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REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Conceptualization and Development of the Global RCE Network

Sachiko Yasuda
Principal Programme Associate
ESD Programme, UNU-IAS

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

Advancing ESD
through multi-
stakeholder
initiative (RCEs)

Contribution to
transformation of
higher education
(ProSPER.Net)

Contribution to
international SD/
ESD processes

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 Universities

Secondary
Schools Secondary
Schools

Primary
Schools Primary
Schools

Non-formal education

(Science) museums

Botanical gardens

Zoos

Nature parks

Local Governments

Community leaders

Media

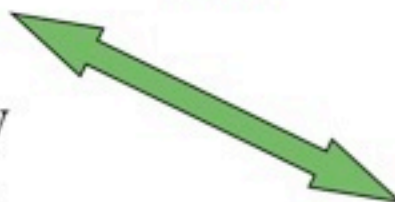
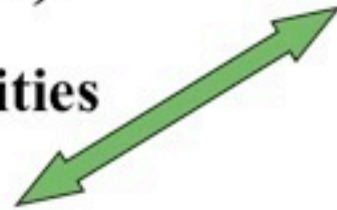
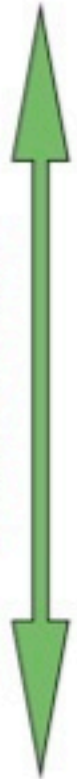
Local businesses

Local NGOs

Vertical links

Lateral
links

Horizontal links





United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014)

Review of Contexts and Structures for Education for Sustainable Development 2009

**UNESCO's Mid-Decade Review
Report (November 2009)
recognizes RCE as a structure
in informal & non-formal
education.**

“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

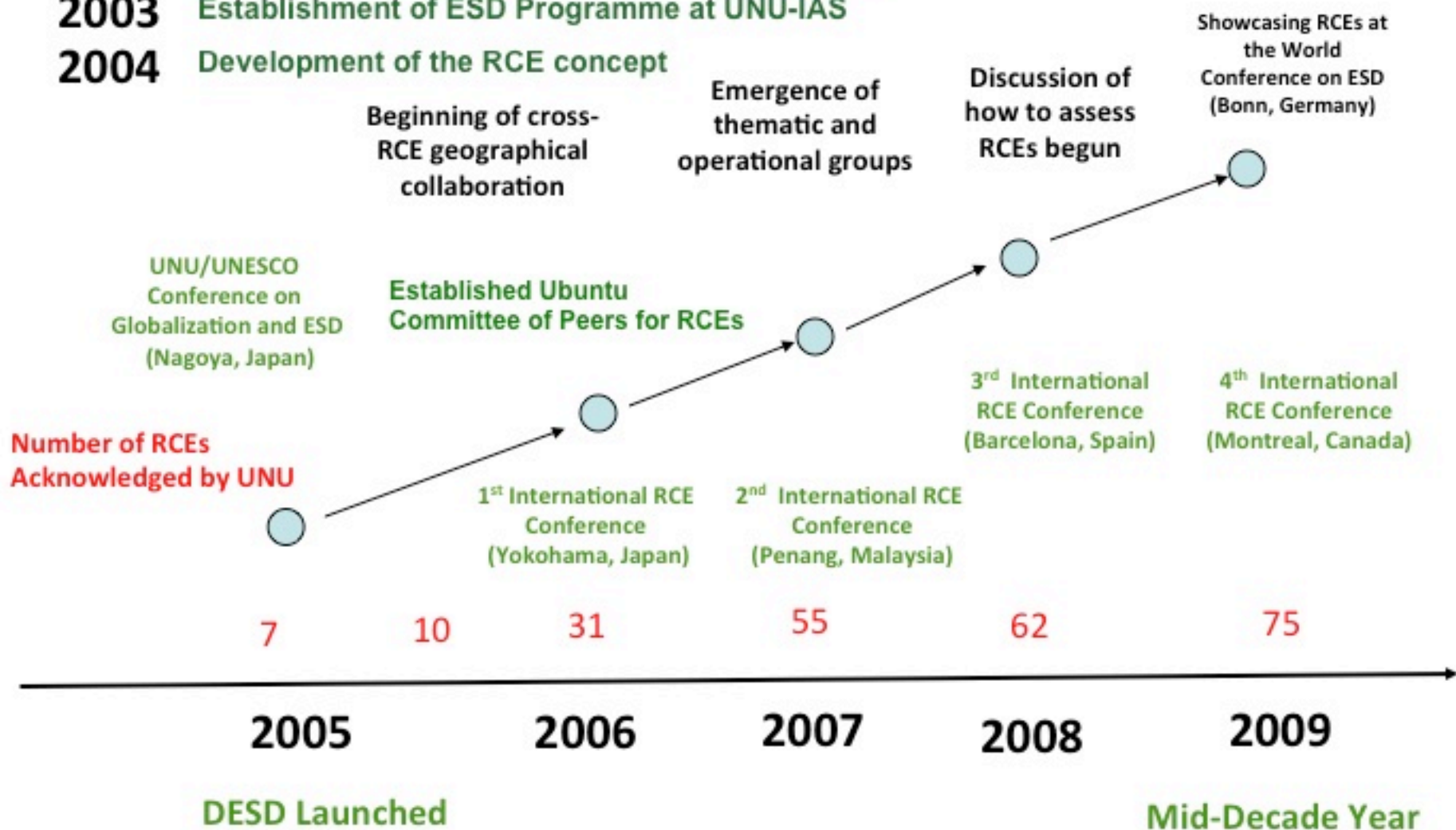
- ▶ **Governance** – establishment of governance principles and coordination mechanisms
- ▶ **Collaboration** – engagement of both formal and non-formal education organisations in addressing sustainability issues
- ▶ **Transformative education and learning** – awareness raising, training and reorientation 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

