

RCE E-Bulletin

April 2013

Message from the Global RCE Service Centre:

Dear colleagues and friends,

As a follow-up to last month's news bulletin, where we shared information about the role of the Ubuntu Committee of Peers, the Regional Advisors and the Regional Coordinators, we would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce you to members of the Global RCE Service Centre who may be able to provide you with further support.

Kazuhiko Takemoto is a Senior Fellow at UNU-IAS and serves as Director of its Education for Sustainable Development programme, among other duties. He leads the Global RCE Service Centre team and offers general and strategic support to RCEs across the network, when needed.

Zinaida Fadeeva is an Adjunct Research Fellow at the ESD programme at UNU-IAS and has been with the Global RCE Service Centre since its very beginnings. She is the team's main point person for RCE activities related to Europe, offers general strategic support for the entire RCE network and helps link the network to international processes and organizations.

Mario Tabucanon has been with the Global RCE Service Centre since the very beginning. He is Professor Emeritus at the Asian Institute of Technology and serves as Regional Advisor for the Asia-Pacific as well as offering general strategic support for the entire RCE network.

Abel Atiti is a Research Fellow at the ESD programme at UNU-IAS. He serves as the team's main point person for African RCEs and provides general strategic support for the entire RCE network.

Sachiko Yasuda is the Principal Programme Associate for the ESD programme at UNU-IAS. She acts as the main point person for Asia-Pacific RCEs and provides general programmatic support for the entire RCE network.

Anna Dirksen is the Communications Coordinator for the ESD programme at UNU-IAS. She also serves as the team's main point person for the Americas region.

Asako Ikegami has recently joined the ESD programme team as an intern. She is working closely with all members of the Global RCE Service Centre to provide logistical and programmatic support.

Many of you have already heard the news that our excellent colleague Yoko Mori, who has long worked with the Global RCE Service Centre to provide logistical, administrative and programmatic support, is leaving us this month. We are sorry to see her go but wish her the very best on the next exciting stage of her journey. Please join us in thanking her for her tremendous work. Should you need any further information or would like to contact any of the team members, please email: rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu

We would also like to take note of the recent email sent to RCEs regarding a monitoring and evaluation strategy for assessment of effective change practices within the developing RCE community. You can find the results of the initial work on the RCE Portal (http://www.rce-network.org/elgg/mod/groups/topicposts.php?topic=1445&group_guid=1443). Please note you must be logged into the portal to access the document and to comment. Please contact the Global RCE Service Centre if you would like more information about the process.

With much appreciation,

The Global RCE Service Centre

Featured RCE Member: Goolam Mohamedbhai

Regional Advisor for Africa



1. Where does your passion for ESD come from?

I was elected to the Administrative Board of the International Association of Universities (IAU) in 2000. IAU had a project on ESD and I was asked to chair the committee by the then President of IAU, Hans van Ginkel, who was also the Rector of the United Nations University where he initiated and promoted the RCEs. That's how I started becoming passionate about and closely involved with ESD, which I must admit was a new concept to me. I then started looking at my own university and other universities through a different lens – are we universities conscious of the importance of ESD, if so what are we doing about it, how are we involving our students and our communities in promoting SD? The answers are not easy because most universities equate SD with environmental protection – it is of course much more than that. When I later moved to the Association of African Universities, I again got an opportunity to look at the role of African universities in promoting SD.

2. What do you enjoy most about your role as an RCE Regional Advisor for Africa?

It is to see the commitment of African friends and colleagues to ESD. In spite of many challenges and hurdles, and often with hardly any resources, they persevere in their noble task of promoting their RCE and winning over others to their cause. It is also gratifying to see how the RCEs try to relate to their immediate surrounding communities in so many different ways. One often talks of Africa as if it is a country – it isn't, and the countries making up the continent are very diverse. I also greatly enjoy the global interaction of RCEs in Africa with those from other continents. This interaction helps people to appreciate that although they come from different countries and continents, their goals and aspirations are basically the same.

3. What is the greatest opportunity you see for RCEs in the coming year?

The UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014) comes to an end next year. The RCEs are to be the contribution of the United Nations University to the UN DESD. So this is a crucial year for the RCE movement. There are now over 100 RCEs throughout the world, and that is no mean achievement. I feel the time has come now to consolidate these RCEs, support those which are experiencing difficulties and ensure that the RCEs' valuable activities in, and contribution to, SD are duly catalogued and made known to the wider world. This in itself will provide a boost to the creation of more RCEs. This is an enormous challenge but also a huge opportunity.

