

# RCE E-Bulletin

May 2013

## Message from the Global RCE Service Centre:

Dear colleagues and friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the newest member of the RCE Global Service Centre team. Kyoko Shiota is joining us as a Programme Support Assistant for the ESD team of UNU-IAS. Before joining our team, she was working for as a PR and advocacy officer for an international NGO and, prior to that, as a PR officer for a Boston nursery school. She is very excited to be working with the RCE family. Kyoko will be supporting us on a variety of tasks, including the review process for new RCEs.

Please join us all in welcoming Kyoko to the RCE family!!

With much appreciation,

The Global RCE Service Centre

## Upcoming Events:

### 5<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V)

The 5<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development will be held in Yokohama, Japan from 1-3 June 2013. UNU-IAS will be involved in two key events around the conference, including a special two part official side event on ESD. Part I of the side event is organized by UNESCO and co-organized by UNU-IAS and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. Entitled “ESD: A sound investment to accelerate African development” the side event will reinforce ESD as a sound investment in education. Part II is organized by UNU-IAS, co-organized by UNESCO, UNICEF and the RCE community, with the support of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. Entitled “Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies in Africa through ESD”, this side event will be held to highlight the role of ESD in building inclusive and resilient societies in Africa through strategic partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration in education and development planning. In particular, it will highlight the work of RCEs, UNICEF and UNESCO, and the ways in which together they provide a useful global framework for enhancing collaborative partnerships on ESD. For more information, visit: [http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub\\_page.aspx?catID=8&ddIID=2591](http://www.ias.unu.edu/sub_page.aspx?catID=8&ddIID=2591)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting, 20-22 October 2013, Kitakyushu, Japan

RCE Kitakyushu, in close collaboration with the City of Kitakyushu, will host the 6th Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting from 20-22 October. The meeting will be part of the city's 50th anniversary celebration and a number of international conferences and events will be held around the same time, including the launch of the OECD Green Growth Studies; International Conference on Future Cities and the 3rd International Forum on the “Future Cities” Initiative. In addition to the usual discussion sessions on various thematic and strategic issues, RCE participants will have an opportunity to engage with the local community including youth, NPOs, schools and local business at the annual Kitakyushu event called “Eco Life Stage” where more than 100 local organizations set up booths and events to introduce their activities for a sustainable society. More details will be shared with you in due course.

### Forthcoming RCE Meetings in Africa

African RCEs in collaboration with the Global RCE Service Centre are planning two meetings this August. The first meeting is a two-day capacity development-support workshop for Kenyan RCEs that will be hosted by RCE Kakamega-Western on 1-2 August 2013. RCE Minna in collaboration with the National Universities Commission (NUC) of Nigeria is organizing the second as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> African RCE Continental Meeting. The meeting will bring together participants from all African RCEs and Nigerian Universities and will take place on 20-21 August 2013 in Abuja. More details about the two meetings will be uploaded at: <http://www.rce-network.org/elgg/pg/groups/1114/continental-community-africa/> and circulated through email in June.

## 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## BLISS Summer School: Building Learning in Sustainability Science

TERI University is organizing a summer school titled BLISS (Building Learning in Sustainability Science). This will be held from July 15-19, 2013. It aims to encourage people to imbibe the principles of sustainable development, both as a career and in day to day life. A major highlight of the program is its online accessibility, where participants can link to classes via webinar and receive live webcasts of the sessions from a dedicated link with login ID and password. They will also be able to interact with a faculty in real time. The programme is designed to whet the appetite of the younger generation for the knowledge of sustainability science in an interesting and exciting way, paving the way for a large number of youth to seriously consider these areas for their career. For more information, please see the attached document.

## Latest News:

### Virtual RCE Youth Conference on Water



Congratulations to RCE Grand Rapids for hosting an incredibly successful virtual conference on water and sustainability for RCE youth. RCE Grand Rapids hosted the virtual conference on 17 May from Michigan, USA. Five other RCEs joined in from across the globe: RCE Bogota (Colombia), RCE Curitiba-Parana (Brazil), RCE Lima-Callao (Peru), RCE Rhine Meuse (Netherlands), and RCE Saskatchewan (Canada). Each RCE gave a short presentation on the water and sustainability issues facing their communities; these presentations were then followed by active discussions by the participating

students. It serves as an excellent example of the ways in which RCE members can work together to help the youth of today face the sustainability challenges of tomorrow. The conference helped participants better understand the unique sustainability dilemmas facing various regions of the world, creating greater empathy, understanding and dialogue that will hopefully continue for years to come. RCE Grand Rapids has created a Facebook page, title [Youth Virtual Conference of the UNU RCEs](#) to continue discussions on the topic. We encourage all members to log into Facebook and join the group. You can access the full recording of the virtual conference on the RCE Grand Rapids site: <http://www.grandrapidsrce.org/> . Check out the RCE Rhine Meuse site for their summary of the event as well: [http://www.rcerm.eu/Virtual\\_Youth\\_Conference.html](http://www.rcerm.eu/Virtual_Youth_Conference.html)



### Meeting of RCEs in Barcelona and their contribution to GUNI conference

RCE Barcelona (Spain), RCE London, RCE Crete (Greece), Jogjakarta (Indonesia), RCE Penang (Malaysia), RCE Skane (Sweden), RCE Severn (UK), RCE Candidate Usti and Labem (Czech Republic) and RCE Candidate Lithuania came together in connection to the GUNI conference held in Barcelona, 13-15 May. In addition to the critical input to the discussion of transformation of higher education, they found an opportunity to share significant events in the lives of own ESD communities. Discussions also touched the aspirations to conduct assessment as a mean for RCEs development, future conferences, publications and engagements with RCE candidates. Check out some familiar faces in this gallery of photos: <http://mosur.czp.cuni.cz/alba/barcelona/RCE/index.html>

