

2015 RCE Awards for Innovative Projects on Education for Sustainable Development

The Global RCE Service Centre announces a call for nominations for the 4th annual RCE Awards. This year's award is linked to the RCE annual reporting. RCEs are encouraged to nominate one of their ongoing flagship projects or programmes for the award. Flagship activities illustrate how RCEs address prioritised local sustainable development challenges. They have the potential to leverage partnerships and funding for other projects or programmes within an RCE network.

RCE Flagship Projects

Distinct sustainable development capacities, expertise and resources within RCEs are drawn upon to implement flagship projects or programmes within various thematic areas. Through their flagship projects or programmes RCEs have contributed to development of transformative learning systems and sustainable development of their regions.

This year Award process is initiated in a new stage of global development when the international community aspires to pursue post 2015 sustainable development agenda. It is also a special time for educators with the launch of the Global Action Programme on ESD. To align our actions to these important strategies, we would like to engage representatives of important sustainability and learning processes and organisations into assessment of the Award nominations. By doing so, we aim at expanding learning from the RCE Flagship projects and programmes beyond the RCE community creating, where possible, opportunities for further engagements.

Projects and programmes nominated for the Award are to demonstrate how an RCE is promoting multi-stakeholder learning processes through policy dialogue, research and collaborative partnerships. Award recipients will be featured early next year on the RCE Portal, with each Outstanding Flagship Project being featured on a monthly basis in the RCE Bulletin and through other outreach activities.

Goal of the Awards

The purpose of the Award is to celebrate outstanding projects and programmes on education for sustainable development (ESD) with a view to increasing the visibility of the work of individual RCEs as well as the Global RCE network. The Award also aims at highlighting how distinct sustainable development capacities, expertise and resources within an RCE network are being drawn upon to implement transformative collaborative processes to encourage development of learning towards sustainable development.

Categories for the Awards

Submissions are invited in any of the following categories to underscore the contribution of RCEs to the goals of the [GAP](#) and the proposed [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Across these categories RCEs implement a broad range of ESD projects and programmes that include, but are not limited to the following:

- Bridging local and global perspectives on sustainable development.
- Engaging with transformative learning and research for sustainable development.
- Enabling policy formulation and/or institutional change.
- Contributing to community engagement, research and development.
- Contributing to capacity development of stakeholders and partners.

Activities in these categories are expected to address one of the following thematic areas

1. Biodiversity
2. Traditional Knowledge
3. Climate Change

4. Disaster Risk Reduction
5. Higher Education
6. Sustainable Consumption and Production & Livelihoods
7. Youth
8. Health and Nutrition
9. Other

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for the RCE Award, nominated projects and programmes need to:

1. Be a partnership between different RCE stakeholders (at least two contributing stakeholder organizations). Engagement of stakeholders from different sectors is encouraged.
2. Be supported (joint nomination) by the key RCE participating stakeholders.
3. Be in the final stages of implementation.
4. Have not been recognised in a previous RCE Award Programme.
5. Be the only one submission for a chosen thematic category for the RCE (one submission per thematic category is accepted from each RCE).

Criteria

To receive the Award, RCEs must demonstrate that their nominated projects and programmes meet the above-mentioned eligibility criteria and also:

- Address one or several sustainability challenges in the region.
- Describe project's significance in the region
- Link a regional sustainability challenge to a global challenges or processes.
- Contribute to formal and/or non-formal learning and educational processes for sustainable development.
- Discuss and demonstrate transformative learning and research dimensions in the project.
- Discuss and demonstrate development of new knowledge and innovations with reference to project category (if applicable).
- Encourage community engagement and empowerment (if applicable)
- Engage multiple stakeholders within a defined coordination structure.
- Improve capacities of partners and stakeholders
- Contribute to institutional and policy reforms (if applicable)
- Discuss any challenges faced during implementation and how they were dealt with and overcome
- Discuss the ways of dissemination of project results
- Discuss ways of further scaling up, mainstreaming and deepening ideas and actions of the project (ways forward), including possible mentions of application in other regions or other interested RCEs.
- Discuss novelty of project within the RCE network
- Provide adequate references and links (if applicable)

Format for submission and review

Online submission of the Award project or programme is to be done on the RCE Portal and must be done as part of the [Annual Reporting](#) process so RCE members can avoid inputting information twice. The deadline for online submission is **30 October 2015**.

Review of the submitted materials is to be undertaken by the RCE Award Working Group comprising representatives from RCEs and UNU-IAS. Announcement of the Award Winners will be in early 2016.