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RCE Bulletin

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

Fourth International RCE Conference

The Fourth International RCE Conference was organised by UNU-IAS from 13-15 May 2009 in Montreal, Canada. The conference, hosted by RCE Montreal at the Biosphère, was held back-to-back with the Fifth World Environmental Education Congress (5WEEC, Montreal, 10-14 May 2009). About 150 representatives from the global RCE network and from peer organisations participated in the event. The programme included a mix of plenary sessions, poster display and working group sessions.

Eight ESD and RCE-related workshops at the 5th WEEC explored six themes related to ESD: the RCE network's contribution to reorienting education towards a sustainable future, core competencies needed for sustainability in higher education, supporting institutional changes for sustainability in universities, sustainable livelihoods and sustainable consumption and production, addressing urban challenges through RCEs, and learning and assessment of ESD practice. These workshops, open to all participants at the WEEC, as well as display booths on the RCE initiative, on RCE Montreal and on Canadian RCEs, helped promote the ESD and RCE concept to a wider academic circle.

In the four years since the acknowledgement of the first seven RCEs, the focus has moved from the challenge of mobilisation at the global level to that of assessment. Although a system of self and peer assessment has been agreed upon by the RCE community, it is yet to be determined if the evaluation should be process or result-oriented. A related concern is to develop reflexive evaluation systems that promote meaningful learning.

Other issues of concern brought forward at the conference related to strategies for the next wave of RCE mobilisation, ways to sustain the vitality of the RCE community after 2014, developments related to operations among and within RCEs, the relevance and possible need for recognition and promotion of good examples of RCE activities, the building of partnerships and synergies with other transformative educational movements, the direction of policy work, the development of inter-RCE communications, reporting and the urgent need for in-depth research.

At the conference, working group sessions were held on the themes that RCEs are collaborating on: health and ESD; biodiversity, ecosystems and ESD; sustainable consumption and production; the role of higher education institutions in ESD; youth and ESD; better schools for ESD; e-learning; poverty, environment and ESD; and climate change and ESD.

Some actions and strategies proposed on these topics were:

- the training on ESD for health professionals
- development of toolkits for children on local health issues
- a research project on a sustainable approach towards pandemics
- inter-RCE collaboration towards the Conference of Parties (COP) on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)-10 to be held in Nagoya in 2010
- developing a policy paper on sustainable production and consumption
- training on sustainable production and consumption
- developing a monograph or special journal issue on core competencies needed for ESD, and how these are currently being applied to education and learning for sustainability
- organising a youth conference in each of the continents
- organising a global camp for youth on SD-related issues
- developing policy support for national and local governments, teachers and learners to help better engage schools in ESD
- collate case studies on learning for change and promote good practices
- explore innovation in curriculum on climate change

About a third of the participants provided feedback on the conference. An average of 73 per cent of respondents felt that the conference was well-prepared and that the format of the sessions at the conference were good or excellent. An average of 70 per cent of the respondents felt that the conference objectives were met, and an average of 60 per cent of the respondents evaluated the conference sessions as useful.

For more information
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Presentations from the conference are available at
www.ias.unu.edu/efsd/rceconference2009.

Climate change workshop in South Africa

Fourteen Eco-Schools coordinators gathered at Umgeni Valley in South Africa, on 26 and 27 May, to explore methods with which to step up and help address climate change threats. The central challenge for the workshop was the development and sharing of educational methods and actions that go beyond raising awareness to the making of real lifestyle choices that will help address climate change issues.

Some issues identified at the workshop include the need for quality resources that are relevant to the social context that the schools operate in. Practical activities should be conceptualised within the context of the school, and the curriculum, and should seek to strengthen teachers' work and learner actions. It is important that teachers do not see Eco-Schools as part of a separate environmental agenda that takes them away from their core commitments. Activities need to be integral within the curriculum and seek to strengthen the key principles of human rights, social justice and the quest for a healthy environment.

The Eco Schools network is a project of WESSA, the lead organisation of RCE KwaZulu-Natal. Eco-schools are an active member of the RCE and help engage with a wide range of partners including the Department of Education and Environment Affairs.

For more information

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Wikipedia pages on RCEs

Interns at the RCE Southern North Sea have recently created wikipedia pages on the RCE initiative, on the UN DESD and on RCE Southern North Sea. RCEs are invited to participate in editing and adding information to these pages, and to create new pages on each RCE's work.

