

RCE

Regional Centre of Expertise on
Education for Sustainable Development

 REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ACKNOWLEDGED BY



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

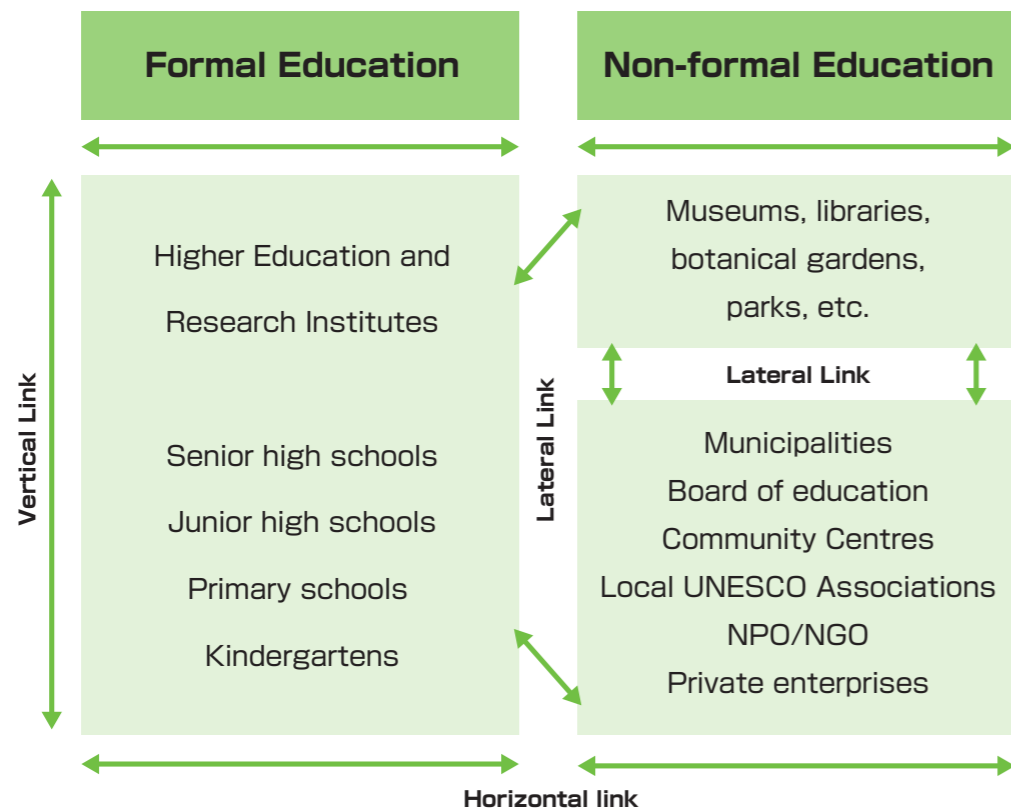
Good Practices for ESD

Case reports from Japanese RCEs

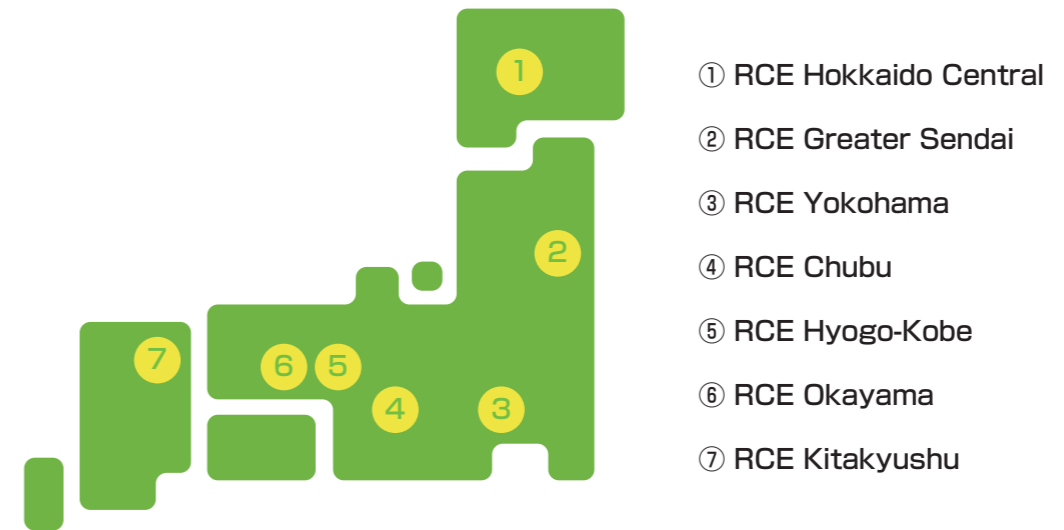


United Nations University Good Practices of Japanese RCEs Introduction

Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCEs) are proposed by the United Nations University (UNU) as one of the major tools to promote ESD during the decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), and the first group of seven RCEs, including RCE Greater Sendai and RCE Okayama, were acknowledged by UNU in June 2005. RCEs have been further increased worldwide and became more than 160 as of Sep 2018. RCE is a multi-stakeholder network of formal, non-formal and informal institutions to promote ESD at local and regional communities. Geographical scope of RCE is an unified area in economic, social and natural conditions, enabling daily face-to-face communications among relevant stakeholders. The concept of RCE is presented below:



As of October 2018, there have been seven RCEs in Japan, which is shown below:



This document aims at further development of Japanese RCE activities by presenting their ESD good practices and contributing global RCE activities by introduction of Japanese RCE activities.

Contents

● RCE Hokkaido Central	P4
● RCE Greater Sendai	P7
● RCE Yokohama	P10
● RCE Chubu	P12
● RCE Hyogo-Kobe	P15
● RCE Okayama	P18
● RCE Kitakyushu	P21

Development of local agenda and indicators for Hokkaido through a multi-stakeholder process

Sapporo Freedom School 'Yu'; Department of Environmental and Symbiotic Science, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Studies, Rakuno Gakuen University; and Graduate School of Environmental Science, Hokkaido University

◆ Background and purpose

Sustainable development entails collaboration toward common objectives. We believe that such collaboration requires the development of local agendas and indicators suited to realities on the ground, which are supported by a multi-stakeholder process. Thus, we collaborate among practitioners and researchers to develop original local agendas and indicators, and advocate reflecting those in local governance.

◆ Outline of activity

Led by Sapporo Freedom School 'Yu', practitioners and other stakeholders created a forum for dialogue to develop local agendas and summarised the input provided in the forum into a booklet. The Graduate School of Environmental Science, Hokkaido University is leading a questionnaire survey of high school/college students and businesses on their awareness and implementation of SDGs. RCE Central Hokkaido is also seeking to develop an educational programme to identify the challenges and needs for each entity. Meanwhile, the Department of Environmental and Symbiotic Science, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Studies, Rakuno Gakuen University is leading an effort to build relevant indicators on scientific data provided by research institutes and NGOs, as well as the local government.

Thus, the RCE is seeking to develop local agendas and indicators in Hokkaido in support of the SDG concept of "no one will be left behind", by promoting and combining the strengths of the stakeholders.

◆ Result of activity

Stakeholders, particularly practitioners and experts, could share insights into sustainable development challenges from perspectives other than their own. Although local agendas and indicators are still being developed, the RCE has been able to experience and practice key ESD elements, such as "collaboration" and "critical thinking". