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UNU-IAS

Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability

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A Multi-stakeholder Approach for ESD beyond School Settings

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United Nations University (UNU)

- A global think tank and postgraduate teaching organisation headquartered in Tokyo, Japan
- Contribute, through collaborative research and education, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States
- Function as a bridge between the international academic community and the UN system
- UNU encompasses 14 institutes located in 12 countries around the world, including UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) based in Tokyo.



UNU-IAS ESD Programme

- UNU-IAS launched the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Programme with funding support from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) in 2003 in response to the UN Decade on ESD.
- Goal of the Programme:
To bridge the gap between learning and sustainable development through research and actions that advance knowledge across geographic, knowledge, and sectoral boundaries

UNU-IAS ESD Programme (cont'd)

Objectives of Programme:

- ✓ Accelerating local and regional solutions to sustainability issues
- ✓ Re-orienting higher education for societal transformation into SD
- ✓ Developing SD and ESD competencies and capabilities as well as a science-policy interface

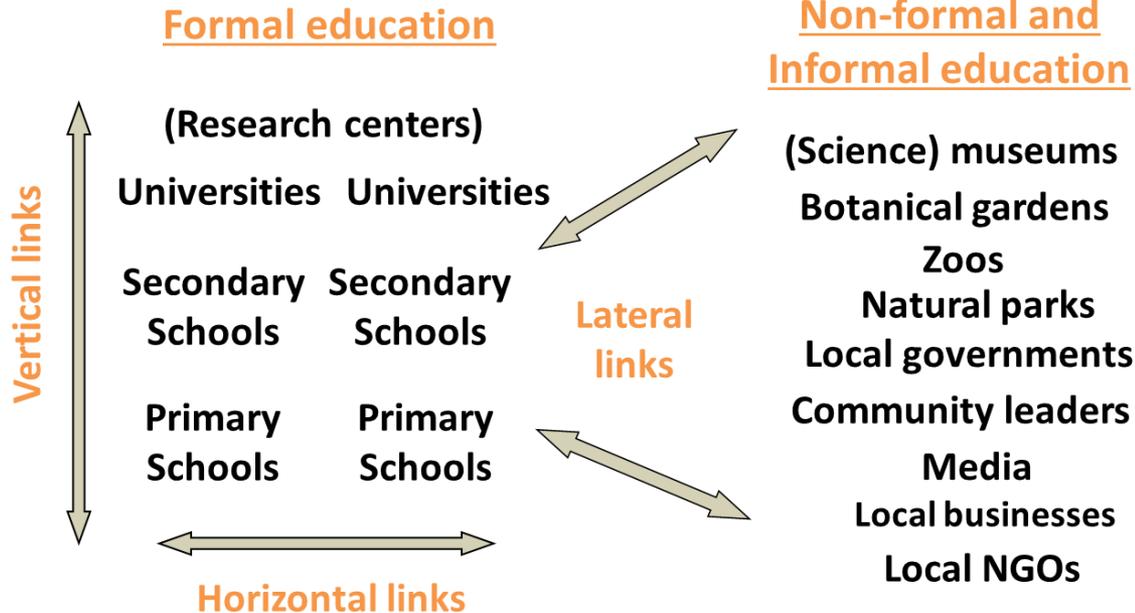
Flagship Initiatives

- **RCE-** Global network of Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD
- **ProSPER.Net** - Network of higher education institutions for ESD (Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network)

Regional Centers of Expertise (RCEs) on ESD

An RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal, and informal organizations that facilitate education for sustainable development in local and regional communities, acknowledged by UNU

Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs)



