

# RCE E-Bulletin

December 2012

## Message from the Global RCE Service Centre:

Dear colleagues and friends,

Warm greetings for the holiday season!

We would also like to extend our warm congratulations to the newest members of the RCE family, who were all approved as RCEs during the recent Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs November 2012 Meeting.

From Africa, we welcome: RCE Greater Pwani, RCE Greater Eastern Uganda, RCE Mutare, RCE Lusaka, and RCE Buea. From the Asia-Pacific region, we welcome: RCE Inje, RCE Hohhot, and RCE Murray-Darling. From Europe, we welcome: RCE Middle Albania, RCE Greater Manchester, RCE West Sweden, RCE North Sweden, RCE Euroregion Tyrol, and RCE Scotland. And last but not least, from the Americas we welcome RCE Quebec.

Please join us in offering our congratulations and support to the newly formed RCEs!

Read on for more RCE news and see the attached holiday e-card for an end of year message from the Secretariat.

With much appreciation,

The Global RCE Service Centre

## Featured RCE Member: Kiran Chhokar



### 1. Where does your passion for ESD come from?

Working in the field of environment education in India made me realize, much before the term ESD came into vogue, that there cannot be 'real' development that improves the life of ALL unless we get rid of poverty; respect all life, including humans who are different from us in any way; try and promote peace within us and around us; learn to look at and try to understand the shades of grey in every situation; and change our own mindsets before we can hope to succeed in our educational efforts. The passion arose out of my own need to continue to improve my understanding and translate the concept of ESD into action.

### 2. How did you become involved with the RCE network?

I had been associated with UNU-IAS on some other project when the discussion about setting up RCEs around the world started. It was so exciting to explore and experiment with a mechanism for promoting and operationalizing in one's local area, one's country and around the globe that I, on behalf for the organization I worked for, presented proposals for five RCEs in India. When the formal proposals were considered by the Ubuntu committee, four of the five got acknowledged in the first go!

### 3. What has been your proudest moment since joining the network?

I can't think of a moment that I could call my proudest but I have had a number of moments of great satisfaction since I joined the network. Most of these have been when members of RCEs that I have been involved with have taken equal ownership of their RCE and have planned and conducted activities as equal partners.

#### **4. Tell us one thing about yourself that most people in the RCE network don't know.**

I am a collector of owl figurines of which I have nearly five hundred from all over the world.

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **RCE Kano Seeks Materials for Training**

RCE Kano will soon start training Headmasters of primary schools and secondary school principals on ESD. They are looking for any materials or documents on any reoriented syllabus and capacity development training on ESD at the primary and secondary school level. Please share any material you might have with Ali Bukar Ahmad [[abjahmad@gmail.com](mailto:abjahmad@gmail.com)].

### **The 4th International Conference on Environmental and Rural Development**

The International Society of Environmental and Rural Development is pleased to announce the 4th International Conference on Environmental and Rural Development to be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, 19-20 January 2013. The main objective of this conference is to discuss and develop the suitable and effective processes and strategies for sustainable rural development taking into account of agricultural and environmental aspects in developing countries. Scientists and facilitators of all disciplines belonging to international, governmental or non-governmental organizations are invited to participate and submit contributions. For more information visit [www.int-erd.org](http://www.int-erd.org)

### **Hard Rain Project**

The Hard Rain Project is interested in contacting universities that are taking the lead in sustainable development with an invitation to host the Hard Rain exhibition. The exhibition will launch simultaneously at 100 universities around the world in 2015 and will respond to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) initiative. The purpose of SDGs is to provide a framework for governments to work together to address the broad challenges of poverty eradication, environmental protection and sustainable consumption and production, and provide the foundation for a global green economy. The purpose of the exhibition is to bring these issues alive for students and a broad cross-section of the public, and to demonstrate that sustainable human progress is possible. For more information, view the attached document or contact Mark Edwards at [MarkEdwards@hardrainproject.com](mailto:MarkEdwards@hardrainproject.com)

### **6th GUNi International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education**

The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) is organizing the 6th International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education, **"Let's Build Transformative Knowledge to Drive Social Change"** from May 13 to 15, 2013. The Conference will provide visibility and will critically examine one of the most significant trends: the growth of the theory and practice of engagement as a key feature in the evolution of higher education. For more information, please visit the [GUNi Conference website](#). To download the flyer and press release, [click here](#).

### **CA/UNU-IAS Side Event at the GUNi 6th International Barcelona Conference (13 May 2013, 9.30-12.30)**

"The People's Sustainability Treaty on Higher Education: Engaging communities of learning in change for sustainability"

COPERNICUS Alliance (CA) and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU IAS) are hosting a side event at the GUNi Conference on the People's HE Treaty which seeks to:

- share innovative approaches and practices which contribute to the implementation of the HE Treaty
- seek contributions for a UNU IAS - CA publication which will be launched in November 2013

This side event is of interest to people working to reorient higher education towards sustainable development. It will bring together COPERNICUS Alliance members, Regional Centres of Expertise and signatories of the Treaty to share insights, challenges and successes in engaging learning communities in change for sustainability. The side event is free of charge. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

## **Latest News:**

## **RCE Hamburg ESD project, BauNachhaltig (BuildSustainable), receives ‘Official German Project of the UN Decade’ honor from the German Commission for UNESCO**

