Conceptualization and Development of the Global RCE Network

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Outline of the Presentation

1. Introduction to the UNU-IAS’ ESD Programme
2. What is an RCE?
3. Development of the Global RCE Network
4. What’s ahead?
Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) 2005-2014

- Proposed by Japanese Government and NGOs in *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* in 2002
- Adopted by **UN General Assembly** in December 2002
- **UNESCO** designated as a lead agency
- **The International Implementation Scheme** (IIS) for DESD was approved in September 2005.
- Governments are invited to consider the measures to implement DESD in their educational strategies and action plans.
UNU-IAS ESD Programme

- Launched in 2003 as UNU’s response to DESD

4 Goals of the ESD Programme

1. Advancing ESD through multi-stakeholder initiative (RCEs)
2. Contribution to transformation of higher education (ProSPER.Net)
3. Contribution to international SD/ESD processes
4. Advancing ESD knowledge
Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD

- Proposed by UNU as its contribution to DESD
- A network of formal, non-formal and informal education and learning-related institutions who are mobilized to promote ESD in the regional (sub-national) and local levels
- RCEs aspire to achieve the goals of DESD by translating its global objectives into regional-local contexts in which they operate
- Acknowledged by UNU based on the recommendations of the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for RCEs
Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs)

Formal education
- (Research centers)
  - Universities
  - Secondary Schools
  - Primary Schools

Non-formal education
- (Science) museums
- Botanical gardens
- Zoos
- Nature parks
- Local Governments
- Community leaders
- Media
- Local businesses
- Local NGOs

Vertical links
Horizontal links
Lateral links

“The networked Regional Centres of Expertise, supported by UNU-IAS, may serve as an example of how different local groups in society, who do not ordinarily work together but are bound by mutual sustainability issues, find themselves working creatively towards their improvement.” (p.56)
Core Elements of an RCE

- **Governance** – establishment of governance principles and coordination mechanisms

- **Collaboration** – engagement of both formal and non-formal education organisations in addressing sustainability issues

- **Transformative education and learning** – awareness raising, training and reorientation of existing education for transition towards sustainability

- **Research and development** – incorporation of research and development activities to enhance sustainability and to address capacity development needs
What’s RCE?


- **2002**: Ubuntu Declaration signed at the Johannesburg Summit
- **2003**: Establishment of ESD Programme at UNU-IAS
- **2004**: Development of the RCE concept

- **2005**: Number of RCEs Acknowledged by UNU
  - 7
- **2006**: Number of RCEs acknolwedged by UNU
  - 10
- **2007**: Number of RCEs
  - 31
- **2008**: Number of RCEs
  - 55
- **2009**: Number of RCEs
  - 62
- **2010**: Number of RCEs
  - 75

**Key Events**:
- **UNU/UNESCO Conference on Globalization and ESD (Nagoya, Japan)**
- **Established Ubuntu Committee of Peers for RCEs**
- **1st International RCE Conference (Yokohama, Japan)**
- **2nd International RCE Conference (Penang, Malaysia)**
- **3rd International RCE Conference (Barcelona, Spain)**
- **4th International RCE Conference (Montreal, Canada)**

- **Discussion of how to assess RCEs begun**
- **Showcasing RCEs at the World Conference on ESD (Bonn, Germany)**

**DESID Launched**

**Mid-Decade Year**
What’s RCE?

Development of the Global RCE Community (2010-2014+)

Stronger emphasis on capacity development Engagement with international processes

5th International RCE Conference (Curitiba, Brazil)
6th Global RCE Conference (Kerkrade, the Netherlands)
7th Global RCE Conference (Tongyeong, Korea)

8th Global RCE Conference (Nairobi, Kenya)

9th Global RCE Conference (Okayama, Japan)

The UNESCO World ESD Conference (Nagoya, Japan)

2010
2011
2012
2013
2014

Second half of the DESD
End of the DESD
The Global RCE Network

Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

RCEs around the world

There are 117 acknowledged RCEs as of May 2013

www.ias.unu.edu/efsd
Development of the RCE Network

Facilitating regional/continental networks as well as thematic capacity development processes

- Climate Change
- Teacher Education and better schools
- Sustainable consumption and production, livelihood and well-being
- Health
- Traditional knowledge and biodiversity
- Higher Education
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Youth
- Inclusive Learning
Development of the RCE Network
Development of the RCE Network

