

RCE E-Bulletin

February 2013

Message from the Global RCE Service Centre:

Dear colleagues and friends,

As many of you know, the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) will be held in November 2014 in Japan to mark the end of the UN Decade of ESD (DESD) and celebrate its achievement. In this regard, UNESCO is now preparing a final report on the DESD and developing a post-2014 ESD programme framework. In the light of this, UNESCO is requesting key stakeholders to participate in the data collection process by submitting two questionnaires: (1) Education for Sustainable Development after 2014 (due 30 March 2013) and (2) the UN Decade of ESD Final Report (due 31 October 2013). The questionnaires are available in English, French and Spanish (see attached).

We would be grateful if you could complete the attached questionnaires and send them to: esddecade@unesco.org, copying: rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu. You can also fill in the questionnaires online. Please contact rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu if you would like to receive the online links.

It is critical for the whole RCE community to respond to this inquiry and give input for the DESD final report and for shaping the future of ESD after 2014. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

With much appreciation,

The Global RCE Service Centre

Featured RCE Member: Mario Tabucanon

Regional Advisor for Asia-Pacific



1. Where does your passion for ESD come from?

I grew up professionally in an international institution of higher learning whose mission is 'to develop highly qualified and committed professionals who play leading roles in the region's (Asia-Pacific) sustainable development and its integration into the global economy'. This institution is the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), with its main campus based in Thailand and satellite branches in other parts of the region. I was fortunate to have studied at and worked with AIT for more than three decades dealing with SD/ESD issues. As a product of AIT, SD/ESD is part and parcel of my professional fabric.

2. What do you enjoy most about your role as an RCE Regional Advisor for the Asia-Pacific region?

First and foremost, enjoyment comes from the value of my humble contribution. I consider it a privilege to contribute to promote ESD and RCEs in the region and to see the growing interests of organizations to come on board the RCE movement. It is gratifying to see the organic growth of multi-stakeholders networks known as RCEs, and to witness them make concrete contributions to deliver ESD in their respective regions.

3. What is the greatest opportunity you see for RCEs in the coming year?

There are a number of opportunities for the RCEs including engagement with government policymakers, and engagement with the private sector. But if I need to only pinpoint one, it must be the opportunity to engage the youth. I had co-facilitated the discussion on Youth at the Tongyeong Global RCE Conference in September 2012, as well as the RCE Youth Session hosted by RCE Delhi on 30 January 2013. I could see that the young generation's potential contributions for the RCE movement are tremendous and should be harnessed.

4. What are your personal ambitions for the year ahead?

The success of the RCE movement truly lies on the RCEs themselves. I would like to see the RCEs in the Asia-Pacific region, and other continental regions, come to collaborate closer and strengthen ties. This may be relatively difficult in the Asia-Pacific region by virtue of vastness and diversity. The region is home to more than half of the world's population, with great diversity in terms of geography, culture, societies and economies. I would like to see the vision paper and common platform being developed by the Asia-Pacific RCEs realized and implemented. I also would like to see more RCEs established in countries and territories not yet represented in the global RCE movement. These ambitions, of course, go beyond this year.

5. Tell us something about yourself that most people in the RCE network don't know.

When people ask me about myself, there is no one-word answer, it is usually a paragraph or so. I was born and raised in a small town in Leyte, Philippines and am still a national of the country of my birth. But for decades (perhaps too long to precisely mention here) I studied, raised a family, worked and lived in Thailand. When I completed my tenure at AIT in July 2005, the then UNU Rector Prof. Hans van Ginkel, who happened to be also the Vice Chair of the AIT Board of Trustees, was gracious to invite me to participate in the activities of UNU-IAS, and to which I was profoundly grateful for. Since then, based in Thailand, I worked with colleagues in the UNU-IAS ESD Programme to advance the cause of RCEs.

Upcoming Events:

8th Global RCE Conference

The 8th Global Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) on Education for Sustainable Development Conference will take place from 26 to 29 November 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference will be hosted by RCE Greater Nairobi in collaboration with other African RCEs. The venue of the Conference will be the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Gigiri, Nairobi.