ACKNOWLEDGED BY



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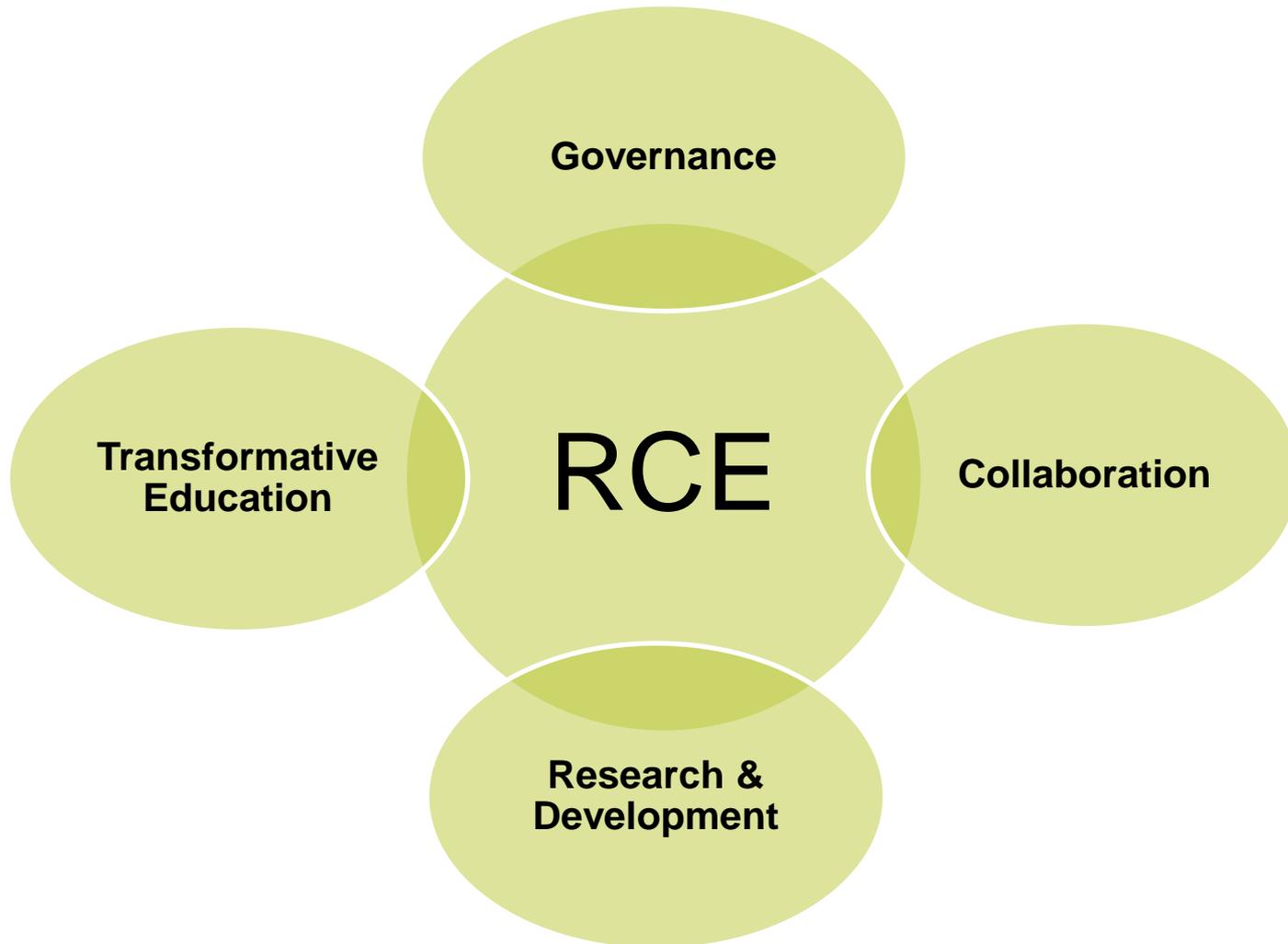
Why RCE?

- Need for local initiatives –from global agenda to local actions
- Need for partnerships of expertise of communities, professions, NGOs, civil society, private sector and governments
- Need for an innovative platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue— that enables diverse groups to interact, learn collaboratively and take collective decisions and actions towards sustainable development and ESD beyond school settings

Multi-stakeholder approach and RCE

- A secretariat of RCE is usually higher education institution.
- Because educators come from different sectors, RCEs can access a pool of experts from different fields
 - Helps break down silos;
 - Focuses on an integrated agenda of ESD; and
 - Gives overview of critical issues due to multiple stakeholders.
- RCEs with multi-stakeholders are ideally positioned to translate global sustainable development policy and vision into local realities.

