow RCEs under a study topic related to local and global sustainable development. In a fierce competition, three teams 'TTL', 'Evergreen', and 'Passion Infinity' won the ticket to the world. After the launching ceremony attended by the Mayor, three teams each set on a 15-day-trip with the

mission to find the key to sustainable development. Team 'Passion Infinity' visited RCE South Pacific in Fiji to see the reality of climate change and flew to the threatened island of Tuvalu. Team 'Evergreen' met members of RCE Munich in search of ways to make a youth-friendly eco-city and team 'TTL' went to Toronto to observe the participation of youth in a local festival.



*Students at RCE Tongyeong's Bridge to the World 2008*

Observations of the young leaders presented at the reporting ceremony held in the presence of the Mayor, Chairperson of City Council, and Superintendent of Education Office both impressed and startled the audience with their acuteness. The reports of the three teams will be published and distributed to schools and related organisations shortly. RCE Tongyeong, on behalf of all participants, wishes to thank RCEs Munich, South Pacific and Toronto for their kind hospitality. The programme will be organised annually to strengthen youth leadership and network among RCEs for sustainable future.

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## Motivating young people to activism with ESD

RCE-Ireland's flagship project is now well underway since the appointment of Nancy Serrano as Research Assistant to the Network in July 08.

The aim of this innovative flagship project is to develop the action component in development education through evaluating the usefulness of different cognitive approaches in the implementation of the key skills framework of the National Council for Curriculum Assessment in Ireland in certain subject areas which post-primary teachers associate with development education.

Taking an action research approach, this project will work with teachers in targeted subjects across a number of schools in Ireland to support and explore the potential of the key skills approach in development education. Information processing, being personally effective, communicating, critical and creative thinking and working with others are the key skills being looked at.

The project aims to investigate if situated cognition approaches can increase the effectiveness of key skills learning on the development action-orientation of students and how to integrate these key skills effectively into given subjects with ESD. The project will also focus on how key skills may give rise to students having the freedom to choose their own forms of action, and if those forms of action, differ from those taken before the intervention.

The outcomes from this project will offer invaluable insights into how young people within the post-primary school system are motivated to activism in ESD, and how best we can develop this motivation.

This exciting research project will run until next April when all data collected will be published in relevant educational journals. **The RCE would be interested in hearing from others who are running or have completed a similar educational research.**

**For more information**  
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## School clubs to promote sustainable development in Kano, Nigeria

RCE Kano has initiated the formation of clubs in schools to promote sustainable development. These clubs, called Ubuntu brothers' clubs, have been formed in primary schools as a start, under the guardianship of a teacher. Ubuntu comes from Zulu and loosely translates as humanity.

The RCE aims to create ESD ambassadors in schools through these clubs, and hopes that the concept of sustainable development reaches associates of club members by extension. Children learn about concepts of sustainable development in a simple and accessible way at the clubs. In one activity, children observe the boiling of water in a clay pot and in an aluminium pot. Water boiled in the mud pot consumes eight times the energy as the aluminium pot.

The challenge for the RCE now is to reach out to policy makers who can help the clubs gain recognition in public schools and institutions.

**For more information**  
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## ESD programme survey in Toronto

A survey of ESD programmes in the Toronto region was conducted to determine the degree to which these

programmes reflect the themes of the UN DESD. Over 400 organisations were invited to complete the survey, with over 87 per cent of the respondents coming from the informal education sector. Findings showed a lack of awareness of the links between ESD and issues of environmental justice and poverty alleviation. There seemed to be a gap in training programmes aimed specifically at the social service sector, and very few training opportunities appeared to be available online. Over 80 per cent of education occurred face-to-face.

Based on the survey results, RCE Toronto is developing several projects including;

- a train-the-trainer programme for the social service sector;
- free, public distance education modules targeted at advancing understanding of Toronto climate change issues;
- a case study of the neighbourhood scale building on the success of the ReWire project aimed at changing behaviour to encourage energy conservation;
- designing an internet-based sustainability map to assist the public in identifying local SD projects;
- identification of case studies to serve as examples of ESD in the Toronto area; and
- the development of a new Centre for Sustainable Life and Learning at the Toronto Zoo.