Americas RCE Regional Conference

RCE Lima-Callao will be hosting the 2nd Regional Conference for RCEs in the Americas in Lima, Peru, from 27 February to 2 March 2013. The RCE will also host, as a side event, the **II International Meeting of the ESD** on 27 February 2013, with paper presentation sessions and lectures on ESD. The Regional Conference will focus on strategic and operational issues among RCEs in the Americas. The outcomes of this meeting will be shared during the 8th Global RCE Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2013. More information is available on RCE Lima-Callao's website www.rcelimacallao.org

European RCE Regional Meetings

There are two European RCE Meetings planned for 2013. The first European meeting will be held as a back-to-back-conference to the CODE-meeting in Kerkrade, the Netherlands on 15 and 16 May 2013. The second meeting will be held as a back-to-back-conference to BBCC-conference in St. Petersburg, Russia from 5 to 7 June 2013. For more information on these meetings, please contact Detlev Lindau-Bank at detlev.lindau-bank@uni-vechta.de

German RCE National Meeting

RCEs based in Germany and in the Rhine Meuse region will be holding a national meeting in Berlin on 26 and 27 February, 2013. The meeting will be held in the German Ministry of Education and Science. Updates from the meeting will be made available in a future bulletin.

Fully-funded Study Visits on Education for Sustainability in the UK

SustEd is hosting two EU Transversal Study Visits – **Education for Sustainable Communities** in October 2013 and **Guidance for sustainable, ethical lifestyle and career choices** in March 2014. If selected you will receive funding from the EU for the full costs of travel, accommodation and subsistence. Both study visits are for four days and will enable up to 12 experienced educators and education managers to explore some innovative, community-based approaches to education for sustainable development in schools and colleges. The deadline for applications for the October 2013 visit is 28th March 2013, and for the March 2014 visit is 15th October 2013. Further details of the visits can be found on pages 100 and 246 in the [Cedefop Study Visits Catalogue 2013/14](#). Details about applying are found on the [Cedefop Study Visits webpages](#) or on [UK pages](#).

6th GUNi International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education

The Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi) is organizing the 6th International Barcelona Conference on Higher Education, “**Let’s Build Transformative Knowledge to Drive Social Change**” from May 13 to 15, 2013. The Conference will provide visibility and will critically examine one of the most significant trends: the growth of the theory and practice of engagement as a key feature in the evolution of higher education. For more information, please visit the [GUNi Conference website](#). To download the flyer and press release, [click here](#).

Latest News:

Call for Applications for new Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs)

The United Nations University is now calling for applications for new RCEs. Those organizations interested in becoming an RCE are requested to send expressions of interest to UNU-IAS by Monday, 15 April 2013. RCE candidates are then requested to submit an application and an application summary by Monday, 3 June 2013. The Secretariat will communicate with the applicants in July and August, so that applications can be developed in time for the Ubuntu Committee Meeting in the last quarter of this year. For more information regarding guidelines for applications and for further information, visit our [Call for Applications page](#).

Youth Unite for Voluntary Action - YUVA Meet 2013

The Youth Unite for Voluntary Action (YUVA) Meet was held on 28-29 January 2013 in Delhi, India as one of the special events to the annual international conference called Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS). The Energy and Resources Institute (the Secretariat of RCE Delhi) has been hosting YUVA Meet since 2009 and this year in close collaboration with the Government of India – Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Tetra Pak, British Council and UNU-IAS. It was followed by the RCE Youth Session and attended by youth representatives from 10 RCEs around the world. To read more about the YUVA Meet and the RCE Youth Session [click here](#).