The wikipedia pages are at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RCE_Southern_North_Sea
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_Centres_of_Expertise_\(RCE\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_Centres_of_Expertise_(RCE))
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Decade_of_Education_for_Sustainable_Development

RCEs are encouraged to create wiki pages on their work to ensure that information on the network is readily available to a global audience.

For further information

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Joint research project at RCE Kodagu

RCE Kodagu, with the participation of the Kodagu Model Forest Trust, has initiated a joint-research project aimed at creating awareness among plantation workers, forest dependent communities and forest-dwelling communities in the area on human-elephant conflict. The initiative helps link affected stakeholders with various government and non-government programmes to help mitigate the situation.

Human-elephant conflict is a problem in the peripheries of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserve forests in India. An examination of the issue shows a clear gap between the understanding of the problem and mitigation methodologies. Hence, the major thrust of RCE Kodagu's project is on educating stakeholders.

For more information

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ESD and food, nutrition and health workshop at Yogyakarta

RCE Yogyakarta organised a workshop on *Developing Teaching and Learning Methods for ESD through Community Empowering Centres (CECs) on Food, Nutrition and Health* on 26-27 May 2009.

The workshop aimed to gather information from stakeholders to develop curriculum and practical work for ESD, and to formulate methods to deliver ESD through Gadjah Mada University's *Student Community Service-Community Empowering Learning* programme.



Workshop participants

Universities, NGOs and local government representatives from Yogyakarta as well as representatives from the Okayama University of Japan, from the UNESCO office in Jakarta and from the Department of Education of Indonesia participated in the workshop.

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Side events on RCEs at CSD-17 and 12th AAU Conference

A side event on RCEs in Africa was held during the conference of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)-17, at the UN headquarters in New York, on 8 May.

Presentations at the event included one on the progress of RCEs worldwide and activities of RCEs in Africa; on RCE contribution to sustainable development in Africa, in particular in addressing impacts of climate change on food security, agriculture, health, poverty and biodiversity; and on government and NGO expectations of RCEs in Africa.

A parallel event on RCEs was held on 7 May 2009, during the Annual 12th General Conference of the Association of African Universities (AAU), in Abuja, Nigeria. About 30 people participated in the event.

The RCE concept and application procedures were presented at the event. Prof. S Duwa of RCE Kano and Ziola Zanotto Malhadas of RCE Curitiba shared their experiences in establishing RCEs in their regions, and discussed challenges and opportunities. Participants also explored linkages between RCEs, UNEP's MESA and AAU, to identify potential collaborative activities and synergies between these networks for sustainable development.

For more information

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New working groups of RCE Severn

The first steering group meeting of RCE Severn, on 8 May, identified working groups that are now being established.

These groups will focus on:

- Engaging with businesses on climate change issues
- Young People and Sustainable Schools
- Local food initiatives
- Media and communications

A fifth group involving local authorities working on sustainability education and climate change issues has also been suggested, and an initial meeting will be arranged to explore this in more detail shortly.

All working groups will be meeting before the end of July to start developing new projects to support RCE Severn's objectives.

For more information

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A busy spring for RCE Cairo

RCE Cairo's launch event in March was just one of the RCE's activities this spring. Following the kick-off event,

the RCE participated in the ESD Conference in Bonn, and the RCE Conference in Montreal. In addition, the RCE co-hosted the UNIDO-UNU conference—Opportunities and Challenges for University Leadership in ESD—in May.

The RCE has also been active in submitting several project proposals for funding, by taking advantage of its local and international networks, and by integrating stakeholders and global partners in the development of future projects.

Proposals that have met with success so far are:

- the Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window with 22 European and Egyptian universities for student exchange, academic and research activities on sustainable development;
- Education for Sustainable Development: Community-based research on local-international production systems; and
- Tempus UNCHAIN funding to establish the University Chair of Innovation for better university-industry co-operation in the MEDA countries.

For more information

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RCE Cebu helps promote eco-tourism

Since autumn last year, RCE Cebu has been promoting ecotourism at the forest reserve of Camp 7 Minglanilla, situated about an hour's drive from Cebu in the Philippines.

The initiative is part of the showcase project 'Promoting ESD through Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Resources and Empowerment', implemented in partnership with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)-Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED).