RCE Core Elements



RCEs around the World



UNU-IAS currently has 175 RCEs listed globally. (as of April 2020)

Case of RCE Activities (RCE Scotland, UK)

- **Project Title:** Addressing SDG 4.7: Values and Learning for Sustainability in Initial Teacher Education
- **Objective:** Support teacher educators in all eight universities involved in initial teacher education (ITE) in Scotland to embed Values and Learning for Sustainability in their ITE courses and programmes
- **Activities:** Collaboration between partners (The General Teaching Council for Scotland, educators from the eight initial teacher education universities, and teachers) developed and piloted a reflection and development tool that is fit for purpose, and built universities' commitment to its use.



Case of RCE Activities (RCE Greater Western, Australia, and RCE Yogyakarta, Indonesia)

- **Project Title:** Asia-Pacific SDG Youth Challenge 2018



- **Objective:** Inspire youth to make a practical, on-the-ground change in their local communities through ESD while involving as many youth as they could around the SDGs relating to climate action or protecting the world's marine environments.

- **Activities:**

- The SDG Youth Challenge called for expressions of interest from across the Asia-Pacific region on SDG 13 or 14, with 20 youth-led projects selected by the organising RCEs
- Following the Challenge, a half-day virtual youth summit was held to celebrate these projects and to give youth a voice.

ASIA-PACIFIC YOUTH
SDG CHALLENGE 2018

Youth for the Goals: Climate Action and
Life Below Water



Case of RCE Activities (RCE Chubu, Japan)

- **Project Title:** Chubu Sustainability Policy Academy
- **Objective:** Develop talented young people capable of presenting and working on realising policy recommendations on sustainability at various levels – local, national and international.
- **Activities:**
 - Desk study, including lectures by guest speakers and discussions, as well as fieldwork (10 lectures and two fieldwork trips per year)
 - Dispatch trainees to SDGs-related international meetings to learn about international trends and to seek potential partnerships
 - Result presentation and external evaluation/support once a year



Case of RCE Activities (RCE Okayama, Japan)

- **Project Title:** Virtual Museum of Science Experience



- **Objective:** Inspire elementary and middle school students to become involved in ESD in the future by leveraging information technology (virtual 3D space and VR) as a learning technique and raising interest in science and information technology



- **Activities:**

- Experts provide technical explanations on various scientific subjects such as global warming, using museums of science created in virtual 3D space.
- Under the guidance of local college students, participants can learn about the evolution of CO₂ concentration over Okayama, using the Okayama City Museum of Science reproduced in virtual 3D space

RCE Related Activities

Activity	Modality	Actions
Global RCE Meetings	Annual global gathering of RCEs	Plenaries, academic presentations, capacity building workshops, including UN Partners
Regional RCE Meetings	Annual gathering of RCEs from 4 continental regions	Panel discussions, academic presentations, workshops with UN Partners (IPBES)
National RCE Meetings	Gathering of RCEs from within a nation (Japan, Korea, Germany, UK)	Work plan discussions, exchange programme discussions, joint ESD project discussions
Thematic RCE Meetings	RCEs gather at academic conference or UN COP around given theme	Side-events, workshops for public, dissemination of RCE materials on topic
Youth RCE Meetings	Online meetings	Joint ESD project discussion, webinars, dissemination strategy

Regional Meetings: Asia-Pacific 2019

The 12th Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting took place in Hangzhou, China, on June 4th-6th, 2019, hosted by RCE Hangzhou.

