

Summary of Discussions for African RCEs

Agenda

1. Reviving dormant African RCEs
2. Host for the next regional RCE conference
3. Repositioning African RCEs
4. Challenges / Successes
5. Way forward

Attendance

The following were in attendance:

NAME	RCE	ROLE
Miriam Moonga	RCE Lusaka	Coordinator
Lawrence Anthony W.	RCE Greater Yenagoa	Coordinator
Usman Muhamad	RCE Kano	Coordinator
Minis Jogina	NEMA Kenya	ESD officer
Bancy Ileri	RCE Greater Nairobi	Administrator
Mary Otieno	RCE Greater Nairobi	Former Coordinator
Prof. Goolam M.	Mauritius	African RCE Advisor
Becalso Eljii	REC Cebu	Time keeper Student
Sabagala Ladey mai L.	RCE Cebu	Documenter
Nancy Pham	UNU – IAS	Communications Coordinator
Kibos Sally	RCE North Rift	Deputy Coordinator

1. Reviving dormant African RCEs

It has been observed of late that several African RCEs have been dormant for some time now. Among notable ones are: RCE Ghana, Maputo, Senegal and Mutare just to name but a few.

Way forward is to identify all such RCEs. Communicate to them, find out the reasons for their dormancy, and if possible encourage them to be active.

2. Hosting of the next regional conference

The following RCEs were proposed:

- RCE Dar -as-Salaam
- RCE Swaziland
- RCE Cameroon

3. Repositioning African RCEs

It was observed that most of the RCEs loose direction whenever a coordinator/leader moves to another place or the term of office comes to an end, and many other things that could help RCEs sustain themselves. The following were suggested:

- Need for a succession plan when a coordinator leaves so that there is continuity of leadership.
- Need to create a general RCE fund
- All regional RCE coordinators must belong to a regional whatsApp group
- Need for effective communication among regional membership by introducing even a news bulletin
- There should be representation in all regional and global conference
- Need for full financial support to enable members to attend conference
- UNU-IAS should communicate directly with RCE coordinators concerning any issue
- Youth membership should be considered at all levels especially when it comes to applying for funds to participate in conferences
- Hosting of regional conference should rotate among member countries and good standards e.g. (venue and accommodation) should be taken into considered
- Terms of reference for youth focal persons should be sent out by UNU-IAS
- Regional coordinators for each continent should be recognized by UNU-IAS

Challenges/Success

African RCEs have been facing a number of challenges - such as:

- Visibility
- Recognition
- RCEs cannot register as an NGO
- No MoU between secretariat and the hosting institution in most cases
- Lack of financial support to attend conference
- Lack of seed money for startup capital
- African RCEs have no focal person at UNU-IAS since the departure of Dr Abel Atiti
- Poor communication at different levels
- Lack of partnerships among African RCEs

- Only 10 RCEs managed to attend 2018 regional conference in Zomba. Some Nigerians had problems getting visas.
- No follow-ups on the decisions after the conferences
- There is little or no National recognition of RCEs even in hosting institutions and by government bodies. Some even mistaken them to Centres of Excellence

Successes

- The newly created whatsApp group for RCE coordinators and advisors is working very well as a communication tool
- The region has been able to host regional conferences successfully

WAY FORWARD

- Empower RCEs in Africa to become visible
- Understand the role of ESD in achieving SDGs
- Orient education towards SDGs
- Strengthen partnerships between RCEs and global service centre
- Encourage collaborations within, between and among RCEs
- UNU - IAS to give full support to members attending conferences
- Youths to play an important role in RCEs
- RCEs should find strategies for fund mobilization

Report compiled by:

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