The ecotourism project being developed by RCE Cebu in partnership with Camp 7 residents, envisions encouraging youth in the area to be effective eco-managers of their forest. The Camp 7 eco-tour includes exploration of caves and streams as well as visits to project sites, that are run jointly by the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) and the community, on apiculture, floriculture and the development of a seedling nursery. Future plans include partnering with birdwatching groups, botanists and herbalists to share the stewardship of the 123-hectare forest reserve.

To widen collaboration, the RCE recently arranged a meeting focused on the development of the seven caves found at Camp 7, with municipal officials who in turn held a dialogue with the area officials. Together they initiated a cave clean-up and dialogue with the DENR to assess the tourism potential and biodiversity value of the caves.

A youth group, who participated in the cave clean-up, is working towards having their organisation registered officially, and has started a livelihood programme based on marketing seedlings on a small scale by selling seedlings.

The RCE also assisted in organising an educational tour for the Camp 7 officials, the youth group, women's group, cooperatives, senior citizens group, health workers and police, to the existing eco-tourism site of Kawasan falls, in the Cebu province, to gain insights on managing an eco-tourism site.

RCE Cebu plans to broaden project partnership and collaborate with local and global partners, and experts on forest management to assist the residents in preserving the Camp 7 forest.

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ESD & Gender Research Group (G-ESD)

The newly formed ESD & Gender Research Group (G-ESD) gathered for the first time at the Tokyo Women's Plaza in Japan on 26 May 2009. Through collaborative interdisciplinary gender research, G-ESD seeks to explore how gender can be better mainstreamed and thereby promote increased gender equality in the development of ESD.

While the group is still developing, current members of G-ESD include a diverse range of Japanese academics and ESD specialists who have long expressed the urgent need for increased discussion surrounding gender mainstreaming in ESD. Present at the meeting were representatives from the Kita-kyushu Forum on Asian Women, Yokohama National University, ESD-Japan, Tokyo City University and UNU-IAS. At this inaugural meeting, G-ESD members focused on discussing joint research goals, capacity building and governance and communication strategies for the G-ESD network.

While the group is still in the preliminary processes of identifying concrete joint research agendas, RCEs are identified as key potential collaborators of G-ESD research. As local drivers of ESD in their respective regions, RCEs hold the high potential to both bring light to current gender (in)equality issues hindering ESD that can be explored within the G-ESD network, and can also serve as deliverers of gender mainstreaming tactics to their local regions.

In addition to RCE research, G-ESD has identified several other research goals, beginning with the fundamental task to better identify and address the critical synergies between gender and sustainability, as the connection often remains vague. The research group also aims to further explore the

relationship between ESD and EFA, as this linkage can beneficially serve to emphasise how gender equality in the context of sustainability is relevant and crucial for both males and females. At the national level, further research in gender in ESD perspectives could help ESD-Japan strengthen their international ESD linkages and better synergize with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as the promotion of gender equality is not only embedded in the Millennium Declaration, but is also MDG3.

G-ESD hopes to increasingly engage with global RCEs in developing joint research agendas and invites any individuals or groups interested in joining the research network.

RCEs interested in collaborating with the G-ESD should contact:
The Global RCE Service Centre
rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu

ESD study-visit in Lund

The Lifelong Learning Programme is, as of 2007, the EU's new framework programme for education and skills development. It consists of four sectoral programmes, each of which consists of a series of different activities. There is also a transverse element to the programme. This includes overall projects such as opportunities for experts and decision-makers in education to participate in international study visits within Europe.

The Lund Education Department in Sweden took this opportunity to offer a study-visit on the theme *Education for Sustainable Development – recognition of formal, non-formal and informal learning*. Twelve people from eight European countries visited compulsory and upper secondary schools as well as adult education centres in Lund between 4 and 7 May. Various ESD-projects were presented during the visit. Other departments of the municipality as well as the University opened their doors and gave interesting lectures on the subject.

The Global School, which is a national programme financed by SIDA, gave the group the national perspective on ESD. Sony Ericsson, which is one of the international companies situated in Lund, presented their view on corporate sustainability.

