

**5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting**  
**17 July 2012**  
**Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, Indonesia**

**Summary Minutes**

**Session 1 Opening**

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting was hosted by RCE East Kalimantan on 17 July 2012 in conjunction with the International Seminar on ‘Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the Perspective of ESD’ held during 16 - 18 July 2012 in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Members were welcomed and thanked them for their participation. Specially acknowledged were one new RCE member attending (RCE Greater Western Sydney) and one candidate RCE observing. The detailed Note on the meeting is annexed.
2. Members were reminded of past Asia-Pacific RCE meetings and the discussions that transpired. It is important that the current meeting, or any future meeting for that matter, builds on what were accomplished and agreed upon in predecessor meetings. The important thing is continuity in work.
3. Among those recapitulated were the Yogyakarta Declaration (reached at the 3<sup>rd</sup> AP RCE Meeting in January 2011), and the thematic areas identified and discussed in previous meetings namely, Youth, Schools, Biodiversity, and Community. It was agreed to continue discussions on these same themes.
4. Contrary to the past practice where each member present had to speak about their respective RCEs, this time it was done by a prior invitation, only for purposes of giving updates on activities since the last meeting. RCEs Yogyakarta, Chandigarh, Kitakyushu, Penang, and Tongyeong provided some updates on their activities (see annexed Note).
5. UNU-IAS made an overview of the growth of the RCE movement – currently totaling 101, distributed into 26 in Europe, 18 in Africa and Middle-East, 16 in the

Americas, and 41 in Asia-Pacific. There was also an introduction of new RCE members, one of whom is RCE Greater Western Sydney where its representative made a presentation on the RCE. Representatives from a candidate RCE from Inje, Republic of Korea was attending as observers and also made a brief on their candidacy.

6. UNU-IAS shared the programme and current preparatory process of the 7<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference encouraging members to register as well as to join various preparatory discussions. Members were also reminded to update RCE annual reports.

### **Session 2 Thematic Group Discussions**

7. There were group discussions according to the following themes – Schools, Biodiversity, Community, Youth, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The fifth category, DRR, was added in view of its being the topic of the ongoing international seminar, as well as due to collective interests of participants. It was decided that DRR will from hereon be one of the focus areas of the Asia-Pacific RCE community. The key question for discussion was: ‘What is the one recommendation/target the group wants to work together until the next meetings – 7<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference in September 2012, and 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting (tentatively in mid 2013)?’ Summary discussions are available from the facilitators (see Note).

### **Session 3 Operational Issues**

8. Concerned RCEs were asked to report on their activities that involved collaboration with other RCEs. These collaborative efforts included the following: (i) Exchange program among RCEs Kitakyushu (Japan), Tongyeong, and Ulju (Republic of Korea); (ii) Partnership between RCEs Greater Sendai (Japan) and Trang (Thailand) on UNESCO RICE Project; (iii) Partnership between RCEs Tongyeong (Republic of Korea) and Yogyakarta (Indonesia) on ‘Bridge to the World’ focus including cooperation with RCEs worldwide by RCE Tongyeong under this program; and (iv) Partnership between RCEs Yogyakarta (Indonesia) and Penang (Malaysia) on sharing experiences and best practices of traditional knowledge in Asia.
9. In the spirit of partnerships illustrated by the specific forms of collaboration

mentioned in Item (8), above, it was encouraged that all RCEs should engage in collaborative activities with other RCEs. At least RCEs in the same country should engage in organized, regular interactions, as exemplified by RCEs in Japan, Republic of Korea, and India. Even if RCEs are from different countries, but if they are in proximity to each other (e.g. RCEs Penang and Trang), they should be encouraged to work together.

10. There was the question of funding to undertake joint projects. It was suggested to seek funding from respective governments. The approach should be on funding networking domestically and overseas. The representative of RCE Greater Western Sydney (GWS) provided some advice and information on possible funding sources. RCE GWS has been successful in funding networking with RCE Severn (U.K.).
11. UNU-IAS briefed participants on the IGES-UNU-IAS Research Project on 'Monitoring & Evaluation of ESD in the AP Region' (see Note for elaboration). RCEs involved in the project were thanked for their contribution.
12. There were also sub-regional group discussions as follow-up to discussions made at the 4<sup>th</sup> AP RCE Meeting in Cha-am, Thailand in November 2011. In the absence of some other RCEs, the grouping was limited to two – One grouping RCEs from China, Japan, and Republic of Korea; the other grouping was RCEs from Southeast and South Asia. The discussions centered on ESD networks and how to work together (see Note).
13. The meeting was reminded that there is a need to form a new Coordinating Committee for the Asia-Pacific RCEs. Currently, the committee is mainly responsible for preparing for the Asia-Pacific RCE Meetings and Global RCE Conferences. This would include Skype meetings and preparation of agenda. It is suggested that more clear Terms of Reference should be drafted. Several RCEs volunteered to become members of the Organizing Committee for the 3<sup>rd</sup> term (2012-2013). These RCEs include Srinagar, East Kalimantan, Bogor, Penang, Chubu, Tongyeong, Yogyakarta and Okayama. It is agreed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Term Members of the Organizing Committee would draft the Terms of Reference and share with other Asia-Pacific RCEs who were not present at the Meeting.

#### **Session 4 ‘Sejahtera’ Project and Preparation for the 7<sup>th</sup> Global RCE conference**

14. Previous documentation on Asia-Pacific RCE Vision was revisited as part of building a common strategic and action platform for the AP RCEs. A brief world café session was organized to discuss a common vision as the Asia-Pacific RCE Continental Platform and a summary of development and achievement. The revised and updated document will be shared on the RCE Portal for further discussion and refinement.

#### **Session 5 Venue and Schedule for the 6<sup>th</sup> AP RCE Meeting**

15. Two RCEs proposed to host the 6th AP RCE Meeting – namely, RCE Kitakyushu and RCE Penang. The representatives of each candidate host made a presentation. UNU-IAS will consider all the relevant factors and will make a decision in due course.

#### **Session 6 Closing**

16. The host of the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting, RCE East Kalimantan, thanked everyone for participating at both the international seminar and the RCE meeting. On behalf of all participants, UNU-IAS thanked the host RCE and the chair of the AP RCE meeting. The meeting was adjourned.
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