**For more information**  
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## RCE collaboration at Expo 2008

RCE Chubu and RCE Barcelona collaborated to organise an exhibition and workshop at Expo 2008 held in Zaragoza, Spain from 14 June to 14 September. Since the last expo was held in Aichi, Japan, in 2005, Japanese NGOs and citizens including members of RCE Chubu organised a special exhibition from 14-27 July at the Expo 2008. On the last day of the exhibition, RCE Barcelona helped facilitate a workshop.



*Representatives from RCE Chubu at Expo 2008*

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## RCE West Midlands is now RCE Severn

Following consultations with partner organisations, RCE West Midlands has changed its name to RCE Severn. The new name better reflects the geographical scope of the RCE, which is based at the University of Gloucestershire bordering the West Midlands and the South West region. The river Severn links these two regions.

**Contact: Daniella Tilbury**  
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## Call for papers for ESD Journal

CEE (Centre for Environment Education), India requests RCEs to submit case studies for its peer-reviewed Journal of Education for Sustainable Development (JESD). The bi-annual journal is published in English.

**Contact: jesd@ceeindia.org**  
[www.ceeindia.org/cee/callpaper.html](http://www.ceeindia.org/cee/callpaper.html)

## ESD International Forum 2008 and Asia-Pacific RCE Regional Workshop

*Tongyeong, Korea, 23-26 October 2008*

RCE Tongyeong has organised the ESD International Forum 2008, focusing on the issue of Sustainable Production and Consumption, to exchange information and experiences on ESD activities. RCEs with an interest in:

- Coastal Management and Sustainable Production and Consumption issues related to the marine environment (fisheries, shipbuilding, marine pollution),
  - Ramsar COP10 and CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) programme related to coastal regions,
  - Strengthening of Asia-Pacific regional network,
- are invited to the forum.

**The Asia-Pacific RCE Regional Workshop is to be held on 26 October in conjunction with the event.**

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## Conference on Environmental Management for Sustainable Universities

*Barcelona, Spain, 15-17 October 2008*

EMSU is an international conference series which aims to share sustainability practice in universities. EMSU 2008 is the fifth edition and aims to generate debate on the role of knowledge in five key areas of environmental and social change: climate change and resource scarcity, production and consumption patterns, governance and changing responsibilities, poverty reduction and equality, and urban systems. The conference will be hosted by the Technical University of Catalonia. RCE Barcelona is seeking RCE's with an interest in Universities and Sustainability to participate in this process.

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EMSU Website: [www.emsu.org](http://www.emsu.org)

## Klima 2008: An internet-based conference on climate issues

*3-7 November, 2008*

RCE Hamburg, through the Research and Transfer Centre – Applications of Life Sciences of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany will hold an online research conference Klima 2008/Climate 2008 from 3-7 November.

The event is expected to gather information of high scientific quality but without CO2 emissions and pressure on the world's climate. Around 1.5 million visitors are expected on the conference website  
<http://www.klima2008.net/index.php>.

The aim of the event is to offer a platform for relevant information sharing on matters relating to sustainability and climate change, while engaging a large number of university-based researchers, environmental experts, strategists, specialists and the general public. The conference will also actively engage young people, and the participation of thousands of schoolchildren from five continents is expected.

More information at the conference website:  
<http://www.klima2008.net/index.php>

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## Advanced International Training Programmes in ESD, 2009

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) invites applications for Advanced International Training Programmes in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This programme seeks to support creative thinking and the development of change projects in the field of ESD in higher education in Africa and Asia.

The international training programmes are specially designed for persons qualified to participate in reform processes of strategic importance on different levels and holding a position in home organisations with mandates to run processes of change.

Training is focused on support to individual or team plans for change. The plan should be well established in the participant's organisation and is a basic part of the programme concept.