### UK RCEs Meeting

The UK RCE Meeting is being organized by RCE Severn and will take place at the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2013 (11am-3pm). The purpose of this gathering in the UK is to (i) welcome two new RCEs in the UK which have recently joined the RCE family; (ii) share recent activities and projects; (iii) discuss outcomes of European RCE meetings and Side Event at the 6<sup>th</sup> GUNi Conference on Higher Education Side Event; and, (iii) explore future avenues for support and collaboration in the UK. For more information, please contact RCE Severn at [rcesevern@glos.ac.uk](mailto:rcesevern@glos.ac.uk)

### LEAD Training Opportunity

Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Southern and Eastern Africa, hosted by University of Malawi (Chancellor College), is inviting applications from suitably qualified candidates for 2013 intake of the LEAD Fellows

training programme. Selected candidates will undergo two national sessions before graduating at a Pan-African session. In addition to face to face sessions, they will also attend virtual training through online distance learning, teleconferencing, forums, etc. More information is attached.

## **DESD Events**

The Inter-Agency Committee for the DESD has prepared a calendar of DESD-related events from 2013 to 2015. While it is a work in progress, we attach the current version of the calendar here. Please check the UNESCO website for regular updates and more information.

## **Call for Volunteers**

The RCE Global Service Centre is seeking volunteers from the RCE membership who would be willing to review applications from candidate RCEs. The process is detailed in the Peer Reviewer Guidelines attached. If you are interested in being a peer reviewer please contact us at [rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu) for more information.

## **Call for Entries: 2013 SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award**

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT) in cooperation with UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. are pleased to announce the 2013 SEAMEO-Japan Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Award, with the theme of "Values Education". All public and private schools in the 11 Southeast Asian countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam are invited to submit the information about their respective school's activities/programmes relating to the theme. The last day for submission of entries is on Monday 16 September 2013. Please visit the SEAMEO Website ([www.seameo.org](http://www.seameo.org)) or download the attached documents for more information.

## **Call for Participants: RCE Delhi GREEN Olympiad**

The GREEN Olympiad is an annual written examination on the environment, which is an activity of RCE Delhi, through The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The exam attracts students from India and abroad, engaging them in an exciting environmental awareness activity that addresses a broad range of topics and leads to more informed national and international school network. It culminates in a televised TERRAQUIZ, a 13-episode environment quiz programme broadcast on various prominent TV channels, including National Geographic and the Discovery Channel. Participants must be from schools affiliated with recognized education boards and educational trusts and students in grades 8, 9 or 10 only. For more information, check out the attached brochure or visit the GREEN Olympiad website: [www.teriin.org/olympiad/](http://www.teriin.org/olympiad/).

## **Call for Papers: World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities**

You are invited to submit expressions of interest to take part in the 2nd World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities (WSSDU-2014), to be held in Qatar on 28-30 January 2014. The symposium hopes to provide universities worldwide with an opportunity to display and present their works, while exchanging information, ideas and experiences with the wide network of participants. In addition, a book entitled "Transformative approaches to sustainable development across disciplines" is expected to be published, with all accepted papers. For more information please download the attached document.

## **Call for Nominations: 2013 ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award**

The 5th Annual ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Awards (YSA) will be held in August 2013 in Singapore. The award is given annually to young scientists and researchers from the Asia-Pacific region who have made significant contributions in the area of sustainable development. The 2013 YSA will award the areas of Water, Transport and Information and Communication Technologies for Sustainable Development. Nominations are being accepted from 1 April to 30 June 2013. For more information about the nomination and application process, visit the [2013 YSA page](#).

## **New Publications and Resources:**

### **New Publication: UNFCCC Youth in Action on Climate Change**

The publication "Youth in Action on Climate Change: Inspirations from around the World" is a collaborative effort of the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change aiming at highlighting concrete activities young people are leading around the world. It has been produced as a tool and a source of inspiration for designing and carrying out climate change projects, initiatives and campaigns. Please find a copy of the publication

attached. The official launch of the publication will take place on 11 June in Bonn, Germany. For more information, please contact the [rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu)

### **New Publication: UNICEF Climate Change Resource Manual in Spanish**

To further its work to scale up and mainstream climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans into the education sector, UNICEF has recently launched a series of Spanish-language publications that provide support to educators in Spanish speaking countries. These include: Climate Change and Environmental Education MODULE; Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector RESOURCE MANUAL; and Child-Friendly Education: Transforming the lives of children affected by climate change. Please visit the Climate Change and Environmental Education section of UNICEF's website to find download the materials: [http://www.unicef.org/education/bege\\_61668.html](http://www.unicef.org/education/bege_61668.html)

### **New Case Study: RCE Greater Dhaka and the 2013 Brahmanbaria Tornado**

The 2013 Brahmanbaria tornado was a deadly tornado that took place in the Brahmanbaria District of Bangladesh on March 22, 2013. The tornado struck 20 villages, killing 31 people and injuring approximately 500. Many houses and standing crops were badly damaged by the tornado and families were forced out of their homes and into temporary shelters in school buildings. This case study, written by RCE Greater Dhaka's Dr. Mohammed Ataur Rahman, details the immediate actions taken in the aftermath of the tornado and the ESD learnings gleaned from the experiences. Please find a copy of the case study attached.

### **New Website: Global SCP Clearinghouse**

We mentioned the Global SCP Clearinghouse in a previous bulletin. The Clearinghouse is a unique one-stop hub dedicated to advancing Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) worldwide. The site has now officially launched. Check it out here: <http://www.scpclearinghouse.org/About-Us>

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

Please send your comments, suggestions and materials to [rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu)

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