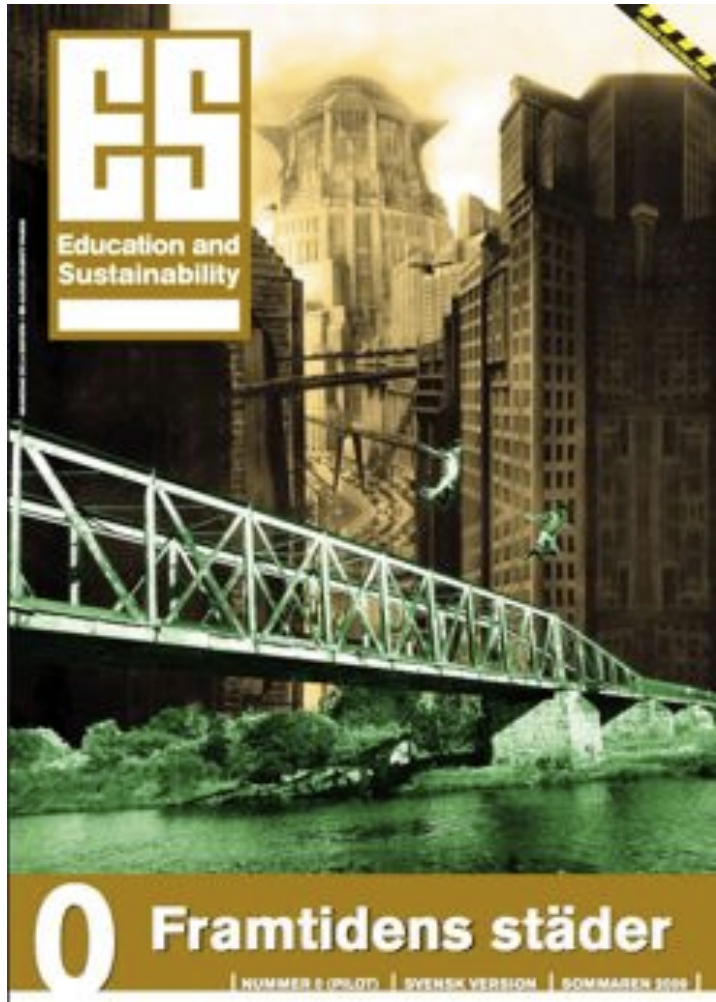
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Education and Sustainability–Sweden

A Swedish version of RCE Barcelona's magazine *Education and Sustainability* is currently being developed. A number of Swedish ESD actors have been involved in the start up phase, including The Swedish UNESCO Council, RCE

Skåne, The Teknikdalen Foundation, The Swedish National Agency for Education, WWF and the Global Action Plan.

A needs' analysis will be carried out this summer through interviews of teachers and educators and a web survey that focuses on the needs of Swedish educators in terms of sustainability learning resources and inspirational material. The study aims to arrive at a clear understanding of what Swedish educators really need to be able to better integrate ESD into their teaching activities.



The cover of the pilot issue of Education and Sustainability - Sweden

A Swedish editorial committee is being created to develop the contents of the magazine, and agreements are being developed with partners to publish the first issue this autumn.

For more information
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ESD workshop for teachers in Delhi

The National Bal Bhavan-Delhi, that organises educational activities for children, youth and teachers, organised an ESD workshop for its teachers from 15-17 May 2009, in collaboration with RCE Delhi. The event was supported by TERI, the National Museum of Natural History, Centre for

Environment-Delhi, the Delhi Ministry of Environment and Forests, the NGO Development Alternatives and the Yamuna Biodiversity Park.

About eighty teachers participated in the 3-day workshop that focused on designing simple activities on sustainable development for children, and in helping teachers understand various sustainable development issues such as those related to food, energy and waste management. The challenges of unsustainable urban growth, the concept of the ecological footprint, and understanding nature through art and traditions were also presented during the workshop. Another interesting session during the event was the use of drama and creative games in teaching children about the environment.

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RCE Greater Sudbury creates a welcoming community

The Diversity Advisory Panel to the City of Greater Sudbury is a key partner in a research consortium with sixteen universities to create welcoming communities for new immigrants. The research project will study such strategic areas as community civic resources and initiatives, optimising social and cultural integration, children and youth, and education and educational policy. The goal of the project is to develop strategies for attracting and retaining minorities and immigrants in small and medium sized communities.

The Welcoming Communities project is an important activity for the enhancement of the RCE's work in the region, and is an example of one of the many community projects that have been recognised and formally endorsed as a healthy community initiative by the Healthy Community Cabinet of RCE Greater Sudbury. All endorsed projects are provided with the healthy community logo to recognise the work taking place to educate the community on sustainable development.