Development of the Global RCE Community (2005-2009)

2002 Ubuntu Declaration signed at the Johannesburg Summit

2003 Establishment of ESD Programme at UNU-IAS

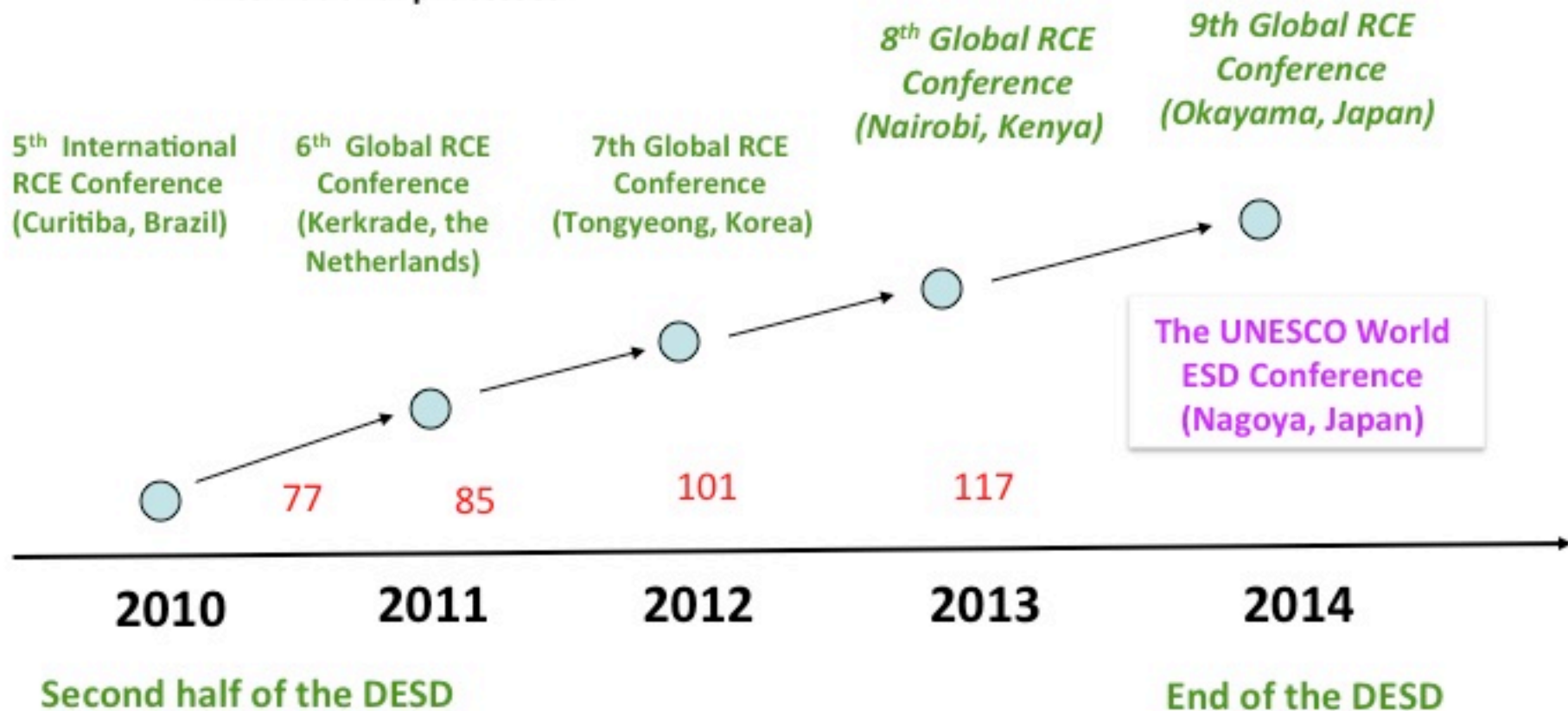
2004 Development of the RCE concept



What's RCE?

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

Stronger emphasis on capacity development Engagement with international processes



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



RCE Online Communication Portal and Annual Report



Community

News

Events

Members

About RCE

Online Resources

Annual Reports

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

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Teacher education programs

Created on 2012-08-08 07:23 by Abel Asti



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 Asti



Role of RCEs in promoting higher education for sustainable development

Created on 2012-08-13 01:24 by Abel Asti



Collection of links on campuses experiences

Created on 2013-03-20 04:42 by Antonio Moriz



8th Global
RCE Conference

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Latest Activity



8th Global RCE
Conference Field...

Tongyeong Declaration on RCEs and ESD

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 recognise 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 for the most marginalized—to improve human well-being and ecosystem health.

RCEs recognise 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



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

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

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

What's ahead?

8th Global RCE Conference



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Welcome to the 2013 Global RCE Conference!

26-29 November 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya

Registration will open shortly

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UNIVERSITY**

Thank you from the ESD team

Kazuhiko Takemoto

Zinaida Fadeeva

Mario Tabucanon

Abel Atiti

Unnikrishnan Payyappallimana

Aurea Tanaka

Anna Dirksen

Sachiko Yasuda

Ayako Shimura

Kyoko Shiota