The German Commission for UNESCO (DUK) has recognised BauNachhaltig for its outstanding engagement with the UN Decade “Education for sustainable development”. The project may now be officially named “Official project of the UN Decade Education for sustainable development” for 2013 and 2014. Coordinated by Ausbildungszentrum-Bau in Hamburg, the project reflects the effort of the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) to support education for sustainable development. BauNachhaltig also receives financial support from the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). To read more, click [here](#) or contact Jens Schwarz [jens.schwarz@azb-hamburg.de](mailto:jens.schwarz@azb-hamburg.de)

## **2012 Global Citizens’ Conference on DESD and ESD Theme Conference held back-to-back in Tokyo on 27-28 November**

After the announcement that the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in 2014 would be held in Japan, Japanese ESD stakeholders began exchanging case studies and deliberating a path forward beyond 2014. The Global Citizens Conference on DESD 2012 and the subsequent ESD Theme Conference were opportunities for Japanese NGOs and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to continue those discussions. More than 200 researchers and practitioners took part in in the Global Citizens Conference and more than 150 in the ESD Theme Conference. UNU-IAS coordinated a session on “Education for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change”, which highlighted several cases for building a resilient society toward natural disasters and rapid climate change, such as the case of the Tohoku region after the March 11 earthquake. Ms. Yoko Mochizuki, UNESCO , Dr. Kartikeya Sarabhai, CEE, Prof. Takaaki Koganezawa, RCE Greater Sendai and Ms. Tomoko Shibao, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) also shared their activities toward DRR and Climate Change. Overall, ESD was presented as a problem-solving networking model that could contribute to rebuilding resilient societies by sharing the lessons learned at the local level with the global community.

## **Call for Papers: Journal of Agriculture and Biodiversity Research**

Journal of Agriculture and Biodiversity Research (JABR) is currently accepting manuscripts for publication. All papers published by JABR are peer-reviewed. JABR is a rapid response journal with an issue published every month. The following types of papers are considered for publication:

- Original articles in basic and applied research.
- Critical reviews, surveys, opinions, commentaries and essays.

Authors guide and other details are available on the JABR website [www.onlineresearchjournals.org/JABR](http://www.onlineresearchjournals.org/JABR). Prospective authors should send their manuscript(s) to the following email [submit.jabr@onlineresearchjournals.org](mailto:submit.jabr@onlineresearchjournals.org) or [jabr.onlineresearch@yahoo.com](mailto:jabr.onlineresearch@yahoo.com).

## **International Mountain Day Celebrations**

The 10th anniversary of the International Mountain Day (IMD) was celebrated by CEE Himalaya (Centre for Environment Education, India) across the three Himalayan states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand simultaneously with partners. Above 300 students, 50 teachers and concerned citizens shared their views on challenges being faced by people and discussed concerns pertaining to development in Himalaya Mountains. Read more by clicking [here](#).

## **RCE Yokohama Youth Project Competition**

On 11 November 2012, RCE Yokohama university students organized “HAMACON 2012”, a youth project competition among students who engage in environmental conservation activities. The projects werassessed by a committee consisting of members from Yokohama City Council, educational institutions, and NGOs based in Yokohama. Prominent companies such as Nissan and NTT were also partners in the event. Forty students from six universities presented their environment-related projects, discussing them with more senior and experienced participants. Through the event, the RCE Yokohama youth network actively engaged in the issue, creating their own innovative local projects toward a sustainable society.

## **New Publications:**

### **New Report: Assessment Of Learning Performance In Education For Sustainable Development**

This report was developed as part of a series of three research publications on the research project led by UNU-IAS and IGES on monitoring and evaluation of education for sustainable development, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. This report specifically focuses on the assessment of ESD learning performance. The information contained here within is based on primary research collected in collaboration with eleven Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) on ESD from countries in East and Southeast Asia based on the main data collection method of good practice case reporting and supported by additional information collected during the two reporting and capacity building workshops. To read and download the report <http://youthconnect.climateofconcern.org/> download the flyer [click here](#).

### **New Report: Education For Sustainable Development Country Status Reports**

This report was developed as part of a series of three research publications on the research project led by UNU-IAS and IGES on monitoring and evaluation of education for sustainable development, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. This report specifically focuses on the study of ESD implementation at a national level and tries to identify the important success factors and leverage points in ensuring effective ESD systems. The information contained here within is based on primary research collected in collaboration with national ESD focal points from seven countries in East and Southeast Asia based on the main data collection method of the ESD country status surveys and supported by additional information collected during the two reporting and capacity building workshops. To read and download the report <http://youthconnect.climateofconcern.org/> download the flyer [click here](#).

### **Organic Life in Bangladesh. A Model for Permaculture and Sustainable Livelihoods**

Professor Mohammed Ataur Rahman has recently published a blog post about organic life in Bangladesh. It begins: "The fertile alluvial plain of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers of Bangladesh and Eastern India is densely populated and very rich with diversified flora and fauna having specific association and adaptation. The river systems provided great opportunities like fertile land, biodiversity, scenic beauty, ports, industries, tourists' spots, coastal resources, mangroves, minerals and transportation." Read more from the blog by [clicking here](#).

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**This is a publication of UNU-IAS RCE Global Service Centre.**

Please send your comments, suggestions and materials to [rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu)

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