

# RCE E-Bulletin

January 2013

## Message from the Global RCE Service Centre:

Dear colleagues and friends,

Happy New Year!

We are pleased to announce the debut of a new RCE publication, a book of RCE case studies on Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity! You'll find a link to the PDF version of the book in the Latest News section below. We are also delighted to inform you of the redesign of the [RCE Communications Portal](#). This bulletin will increasingly link to items uploaded to that page, in order to encourage use of the platform. Please let us know your feedback on the redesign.

In the next few editions of the RCE Bulletin you will see interviews with some key members of the RCE Community, beginning with RCE Regional Advisors. These Advisors have generously offered their time and expertise to support RCEs in each of our regions. As a community, we seek out the suggestions and advice of the Regional Advisors on a regular basis, and their input and feedback is of high value to us all. If you would like to know more about the Advisor for your region, please contact us at [rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu)

With much appreciation,

The Global RCE Service Centre

## Featured RCE Member: Jos Hermans Regional Advisor for Europe

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

My passion comes from my childhood, as my parents taught their children not to live indifferently. Several uncles, who were missionaries in Africa, brought the scent of other cultures into our family. For a major part of my life I have been member of the Dutch Ecologist Party. I was also a member of the provincial parliament of Limburg province, when I was in my twenties. Around 1990, I entered into higher professional education (Business School) and I fell into the discussion about the real goals of economics: stimulating shareholder-value or working towards equilibrium of employment, nature and democracy. Worldwide the fight is still going on. And I am still taking part in it.

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

I worked for RCE Rhine-Meuse from 2005 to 2009. When I left the RCE I made myself available for assisting and facilitating RCEs in Europe. As an advisor for the RCEs I hope to assist RCEs in establishing cross-continental links. My special attention goes to linking African and European RCEs in common projects in formal but also non-formal education.

Another point of interest for me is filling the geographical gaps in RCE-coverage which still occur in Europe. I am especially focused on finding opportunities to stimulate RCE-initiatives in new European Union member countries and in the Balkans.

But in my work, I am not a coordinator for RCEs and I'm not in the middle of daily RCE-activities. Instead I strive to stay in the background, listening and watching as RCEs do their work. I shall always be available when I am asked to jump in and when I am needed. And yes, from time to time I give my opinion on specific matters unsolicited!

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

As the main construction work of "RCE-building" has been to a large extent achieved, our main challenge for the next few years will be to:

- Stabilize the building (think of introducing a system of assessment, assisting new RCEs in their first years);
- Make use of the immense potential which we have created with this RCE-network (new projects, serving regional and national policies); and to
- Make ourselves known as a reputable partner in ESD.

Let's not forget: BE GOOD AND TELL IT!

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

Alongside my work for the RCE-community I am also an active member of the Netherlands Senior Experts, a group of persons who are available for assisting new economic activities in upcoming countries. It is my personal ambition for 2013 to bring together European and African schools, NGOs, and RCEs(!) in at least 1 new ESD project.

And my favorite idea at this very moment is to develop a methodology that can be used regionally and totally bottom up by any group of persons who want to create new learning facilities that are fully coherent with local and regional needs.

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

I love Italian opera, Russian ballet and African religious music. And I adore my grandchildren. Anyone who is available to chat with me on these two subjects has my full attention!

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **2nd World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day**

Friday, 8th February 2013 will see the realisation of the 2nd "World Sustainable Development Teach-In Day", organised by RCE Hamburg and Region. This follows the success of the first event of its kind, held in 2010. This year's event has the theme "Sustainable Development: towards local solutions to a global challenge". The 2013 Teach-In Day will display the papers presented at the World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, bringing an impressive body of know-how and expertise on matters related to sustainability in higher education, to a world audience. In excess of 100.000 participants are expected to take part on this initiative. To read more about how you can participate and how you can download resources from the day, visit: <http://www.world-sustainability-day.net/>

#### **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](#).

### **Latest News:**

#### **RCE Bohol Official Launch**

After more than a year since its acknowledgement by UNU, the Regional Centre of Expertise on ESD in Bohol - RCE Bohol - finally made its formal launching on January 3, 2013 at Bohol Island State University (BISU) main campus in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, Philippines. Though ESD activities and programmes are already well underway, the RCE Bohol team decided to organize an official launch party in order to ensure that the wider public and other cause-oriented organizations would know of RCE-Bohol and the possibilities for greater participation and collaboration. To read more and see pictures from the launch, [click here](#).

#### **RCE Greater Western Sydney E-newsletter**

RCE Greater Western Sydney has a new E-newsletter that will keep you up to date on ESD in Australia and the work of the RCE. To sign up for their newsletter, please visit the RCE Greater Western Sydney website <http://www.uws.edu.au/rce/rce> and write to them on their Contact Us page.

#### **Call for Contributions: 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 organizers are now accepting contributions that provide fresh perspectives and share innovative practices in higher education for sustainability. Information on submitting contributions and registering for the side event can be found in the attached PDF.

## **Call for Papers: Bridges for a more Sustainable Future - Uniting Continents and Societies**

This is a call for papers for the 16th Conference of the European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ERSCP) and for the 7th Conference of the Environmental Management for Sustainable Universities (EMSU) series, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey June 4 to 7, 2013. This joint conference is being planned and coordinated by Dr. Nilgun Ciliz of Bogazici University in Istanbul, the University of Utrecht, Delft University of Technology, The Journal of Cleaner Production, and by Scientific teams focusing on the ERSCP and EMSU streams in collaboration with the PREPARE Network and SCORAI. We invite authors to prepare original articles, state of the art reviews, or case studies for the European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Consumption and Production (ERSCP) & The Environmental Management for Sustainable Universities (EMSU). For more information, please see the attached PDF.

## **New Publications:**

### **New RCE Publication: Learning for Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity**

Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) were developed as sites for participatory learning and action within the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), opening up more collaborative and inclusive learning spaces towards more just and sustainable ways of life now and in the future. Some of the contours of these emergent education processes of collaborative learning-to-change as they relate to traditional knowledge (TK) and biodiversity are developing in many RCE contexts today. The Education for Sustainable Development Programme at UNU-IAS has worked with RCEs worldwide to create a new publications showcasing a series of case studies in this regard. To download the book, visit the [Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity page](#) of the RCE Communications Portal and look under publications. You can also download the book off of the [UNU-IAS ESD Programme website](#).

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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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