4. What are your personal ambitions for the year ahead?

I now operate as an independent consultant and am not linked to any specific organization, so I really do not have any personal ambition as such. What I would like to see, however, and I continue to advocate for it whenever an opportunity arises, is for African universities to have a greater involvement in SD. Most RCEs in Africa involve a university and that is encouraging. But universities can and should do much more. SD should permeate all the activities of a university – teaching, research and community engagement. Only then will we witness the real contribution of universities to Africa's development. All socio-economic indicators show that Africa is heading for unparalleled growth and development. My wish is to see its universities play an important role in achieving this.

5. Tell us something about yourself that most people in the RCE network don't know.

Perhaps not many people know about my family connection with continental Africa. Although I was born in Mauritius, my parents were born and brought up in Kenya, and moved to Mauritius after their marriage. For over five generations my family, from both my father's and mother's side, have lived in Kenya and I still have close relatives there. My wife, like my parents, is also Kenyan-born and came to Mauritius after we got married. Mauritius is of course part of larger Africa but my close, personal ties with Kenya have naturally led me to take a keen interest in continental African matters.

Upcoming Events:

8th Global RCE Conference

The 8th Global Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) on Education for Sustainable Development Conference will take place from 26 to 29 November 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference will be hosted by RCE Greater Nairobi in collaboration with other African RCEs. The venue of the Conference will be the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Gigiri, Nairobi.

European RCE Regional Meetings

There are two European RCE Meetings planned for 2013. The first European meeting will be held in Kerkrade, the Netherlands on 15 and 16 May 2013. The second meeting will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia from 5 to 7 June 2013.

The main topic of the European RCE-meeting will be:

- * Reports from the RCE's and the national programs
- * Strategies and activities for the post-decade-era
- * Participation in the UNESCO-world-activity-programme
- * Assessment of RCE-work
- * Preparations for the Global RCE-Conference in Nairobi
- * Funding

Interested RCEs from across the globe are encouraged to share their thoughts and feedback on any of the topics to be discussed. This can be shared directly with the European RCE community through Detlev Lindau-Bank at detlev.lindau-bank@uni-vechta.de or via the [RCE Communications Portal](#).

6th GUNi International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education

RCEs from all over the world will come together at the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) 6th International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education from May 13 to 15, 2013. At the event, good practices from [ProSPER.Net](#), the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network - an alliance of higher education institutions committed to integrate sustainability into curricula, will be presented. UNU-IAS ESD programme team member Aurea Tanaka and UNU-IAS Research Fellow Christopher Doll authored the abstract, which will be presented at the conference by Zinaida Fadeeva. Prior to the conference, several RCEs from across the globe will be joining an RCE/COPERNICUS Alliance side event, which is aligned to a UNU publication on sustainability in higher education and the Rio+20 People's Treaty on Higher Education. For more information on any of the RCE or ProSPER.Net related events, please contact Zinaida Fadeeva (fadeeva@ias.unu.edu).

Transdisciplinary Research on Sustainability in Europe: Generic Issues

This academic conference in Prague on 23-24 May 2013 is a prime opportunity to engage in transdisciplinary research issues from a wider European perspective in the run-up to the introduction of the EU Framework Programme on Research and Innovation's [Horizon 2020 document](#) to "tackle societal challenges by helping to bridge the gap between research and the market". Conference organizers are calling for very short presentations in the form of posters accompanied by a 10 minute PowerPoint presentation on any of the themes described in the programme. If you are interested in attending, please fill in the registration form embedded within the programme <<https://www.czp.cuni.cz/dotaz/index.php/43586/lang-en>>. On the form, you can also indicate your interest in making a poster presentation (deadline 9 May). For more information, [click here](#).

Virtual RCE Youth Conference: Regional perspective on Water and Sustainability

RCE Grand Rapids will host a virtual conference for the world's next generation of leaders on regional and universal issues facing their communities as it relates to water and sustainability. The world's dilemmas of tomorrow will be faced by the youth of today. Equipping youth with the tools to communicate, collaborate, innovate, and problem-solve in order to begin to address these complex issues of sustainability is of the utmost priority. The virtual conference, to

be held in May 2013, will give students the perspective and practice of a global dialogue, in hopes that they will better understand the unique water dilemmas facing the regions of the world and in turn reveal and embrace the universal themes of sustainable evolution through dialogue, empathy, and collaboration. For more information about the conference, contact [RCE Grand Rapids](#).