Framework of Action on Youth for the RCEs

At the 7th Global RCE Conference hosted by RCE Tongyeong, Republic of Korea, the RCE community issued the [Tongyeong Declaration](#) reaffirming all previous declarations related to education for sustainable development (ESD) and declared their commitment to implementing strategic actions that build a global learning space on ESD. In support of the Declaration was the [Positioning RCEs document](#), in which RCEs committed to implementing strategic and thematic actions as well as other relevant actions that may arise over time, with a view to building a global learning space on sustainable development issues. Among the thematic actions identified is ‘RCEs, Youth and Schools’. At the recent RCE Youth Session at the YUVA Meet 2013, A framework of actions on youth for the RCEs was drafted. You can download a PDF of the framework by [clicking here](#). RCEs are invited to share their thoughts on the framework by emailing reservicecentre@ias.unu.edu

RCE Srinagar Celebrates World Wetlands Day 2013

RCE Srinagar in collaboration and cooperation with Centre for Environment Education (CEE Himalaya) and Aagaas Federation organized World Wetlands Day 2013 exhibition and orientation workshop on the importance of wetlands in environmental ecosystem on Saturday 2 Feb 2013 at D.A.V Inter college , Karanpur, District - Dehradun , Uttarakhand. Every year, World Wetlands Day is celebrated the world over to mark the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. To read more about RCE Srinagar's activities, [click here](#).

RCE Munich: Dennis Meadows 40th anniversary of “Limits to Growth”

Forty years ago the Club of Rome published "Limits to Growth", one of the original studies on sustainable development. On this occasion, the Rachel Carson Center, Partner of the RCE Munich (BenE München) invited lead author Prof. Dennis Meadows to Munich. His talk was part of the joint series of lectures "Leitbild Nachhaltigkeit" and was the high point of a series of exciting encounters. This sustainability lecture was initiated one year ago and was organized by RCE Munich together with the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC) and the "Verein für Nachhaltigkeit". It involves 15 colleges and universities from the Greater Munich area.

For several years now, BenE Munich has been applying Dennis Meadows' methods in their project "GenE – shaping competences for sustainable development". During his trip he found the time to dine with a group of people engaged in this project. To read more about these efforts, download the PDF by clicking here:

http://www.bene-muenchen.de/fileadmin/user_upload/PDFs/Bericht_zum_Besuch_von_Dennis_Meadows.pdf

ESD in Teacher Education Workshop

RCE KwaZulu Natal just concluded a workshop with 20 Heads of Teacher Education Institutions offering Degrees and Diplomas from 9 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Member States. The participants - 4 Deans, 17 Principals and Rectors of Teacher Education Colleges - committed themselves to the process of mainstreaming ESD with strong sustainability and agency in Teacher Education. Many of the institutions involved in the workshop were members of RCEs, such as the National University of Lesotho and Lesotho College of Education, both in the Lesotho RCE; Mutare Teachers' College in RCE Mutare; and the University of Zambia in RCE Lusaka. The event marks a significant step for ESD and show that sustainability practices are gaining momentum in Southern Africa.

New Publications:

Latest ESD Publication from RCE Curitiba-Parana

RCE Curitiba-Parana has released the latest edition of their ESD Bulletin. The edition, available in Portuguese only, is entitled Sustainability and Mobility: Advancing in a Post Rio+20 Context. To download the publication, [click here](#).

Researching Resilience: Young Scholars Look to Communities as Classrooms

A new article and video from the ProSPER.Net (Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research) Young Researchers' School (YRS) has just been released. The video showcases a group of refugees living in a temporary settlement after the eruption of Mount Merapi in 2010. The shelter serves as an excellent model of a resilient society in the context of post disaster management. Scholars from the 2012 YRS visited the refugees to learn more about the various modes of production they've developed, such as the production of crackers from cassava and sweet potato, as well as the manufacturing of accessories. Access the video and article by [clicking here](#).

New Video from RCE Srinagar's International Mountain Day Celebrations

To highlight the importance of mountains and promote the mountain agenda, RCE Srinagar, CEE and ICIMOD celebrated International Mountain Day 2012 with 250 students and teachers in Uttarakhand, India. Drawing, painting, slogan writing, performing skits competitions, lectures by resource persons and a rally was organized on the day. Watch the video below, which captures all the events and explains the importance of mountains in India. Access the video by [clicking here](#).

This is a publication of UNU-IAS RCE Global Service Centre.

Please send your comments, suggestions and materials to rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu

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