The Diversity Advisory Panel, in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health, has also been successful in the re-publication of Embracing Cultural Diversity. This publication is aimed at children, their parents and educators in promoting, understanding and awareness of diversity. The publication is aligned with the objectives of new opportunities and tools to incorporate ESD in education reform efforts and fostering greater quality of teaching and learning in ESD.

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Engaging universities in North Africa and the Middle East

UNU-IAS, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), held a seminar in Cairo, Egypt on *Opportunities and Challenges for University Leadership in Education for Sustainable Industrial Development* on 27 May 2009. The seminar was organised in collaboration with RCE Cairo and the Egypt National Cleaner Production Centre.

Leaders of about forty universities from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region attended the seminar that was convened to encourage and support leading universities in the region to integrate sustainable development considerations in curricula, vocational training and community outreach, and research and development.

The seminar built upon the results and experiences of leading programmes of the organisers — the RCE initiative and ProSPER.Net of UNU-IAS, and National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC) of UNIDO.

The intensive one day seminar was designed to showcase examples of university leadership in sustainable development, introduce key sustainable development topics and discuss practical ways for incorporating sustainable development considerations into curricula (science, engineering, business, etc.), vocational training and community outreach.

The seminar took place in connection with the UNIDO Green Industry Forum on Competitiveness and Innovation through Green Products and Processes, held on 26-28 May in Cairo.

For more information
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RCE Guwahati celebrates World Environment Day 2009

RCE Guwahati celebrated the World Environment Day 2009 on 2 June at the Gondhmow Anchalik High School in Kamrup District, Assam, India in partnership with the Centre for Environment Education – North East and Gondhmow Tourism Development Society (GTDS). The target audience for the programme were the teachers and students of the local primary and high schools, the madrasa and village youth.

Activities on the day included an awareness procession through the village in which over 250 students and village youth took part, a signature campaign and a discussion on combating climate change, a participatory drawing event, and creating a wish tree for combating climate change.

Students from primary and secondary school levels were asked to draw a component of their environment on a large piece of cloth, in the participatory drawing event. Students were also given leaf-shaped pieces of paper and asked to put down a wish on climate change. The leaves were pasted on to a poster to look like a tree.



Children draw elements of their environment at the World Environment Day 2009 in Guwahati, Assam, India

For more information
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An evaluation tool for ESD in Ireland

RCE-Ireland has recently secured funding from Irish Aid (Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland) for a research project entitled *Developing an instrument for assessing education for development education and ESD interventions*, that will run from May 2009 – May 2010. As part of the project, RCE-Ireland plans to host a symposium in September 2009 on ESD Evaluation.

In Ireland, there is no standard assessment to measure the impact of the numerous ESD initiatives, run by numerous organisations in the formal or non-formal educational sectors. Establishing standard evaluation tools to assess the effectiveness of these initiatives is crucial to the ESD sector so that all programmes can be better evaluated and compared.

Over the next 12 months, RCE-Ireland's research project aims to develop a world class impact assessment tool for ESD programmes that is transferable from context to context, reliable, valid, with useable data for the end user, and implementable in a reasonable timeframe. This assessment tool will measure the impact of an ESD initiative/programme by measuring increases in levels of critical thinking, moral reasoning, and actions (i.e., cognitive, affective and behavioural dimensions of ESD) of participants before and after the initiative. This ties into ESD policy and practice in Ireland.

The application of this assessment tool will be 3-fold: it will enhance our understanding of the Irish population with respect to ESD, it can allow increases in 'thinking, feeling and acting' on ESD issues to be measured and it will facilitate comparisons between specific groups of the general population.

RCE-Ireland will host a symposium in September this year on ESD Evaluation in conjunction with IDEA (Irish Development Education Association). This will serve as a consultation day with various stakeholders so that they can feed into the process of designing the evaluation tool based on current ESD needs in Ireland.

RCEs exploring ESD evaluation tools, especially at the post-primary level, are requested to contact RCE-Ireland.

