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April 24, 2014

Invitation to the 9th Global RCE Conference

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and RCE Okayama, I am pleased to invite you to the 9th Global RCE Conference that will be held in Okayama, Japan from 4-7 November 2014. Marking the final year of the DESD, this Conference is one of the stakeholder meetings to be held prior to the UNESCO World Conference on ESD (10-12 November).

The United Nations University (UNU) has been implementing the Programme on Education for Sustainable Development through UNU-IAS since 2003 to promote the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014). UNU has also been advancing ESD through Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) on a global scale as a unique contribution to multi-stakeholder learning and networking. It continues to promote the establishment of RCEs around the world with strong support from the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs. As of April 2014, 129 RCEs have been acknowledged by UNU.

The 9th Global RCE Conference will reflect on the successes and the challenges of the RCE movement, with a view to charting a post-2014 agenda in reference to the Global Action Programme on ESD. The major objective of the Conference is to identify tangible commitments of the RCE community to effective ESD implementation beyond 2014. Input and recommendations based on the discussions will be shared at the UNESCO World Conference on ESD.

Registration will open in mid-June through the Conference Website (http://rce-network.org/portal/9th_Global_Conference). Prior to official registration, we are pleased to announce that UNU-IAS will provide financial support for selected RCE representatives, including youth, who are willing to act as resource persons for the Conference. Detailed criteria for selection can be found in the attached 'Financial Support Request Form'. For those who would like to apply for financial support, please send us all the required documents by email (rceconference@unu.edu) **no later than Monday, 19 May 2014**.

In order to have the fruitful Conference with a tangible output, we strongly encourage you to participate in the preparatory discussion through the RCE Portal (<http://www.rce-network.org/portal/conference-discussion>). Any update information about the Conference programme including the RCE Award, poster exhibition, and field visit will be posted on the RCE Portal in due course.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us (rceconference@unu.edu). We look forward to seeing you in Okayama, Japan.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Takemoto', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kazuhiko Takemoto
Director

UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)