Theme	<i>Enabling low-carbon societies through ESD</i>
Local Host's ESD Projects	RCE Hangzhou showcased school projects on river conservation
Workshops	UNESCO writing workshop, ESD reflection workshop
Other Activities	Declaration of Cooperation signed between Chinese RCEs



Opening Ceremony of 12th Asia-Pacific RCE meeting – Hangzhou, China

ESD for 2030

- UNESCO will launch the new ESD framework:
 - *Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)*
- The new ESD framework will focus on streamlining ESD with Agenda 2030 through:
 - Calling for action and commitments from participants;
 - Fostering stakeholder commitments, including nationwide multi-stakeholder initiatives (NAMSI); and
 - Expanding and reinforce partnerships for ESD.
- UNU-IAS' Role in partnership with RCEs:
 - Support inclusive network of partners
 - Support evidence base for both policies and practices

RCE Portal and RCE Facebook Page

Global RCE Network
Education for Sustainable Development

Advanced Search

- 
- ABOUT ▾
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- PUBLICATIONS ▾



7th Americas Regional RCE Meeting
24-27 October, 2018, Posadas, Argentina
Photo: Danielle Pereira / CC BY 2.0

NEWS

2018-09-28

RCE Khomas-Erongo Member Wins UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD

2018-09-21

RCE Greater Dhaka Organises Workshop on Adaptation of Global Citizenship Education

2018-09-20

Registrations Now Open: 11th Global RCE Conference

EVENTS

2018-12-07

11th Global RCE Conference

2018-10-17

Future Forward Summit on Sustainable Higher Education

2018-10-16

2nd Edition: Secondary Schools SDGs and ESD Quiz Competition, RCE Kano

PUBLICATIONS

2018

Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being For All: Experiences of community health...

2018

Academia and Communities: Engaging for Change – Learning Contributions of RCEs on ESD

2016

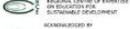
Research and Innovation in Education for Sustainable Development

<http://www.rcenetwork.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Global-RCE-Network-890558397679571/>

RCE Bulletin

- Issued monthly
- Upcoming ESD-related Events
- Latest News
- Invitations for collaboration
- New Publications and Resources
- Created a template for RCEs to submit an article to the bulletin

 REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SCANNED BY

 UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

RCE Bulletin
Issue 85: September 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE GLOBAL RCE SERVICE CENTRE:

Registrations Open: 11th Global RCE Conference

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Hosted by RCE Cebu, the 11th Global RCE Conference will take place in Cebu, the Philippines, from 7-9 December, 2018, under the theme 'Education for the Sustainable Development Goals'. All 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will take centre stage, as the SDGs offer RCEs diverse entry points to tackle sustainable development issues relevant to their respective regions through education and training at all levels.

The programme for this year's Global RCE Conference will be divided into four components: case presentations, plenaries, regional sessions, and workshops. We are pleased to announce an open call for:

- **Case presentations** of ESD projects from RCEs, which this year will run as three parallel streams; Planet, People, and Prosperity; and
- **Workshop sessions** run by RCEs.

SDG 4 (Quality Education, in particular Target 4.7 in relation to Education for Sustainable Development) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) will be the cross-cutting themes for all sessions.

Open Call: For more details, view the open call [here](#).

Registration: To register, please click [here](#). For those who are not able to access the webpage, please submit the [Registration Form](#) and email it to RCE Cebu (ceburce@gmail.com) and the Global RCE Service Centre (rceconference@unu.edu).

Deadline: For those NOT applying for funding support, the deadline to register is 11:59pm, Sunday 4th November, 2018 (PHT).

For those applying for funding support, please note the earlier registration deadline of 11:59pm, Sunday 7th October, 2018 (JST).

Update: RCE Annual Reporting Process

Some important changes to the Annual Reporting section of the RCE Portal have recently been made. In previous years, RCEs have been asked to submit an Annual Report through the RCE Portal. Instead of completing an Annual Report, we now ask that you do the following annually:

- Keep your **RCE Profile** up-to-date (by submitting this [form](#) to the Global RCE Service Centre at rceservicecentre@unu.edu when you have any changes); and

Research / Knowledge Facilitation



Summary

- An Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on ESD is a network of existing formal, non-formal, and informal organizations that facilitate education for sustainable development in local and regional communities, acknowledged by UNU. There are 175 RCEs in the world.
- An RCE, as a platform, provides multi-stakeholders a means for facilitating learning on sustainable development beyond school settings.
- An RCE enables multi-stakeholders to interact, learn collaboratively and take collective decisions and actions towards sustainable development and ESD within a local context.
- RCEs can collaborate with each other beyond national borders, creating a global learning space for sustainable development.