For more information
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Workshop on youth for stakeholders in Nizhny-Novgorod

A workshop on *Educational Strategies for Sustainable Development*, held on 21 May, coordinated by Andrey Dakhin of RCE Nizhny-Novgorod and Jos Hermans of RCE Rhine-Meuse, brought together several organisations interested in working on youth issues. Teachers and students from several secondary schools, experts from the local Institute for Development of Education, representatives of the regional youth parliament, the NGO City School Council, the head of the children's clubs, specialists from the Nizhny Novgorod State Architectural and Civil-engineering University, Volgo-Viatsky Public Administration Academy, Nizhny Novgorod Center for Socio-Economic Expertise, were some of the participants at the workshop. Experiences were presented on the day, and possible ways of cooperation explored.

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RCE Saskatchewan holds Spring Into Action event

RCE Saskatchewan held its *Spring Into Action* event at the University of Saskatchewan in the city of Saskatoon on 8-9 June 2009. Hosted by the U of S College of Education and the School of Environment and Sustainability, the event built on the momentum of the Bonn Declaration from the UNESCO World Conference on ESD held in March.

Spring Into Action examined the intersection of ESD, aboriginal perspectives, and the formal provincial school curriculum. Representatives from the Saskatchewan

Ministry of Education highlighted how sustainable development is being incorporated into the province's education policy and curriculum design. Presenters and participants highlighted the need to include a diversity of ways of knowing in the formal education setting, especially those associated with First Nations' culture and spirituality. Land-based knowledge systems of aboriginal peoples were seen as central to advancing knowledge for sustainability, providing knowledge of self and place. In addition, results from the 226 ESD projects documented by the RCE's student researchers were presented.

On 10 June, an interpretive panel about RCE Saskatchewan was formally unveiled at the town of Craik. The panel, adjacent to the Craik Eco-centre and overlooking a valley and lake, was developed by the Craik Sustainable Living Project using local design and materials.



The interpretive panel on RCE Saskatchewan at Craik

On 11 June, a forum, organised by the Faculty of Education, was held at the University of Regina. Charles Hopkins presented on the Bonn Declaration at the event.

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Winners of ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Awards announced

The recently announced winners of the 2009 ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Awards are Kee-hung Lai from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in the business and sustainable development category; Ian Charles Anderson from the University of Western Sydney in the agriculture and natural resources category; and Jiangyong Hu of the National University of Singapore in the Engineering and Technology category.

More information at www.ias.unu.edu/efsd/prospernet or contact
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New website of RCE Southern North Sea

Thanks to the efforts to two Leonardo da Vinci Mobility interns at RCE Southern North Sea, a new website, www.rce-sns.org, has been created. The RCE's newsletter is also available on the site.

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

Leadership Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption

Cha-am, Petchaburi Province, Thailand, 8 August 2009

The 2nd ASEAN+3 Leadership Programme on Sustainable Production and Consumption is organised by UNU-IAS in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, the Sirindhorn International Environmental Park, and RCE Cha-am. The programme is aimed at senior officials of the ten ASEAN member countries and their dialogue partners—China, Republic of Korea and Japan.

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Green Olympiad

New Delhi, India, 26 September 2009

The Green Olympiad is an annual international environmental examination conducted for middle and senior school students by TERI (the Energy and Resources Institute). Supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, this culminates in the TERRAQUIZ, the first environmental quiz programme for school students telecast on television.

Participants come from India and abroad, and students from grades 8 to 10 can participate. Deadline for registration is 7 August 2009, and the examination will be held on 26 September.

For more information, www.teriin.org/olympiad.
Contact: kahlonl@teri.res.in

European Conference on ESD

Lund, Sweden, 28-29 September 2009

RCE Skåne and the International Programme Office for Education and Training in Sweden have the pleasure of inviting you to the European Conference on ESD – Lund Calling 2009, September 28-29.

The conference aims to bring the imperative implementation of ESD into both the European context of lifelong learning and the European expression of key competencies. The event will address these critical questions in an interactive, holistic, cross-sectored and hands-on way. With the local and regional

perspectives as point of departure and UNESCO's recently adopted "Gothenburg Recommendations on ESD" as a guiding star, the conference programme will be diverse in expression but interlaced in content.

Deadline for registration: 15 July 2009

Programme and more information at: www.lucus.lu.se/LundCalling

Third European Fair on ESD

Hamburg, Germany, 28-30 October 2009

The Research and Transfer Centre "Applications of Life Sciences" of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences and the Centre for Sustainable Construction, Hamburg, under the auspices of the RCE Hamburg and region, are organising the Third European Fair on ESD this year, under the theme Renewable Energy and Climate Change: Thematic Challenges to European Schools and Universities.