**Completed applications should be submitted through the Swedish Embassy in the country by 14 November 2008.**

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## 12th UNESCO-APEID Conference

*Nonthaburi, Thailand, 8-11 December 2008*

The theme of the 12th UNESCO-APEID conference is "Quality Innovations for Teaching and Learning", and UNU-IAS will hold a session on the sub-theme—Reorienting Teacher Education for Sustainable Development. Several RCEs are presenting papers on the occasion.

**Contact:** [rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu)

**More information on the conference is available at**

**<http://www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid/conference>**

## Meeting of European RCEs

*University of Limerick, Ireland, 15-16 December 2008*

The theme of the meeting is Engaged Learning for Sustainable Development; Evidence-based Practice.

Acknowledged and candidate RCEs from Europe are invited to produce posters for display at the meeting. Posters should highlight innovative ideas and good practice for ESD, current ESD research projects and recommendations for future work.

**Contact:** Deirdre Hogan

**RCE Ireland**

**[deirdre.hogan@ul.ie](mailto:deirdre.hogan@ul.ie)**

## ESD Conference in the Rhine-Meuse region

*Rhine-Meuse, January 2009*

RCE Rhine-Meuse is organising a regional meeting on ESD in January 2009 in collaboration with the city of Kerkrade, the Industrien Science Centre in Kerkrade, the Environment Federation (Milieufederatie Limburg) and the Centre for Development Cooperation (COS-Limburg). The conference is supported by the government of the province of Dutch Limburg. The meeting will be organised as a trade fair to provide an opportunity for municipalities, companies and other organisations to demonstrate their achievements in ESD in the first years of the Decade on ESD.

**Contact:** Jos Rikers

**RCE Rhine-Meuse**

**[j.rikers@rcerhine-meuse.org](mailto:j.rikers@rcerhine-meuse.org)**

## UNESCO World Conference on ESD

*Bonn, Germany, 31 March-2 April 2009*

As the DESD approaches its mid-point, the "World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development – Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade" will be held in Bonn, Germany, from 31 March to 2 April 2009.

Organisers of the conference are UNESCO and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, in cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO.

The conference will provide a platform for dialogue and advocacy on Education for Sustainable Development at the global level, involving some 700 participants from all regions representing UNESCO Member States, UN agencies, civil society organisations, youth and the private sector. The objectives of the conference are:

1. To highlight the essential contribution of ESD to all of education and to achieving quality education

2. To promote international exchange on ESD

3. To carry out a stock-taking of DESD implementation

4. To develop strategies for the way ahead

The 700 participants will reflect the nature of the DESD as a multi-stakeholder undertaking and will range from:

- representatives nominated by UNESCO Member States;
- representatives and individual experts invited by the organisers, in particular from civil society;
- participants selected through an open process of application (starting October 2008).

**Initial enquiries:** [esddecade@unesco.org](mailto:esddecade@unesco.org)

**Website:** [www.desd.org](http://www.desd.org)

## 5th World Environmental Education Congress

*Montreal, Canada, 10-14 May 2009*

The congress will explore links between ecology, economy and écosophism, and consider how environmental education can help link these three dimensions of our relationship with the world.

The general objectives of the Congress are to highlight and to stimulate:

- the role of environmental education in the search for meaning and human identity;

- the contribution of environmental education to social innovation; and

- the contribution of environmental education in the development of public policy.

**Contact:** The Secretariat of the 5th World Environmental Education Congress

**[5weec@jpd.com](mailto:5weec@jpd.com)**

**Website:** [www.5weec.uqam.ca](http://www.5weec.uqam.ca)

## 7th International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies and Applications

*Orlando, Florida, 10-13 July 2009*

Interested persons are invited to submit papers/abstracts for the EISTA 2009 conference.

Submission deadline: 14 October, 2008

Acceptance notification: 8 December, 2008

Deadline for submission of final paper: 18 February, 2009

Awards will be granted to the best paper presented. The best 10%-20% of the papers presented will be selected for publication in the JSCI Journal ([www.j-sci.com/Journal/SCI](http://www.j-sci.com/Journal/SCI)).

Those interested in organising an invited session on a topic related to a specific research interest may fill out a form on the conference web page

<http://www.2009iisconferences.org/EISTA>.

More details are also available on the above website.