RCE Online Communication Portal and Annual Report

CONTINENTAL COMMUNITIES
- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe

THEMATIC COMMUNITIES
- Climate Change
- Health
- Teacher Education
- SCP, Livelihood and Well-being
- Youth
- Higher Education
- Traditional Knowledge and Bio-Diversity
- Disaster Risk Reduction

COMMUNITY

Featured Communities

Popular Discussions

All Communities

Teacher education programs
Created on 2012-08-08 07:23 by Abel Atiti

JOIN HERE! Discussion Forum for 7th Global RCE Conference
Created on 2012-08-31 01:26 by Anna Dirksen

Position paper for RCE Bulletin
Created on 2011-11-21 20:29 by Anna Dirksen

Two key questions for the continental discussion session
Created on 2012-08-31 21:27 by Sachiko Yasuda

How is your RCE contributing to the construction of a new quality teacher education in your region and country?
Created on 2012-08-07 12:43 by Abel Atiti

Role of RCEs in promoting higher education for sustainable development
Created on 2012-08-13 01:24 by Abel Atiti

Collection of links on campuses experiences
Created on 2013-03-20 04:42 by António Miroi

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Latest Activity
8th Global RCE Conference Field...
Tongyeong Declaration on RCEs and ESD
24 September 2012

The global network of Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs) acknowledged by the United Nations University with the support of the Ubuntu Alliance, having met in Tongyeong, Republic of Korea, and reaffirming all previous declarations related to education for sustainable development (ESD), hereby declare their commitment to implementing strategic actions that build a global learning space on ESD.

As the world looks to 2014 and beyond, RCEs recognize their distinctive ability to respond to our global systems in crisis and their moral responsibility to act on these well beyond the end of the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

RCEs are a tool for transformation to a more sustainable society, combining education and action for sustainable development. RCEs reaffirm their strong commitment to improving their systems of governance and quality of their actions. They are committed to expanding their collaboration with as wide a number of stakeholders as possible, and further expanding the global network in five years, thereby increasing their global impact.

RCEs are dedicated to building their capacities to plan and implement collaborative ESD projects critical for establishing a global learning space. Capacity development will be viewed as a transformative learning process, generated from within the RCE network.

RCEs will put sustainable development issues into a scientific and social context, provide a constructive critique and help to develop new policies, programmes and projects. At the same time, RCEs will continue to dedicate themselves to advancing sustainable market opportunities and other sustainable livelihood strategies for all individuals—especially the most marginalized—to improve human well being and ecosystem health.

RCEs recognize their unique position, as grassroots, multi-stakeholder networks, with distinctive capacities for research and innovation that can revitalize education at all levels through flagship projects. As regionally based yet globally connected networks, RCEs form a global learning space on ESD, working to ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to learn the values, behaviors and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive social transformation.

Positioning RCEs:

**Strategic Actions**
- RCEs and the Global Learning Space
- RCEs and Capacity Development
- RCEs and Research and Development

**Thematic Actions**
- RCEs and Climate Change
- RCEs and Health
- RCEs and Higher Education
- RCEs, Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity
- RCEs, Youth and School

**Assessment**
Development of the RCE Network

Contribution to International SD/ESD Processes

- UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
- 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V)
- UNESCO Regional Consultation to Support Planning for an ESD Programme Framework to follow the UN DESD in 2014
ESD after DESD

Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want”

“We resolve to promote education for sustainable development and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.” (para. 233)

Post-2014 ESD Framework

• Integrate ESD into education – mainstreaming ESD
• Integrate ESD into sustainable development
ESD Week 2014

Draft Plan of the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in 2014

- Oct. 2014
- 1 Nov
- 2 Nov
- 3 Nov
- 4 Nov
- 5 Nov
- 6 Nov
- 7 Nov
- 8 Nov
- 9 Nov
- 10 Nov
- 11 Nov
- 12 Nov
- 13 Nov

Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu

- Okayama
- World Conference on CLC
- ESD Week Opening Ceremony
- Global RCE Conference
- Youth Forum
- Excursions
- Stakeholder Meetings
- World Conference on UNESCO Associated Schools
- Follow-up meeting
- ESD Week Closing Ceremony

* Prepared by MEXT (as of 21 August 2012)

ESD Week
Ways Forward

• Assessment of the RCEs towards 2014 – identifying successes and challenges
• Enhance capacity building and research activities on priority thematic areas
• Strategic engagement with relevant policy processes and networks
• Develop an overall plan of action based on the Tongyeong Declaration to feed into wider post-DESD action plan
Welcome to the 2013 Global RCE Conference!
26-29 November 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya
Registration will open shortly
Thank you from the ESD team

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