UNESCO Regional Consultations on an ESD post-2014 Programme Framework

In its 190th session, the Executive Board of UNESCO requested the Director-General “to develop, in consultation with Member States, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the proposal for a programme framework, led by UNESCO, which should cover at least the period of the forthcoming Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021.” The regional consultations contribute to ensuring a transparent, participatory preparation of the post-2014 ESD programme framework through collecting input from relevant stakeholders from all regions. These consultations are currently ongoing. Please check the UNESCO website for more information: www.unesco.org

Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

Every five years the Government of Japan hosts TICAD, which serves as a major global framework for collaborative action between Asia and Africa for Africa’s development. The fifth conference, TICAD V, is being held in Yokohama, Japan from 1-3 June 2013. The theme of this year’s conference – “Hand in Hand with a More Dynamic Africa” – is fully in line with the dual principles of African ownership and international partnership. The ESD programme at UNU-IAS will be hosting a series of events throughout the conference, including two side events:

Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies in Africa through ESD: 1 June 2013

This side event, organized in close collaboration with UNESCO, UNICEF and the Government of Japan, will highlight RCE experiences and their work towards building inclusive and resilient societies in Africa through strategic partnerships.

Advancing ESD in Africa: 31 May 2013

This seminar will focus on Africa’s special stake in advancing ESD and highlight the specific gains African communities and nations could make through the acceleration of ESD efforts. Participants will have the opportunity to provide input to a post-DESD action plan on ESD.

Latest News:

Launch of RCE Mauricie/Centre-du-Quebec

The Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) and the School Board of Chemin-du-Roy (ScB du Chemin-du-Roy) recently launched the Regional Center of Expertise in ESD for twin areas Mauricie/Centre-du-Québec. The co-founders, Ghislain Samson (UQTR) and Claude Poudrier (ScB du Chemin-du-Roy), made the official launch announcement to all their regional partners in ESD. The two areas involved in this RCE, the Mauricie and the Centre-du-Québec include many stakeholders involved in ESD, including in industry and commercial sectors. Read more about the RCE launch by [clicking here](#).

ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan

Representatives of ASEAN Member States from respective Ministries and Departments of Environment and Education, as well as other key stakeholders, participated in a workshop on the ASEAN Environmental Education Action Plan (AEEAP) 2008-2012 Review and Its Successor Plan Formulation from 8-10 April, 2013. The achievements of AEEAP 2008-2012 implementation at the level of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) were discussed, in addition to ASEAN-wide activities. The Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development network (RCEs) and the Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research network (ProSPER.Net) were both recognized as partners in the implementation of the plan’s four target areas – formal education; non-formal education; institutional and human resource capacity building; and networking, information dissemination and communication. For more information, please contact the [Global RCE Service Centre](#) or the [ProSPER.Net Secretariat](#).

RCE Barcelona: Avalon Sustainability School

Avalon Sustainability School, organized by RCE Barcelona partners, develops transformational learning experiences in wild places for young people, aged 13 to 19 to engage in the challenges of our time in a fun, creative way. Participants come from diverse countries and backgrounds to learn from each other, develop new skills, live in community and gain competence in outdoor leadership, creativity and sustainability. In 2012 young people came from Palestine, Turkey, Jamaica, Spain, Germany and the UK. This July participants from Pakistan and Indonesia

will also join the camps to be held again in the Spanish Pyrenees. RCE Barcelona welcomes partnerships with other RCEs to enable young people from different countries to participate in this multicultural learning partnership and is currently working with RCE Cairo to explore the possibility of holding a camp in Egypt in 2014. Please circulate this information to young people in your RCE and other networks. For more information [click here](#) or visit www.avalon-school.org.

RCE Okayama gears up for 2014 ESD Week Multi-stakeholder Meetings

A series of multi-stakeholder meetings, including the Community Learning Centre meeting, UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) meeting, Youth Conference and the 9th Global RCE Conference will be held in Okayama, Japan prior to the UNESCO World Conference on ESD, which is scheduled to be held in Nagoya, Aichi in November 2014. To further promote ESD activities in the region towards and beyond 2014, the City of Okayama set up a UNESCO World Conference on ESD Promotion Bureau this April. On 25 April the city of Okayama, which serves as the Secretariat of RCE Okayama, organized a symposium on "hospitality". Ms. Won J. Byun from RCE Tongyeong was invited to talk about her experiences as a chief coordinator of the 7th Global RCE Conference in front of 150 audience members. Interactive and participatory environments in which post-DESD plans can be discussed with international and local participants will be key to the success of other events like this one. For more information on RCE Okayama and their activities, please see attached.

Expert Meeting on Climate Change ESD in Africa

The Expert Meeting on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development in Africa was held on 20-22 March in Balaclava, Mauritius. The three-day meeting was organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Government of Mauritius, with financial support from the Governments of Japan and Denmark. The meeting explored the role of education in adaptation and mitigation to climate change and brought together more than 100 participants primarily from Africa. The main output of the meeting was shared in form of draft recommendations that emerged from participant presentations and discussions. For more information, please contact the [Global RCE Service Centre](#).

Call for Nominations: 2013 ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award

The 5th Annual ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Awards (YSA) will be held in August 2013 in Singapore. The award is given annually to young scientists and researchers from the Asia-Pacific region who have made significant contributions in the area of sustainable development. The 2013 YSA will award the areas of Water, Transport and Information and Communication Technologies for Sustainable Development. Nominations are being accepted from 1 April to 30 June 2013. For more information about the nomination process, visit the [2013 YSA page](#).

