

Report of the YUVA Meet & RCE Youth Session 2014
3-5 February 2014
Delhi, India

YUVA Meet organized by TERI was held in Delhi on 3rd and 4th February 2014. During the YUVA Meet, an introduction to the RCE network was made and one of the RCE youth participants from RCE Greater Pwani, Mr. Hamisi Tsama Mkuzi presented his experience with an RCE project in the region. This presentation on RCE network generated a lot of interest among the participants.

On the 5th Feb, the RCE Youth session was held in TERI University campus attended by 15 international participants (details attached) as well as around youth 25 members of the YUVA meet from different parts of India. The RCE Youth session started with an opening remark by Dr. Ranjana Saikia who highlighted the need to formalize the RCE youth network. This was followed by an introduction of the RCE network by Unnikrishnan Payyappalli. He shared the various youth related projects and activities undertaken by the RCE Youth group, strategic future directions for the Youth network as well as the action points from 8th global conference for further follow up. He also shared a need for creating an ad hoc working group with RCE youth representatives from each region to steer and follow up the network activities. Following this, various RCE representatives shared their stories on working with RCEs in respective regions facilitated by Unnikrishnan Payyappalli and Ranjeeta Buti. Active discussions followed after each presentation.

1. RCE Delhi – three projects – Water in schools with OPEDUCA, Eco Nirmiti, Yamuna River study
2. RCE Swaziland – UNISWA program
3. RCE Kano – Sustainable energy program
4. RCE Greater Pwani – Waste management, tree planting and awareness creation in schools
5. RCE Saskatchewan – An overview of various projects including the YES program, AIDS awareness, health and traditional knowledge
6. RCE Tongyeong – Sejahtera program
7. RCE Chandigarh – an overview of various projects including youth programs
8. RCE Yogyakarta – KKN – community extension program, blue campus
9. RCE Dhaka – KBAD (knowledge based area development of IUBAT)
10. RCE Minna – Inclusive development and wealth from waste (Citric acid from fruit waste)
11. RCE Penang – Youth campus

In the post lunch session Jonathan Yee from RCE Saskatchewan presented a draft framework for the Youth Network and the group discussed strategic directions for the network.

Unnikrishnan Payyappalli briefed on the strategic directions and the need for strengthening the network. He invited comments from various participants. He also shared information on the Youth meeting that will be held in Japan before the World Conference on ESD. Following were the important action points discussed during the meeting.

1. Identify key focus areas for RCE Youth network. The focal areas have been included in the framework plan prepared. This will be circulated to all the participants.
2. Identify regional nodal points and create an ad hoc working group. A voluntary group identified during the meeting will follow up.
3. Create an active online community
4. Share various stories presented during the meeting on the portal
5. Seek support for organizing more youth related events (RCE regional conferences) and awareness programs about RCE activities
6. RCE Youth awards to be considered. RCE Sustainability Badge idea was suggested as an idea for motivating youth involvement. This is to be further elaborated and implemented
7. RCE Internship program to be implemented linked to college projects on specific themes.
8. More active networking through social network channels like Facebook and twitter.
9. Youth events at COP processes especially related to climate change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Initiate discussions with the existing youth events in these processes to identify synergy.

Note: Photos of YUVA Meet and the RCE Youth Session can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/117017458@N03/>