

Information Update on RCEs

1. Progress in RCE development

Based on the Ubuntu Alliance Meeting in April 2006, the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs (the Committee) was established to review new RCE applications and provide guidance for RCE activities. The First Meeting of the Committee was held on 5 December 2006 in Paris. It adopted the criteria for acknowledging new RCEs, reviewed 25 RCE applications and recommended the United Nations University (UNU) to acknowledge 23 new RCEs with some recommendations. The total number of RCEs would become 35, including 12 RCEs that had been acknowledged by December 2006. The Committee, while expressing its satisfaction in the progress of RCEs and their networking activities, encouraged the Secretariat of the Ubuntu Alliance to work on the following items:

- To encourage acknowledged RCEs to develop/identify flagship RCE projects;
- To develop a format of the portfolio of RCE activities and a reporting format;
- To communicate with RCE candidates and encourage them to develop new RCEs, with special attention to Latin America and Middle East;
- To develop/issue an electronic journal on RCEs (e-RCE bulletin), which could be used as RCE promotion materials;
- To draft a proposal for an award scheme on excellent RCE performance for consideration by the next Committee meeting; and
- To develop substantive items to be learned at different age levels. This may be discussed by an expert group including ICSU, TWAS, SCA, WFEO, WCLN etc.

The list of RCEs is attached as Annex and also available at UNU-IAS website: <http://www.ias.unu.edu/efsd>.

2. Call for new RCE applications

UNU announced in March 2007 a call for applications for RCEs (please see UNU-IAS website: <http://www.ias.unu.edu/efsd>). The Second Meeting of the Committee will be held on 6 August 2007 in Penang, Malaysia to review newly submitted RCE applications.

Those who wish to be considered for acknowledgement as an RCE are requested to submit an application together with an application summary for their RCE to UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), the Secretariat of the Ubuntu Alliance by Thursday, 31 May 2007. The Secretariat will further communicate with the applicants in June/July 2007, so that the applicants can further elaborate their applications before the Committee Meeting. The applicants are also requested to inform the Secretariat of their intention to submit an application by Tuesday, 15 May 2007.

[Contact address of UNU-IAS]

Global RCE Service Centre
United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS)
6F, International Organizations Center, Pacifico-Yokohama
1-1-1 Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-8502, Japan
Tel: +81-45-221-2300
Fax: +81-45-221-2303
E-mail: rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu
URL: <http://www.ias.unu.edu>

3. International RCE Conference 2007

In 2007, the Second Meeting of the International RCE Conference will be held on 7-8 August in Penang, Malaysia by UNU-IAS as the Global RCE service Centre. All RCEs are cordially invited to participate in the Conference. The official invitation letter will be sent shortly.

4. Other major events in 2007 related to RCEs

In addition to the International RCE Conference, the following events will be held in 2007.

(i) 15th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD15)

CSD15 will be held from 30 April to 11 May at UN Headquarters in New York City. UNU-IAS will organize a side event on RCEs during the CSD15, possibly on 7 or 8 May to discuss the progress in RCE development. UNU will convene a High-level Segment of UN DESD jointly with the Government of Japan and UNESCO at lunch time on 4 May 2007.

(ii) Fourth Session of the World Environmental Education Congress (4WEEC)

4WEEC will be held on 2-6 July in Durban, South Africa. UNU-IAS will convene a session on RCE during 4WEEC. A field visit to RCE Kwa Zulu Natal and discussion on RCEs will also be held on 6 July.

(iii) International Forum on RCE

The International Forum on RCE will be held on 15-18 August in Beijing, by the Beijing Normal University together with UNU etc. Detailed information is available at: <http://www.wangminedu.com>.

(iv) Fourth International Conference on Environmental Education

The Fourth International Conference on Environmental Education – Towards a Sustainable Future- Partners for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – will be held on 26-28 November in Ahmedabad, India. This is the conference to be

organized by UNESCO, following the 1977 Tbilisi, 1987 Moscow and 1997 Thessaloniki Conferences. Detailed information is available at: <http://www.desd.org>. A session on RCE will be convened at this conference.

Regional/sub-regional RCE meetings may be undertaken as appropriate in these events.

5. Members of the Global RCE Service Centre: as of 01 April 2007

- Mr. Katsunori Suzuki, Senior Fellow: overall programme management
- Mr. Yoshihiro Natori, Senior Fellow: overall programme management
- Dr. Zinaida Fadeeva, Associate Fellow: mainly in charge of ESD/RCE research
- Dr. Yoko Mochizuki, ESD Specialist: mainly in charge of ESD/RCE research
- Ms. Sampreethi Aipanjiguly, Communication Specialist (located in Kathmandu): publication and other communication issues
- Ms. Nami Akimoto, Programme Support Assistant: assistance to programme management
- Dr. David Mutekanga, JSPS fellow: RCE research mainly in Africa
- Dr. Chinara Sadykova, Postdoctoral Fellow: RCE research mainly in Central Asia
- Mr. Arthur Koo, Intern: assistance to programme activities

6. Others

RCE Logo

RCE Logo is expected to be finalized shortly.

RCE Templates

RCE templates will be available at <http://www.ias.unu.edu/efsd> shortly.

e-RCE Bulletin

The First Issue is expected in May/June 2007 to be followed quarterly.

RCE Server

The prototype will be presented at the International RCE Conference for discussions.

A proposal for an award scheme on excellent RCE performance

A proposal will be developed shortly for consideration by the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs on 6 August 2007 in Penang.