The aims of the fair are to:

- provide European organisations with an opportunity to present their work on education with a focus on renewable energy and climate issues;
- foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences;
- discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to integrate the topic of renewable energy and climate change in the curriculum of schools and universities; and
- introduce European RCEs, discuss their activities in the field of renewable energy and climate change, and explore possibilities for cooperation.

More information is available at www.eufair.eu.

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Exchange and conference on traditional medicine

Bangalore, India, 8-20 November 2009

Traditional medicine (TM) plays an important role in meeting the demands of primary health care in many developing countries and thus occupies a key space in contemporary community health education.

TM is increasingly becoming popular in many developed countries as well and functions under the title of complementary and alternative medicine. In a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) Congress in Beijing (November 2008), WHO called on member countries to:

- integrate traditional medicine into their national health systems;
- share experience and information related to national policy, regulation, research, education and practice;
- establish systems for the qualification, accreditation or licensing of TM practitioners and upgrade their knowledge and skills based on national requirements.

With this in view, an International Healers Exchange and Conference on Traditional Medicine and Sustainable Health-care will be jointly organised by a group of organisations

including the international network ETC-COMPAS (www.compasnet.org) and the traditional health foundation FRLHT (www.frlht.org). Around 50 healers from around the world are expected to participate in the exchange programme, which will include visits to traditional medicine facilities in India. Academicians, researchers, NGOs and policy makers will also be participants at the conference.

Major objectives of this exchange and conference are to share experiences of local healers in different continents and deliberate on issues such as regulatory policies and recognition issues; role in primary health care including contribution to millennium development goals; conservation of natural resources, intellectual property rights, access and benefit sharing; and strategies and methodologies to revitalise local health traditions.

This programme assumes importance in the context of RCE Health and Sustainability thematic network and the follow-up to the Kotabaru and Yokohama health thematic group meetings.

A TM orientation and planning workshop for RCEs may possibly be organised alongside this conference.

Interested RCEs are requested to contact:
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or
Unnikrishnan Payyappalli (unnipm@gmail.com).

Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education

Penang, Malaysia, 20-22 November 2009

The Universiti Sains Malaysia and the Leuphana University of Lüneburg invite you to participate in the 3rd International Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education.

The conference provides an opportunity to critically reflect on achievements in the first half of the UN Decade on ESD, and tasks and challenges that remain to be addressed. The focus of the event will be on higher education practice, research and teaching/learning. Three thematic lines focusing on impact, innovation and ways of mainstreaming HESD will guide discussions.

More information on call for papers is at www.hesd09.org

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Third European RCE Meeting

University of Graz, Austria, 16-18 December 2009

The third European RCE meeting, to be held at the University of Graz, Austria is hosted by RCE Graz-Styria. A full programme will be available at a later date.

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Environment and Sustainable Development course

Ahmedabad and Delhi, India, 10-23 January 2010

The Centre for Environment Education (CEE), India, is offering a two-week course in Environment and Sustainable Development to undergraduate and graduate students from around the world in January 2010.

The two-week programme is designed for university students from a wide variety of disciplines, with an interest in sustainability and cross-cultural studies, and is offered under the guidance of a skilled and experienced faculty drawn from leading thinkers and practitioners in the area of sustainability.

The programme is a stimulating mix of educational sessions, group work, lectures, excursions to natural and cultural heritage sites and field experiences of successful grassroots sustainability initiatives.

The course fee is INR 50,000 for Indian participants, USD 1000 for participants from Least Developed Countries (as listed by the UN) and USD 2,200 for all others. An early registration discount is available until 30 September 2009.

The fee covers course expenses, course material, room and board on a double occupancy basis during the period 10 to 23 January and local travel costs.

More information is available at www.cceindia.org/cee/sdp.htm

Active Citizenship Congress

Malmö University, Sweden, 11-13 March 2010

Malmö University, partner of RCE Skåne, welcomes you to the Nordic Educational Research Association NERA's 38th Congress Active Citizenship at Malmö University 11-13 March 2009. The Congress theme is Active citizenship in local, regional and global perspectives: Critical and interdisciplinary approaches.

Information regarding the conference will be updated and made available at www.mah.se/NERAcongress2010