Call for Nominations: Wenhui Award for Educational Innovation

The Wenhui Award for Educational Innovation, established by the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, and coordinated by the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID), recognizes contributions of educators and institutions which have optimized the potential of education and the human innovative spirit to address and resolve pressing issues and problems facing our world today. For 2013, the theme of the Wenhui Award is "Educational Innovation for Cultural Expression". Two individuals or institutions from the Asia and Pacific region will be selected by a jury of distinguished educators. The winners will each receive a Certificate of Excellence and prize money of US\$ 20,000. Certificates of Merit may also be awarded. For more information on the award and the nomination process, [click here](#).

Call for Proposals: MacArthur Foundation Strengthening Education

MacArthur Foundation has announced a call for proposals for the Partnership to Strengthen Innovation and Practice in Secondary Education (PSIPSE). The aim of the program is to accelerate innovation in secondary education programming, research, and development in selected countries. The deadline for proposals is 15 May. For more information, [click here](#).

Call for Stories: Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding

The Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) invites all those interested to take part in this year's EIU Story Collection Project. APCEIU believes that storytelling is highly effective in educating children about the broad and abstract concepts of EIU. Any and all forms of narratives (comedy, tragedy, fables, etc.), both fiction and non-fiction, are welcome as long as the stories promote the values of EIU. Stories must be submitted no later than 31 May 2013. Awards will be given to the three best stories in addition to them being published in various publications by APCEIU, which would be distributed throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. See the attached PDF for more information. For further inquiries, please contact pnnp@unescoapceiu.org.

Call for Applications: MSc Education for Sustainability African Commonwealth Scholarships

Members of RCEs in African Commonwealth countries are invited to take advantage of an opportunity to apply for fully paid scholarships to take the MSc Education for Sustainability by distance learning. The deadline is quite pressing - May 17th - but there is still plenty of time to complete the application process. The scholarship organizers are keen to support RCEs with capacity building and will take that element into account when assessing applications. Please see the attached documents for more information, or email Ros Wade at wader@lsbu.ac.uk.

New Publications and Resources:

RCE Publication: 7th Global RCE Conference Brochure

The 7th Global RCE Conference was held in Tongyeong, the Republic of Korea, from 21 to 24 September 2012. The Conference looked to the end of the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in 2014 and beyond, providing a vision for the future and generating the momentum needed to make that vision a reality. It also served as the launching pad for a series of local, regional and global initiatives. Read all about the events that took place by downloading the official conference outcome document [here](#). You can download presentations and the full minutes of the conference [on the UNU-IAS website](#).

RCE Publication: Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity

Recently the RCE publication on Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity was highlighted in the International Institute for Sustainable Development's [Biodiversity Policy and Practice section](#). If you would like to download a copy of the book, [click here](#) or visit our [Resources and Publications](#) page and look under the Case Studies, Training Manuals and Other Resources section.

New Video: RCE Srinagar Celebrates World Wetlands Day 2013

As mentioned in a previous RCE Bulletin update, RCE Srinagar and partners organized a World Wetlands Day 2013 exhibition and orientation workshop on the importance of wetlands in environmental ecosystem in February in Uttarakhand. (Read more by [clicking here](#).) RCE Srinagar has just produced a video from the World Wetland Day commemorations, which is available for [viewing here](#).

Networking Opportunity: United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions

The UN Secretary-General announced the launch of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) in 2012. The Solutions Network mobilizes scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable-development problem solving at local, national, and global scales. It accelerates joint learning and helps overcome the compartmentalization of technical and policy work by promoting integrated approaches to the interconnected economic, social, and environmental challenges confronting the world. The SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financing institutions, as well as other international organizations. To join the network, [click here](#).

New Resource: Global Clearinghouse on Sustainable Consumption and Production

The Global SCP Clearinghouse is the first one-stop hub on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). You can contribute to the worldwide SCP Clearinghouse database of initiatives (policies, partnerships, projects, etc.) developed and implemented at all levels by governments, international/regional organizations, the business sector or civil society. You can also view the material uploaded with your membership. For more information, visit start.scpclearinghouse.org

New Video: RCE Greater Western Sydney Launch

RCE GWS recently produced an excellent 10 minute video about the RCE and its role in the community. The video was produced by academics in the School of Communication Arts at the University of Western Sydney. It is not only a wonderful video, it is also an excellent example of leveraging student resources to promote an RCE. You can view the video by clicking on the link below. If you have similar videos to share, please send them to the Global RCE Service Centre and we will share them in future bulletins. Video link: <https://vimeo.com/52808035> Password: sustainability

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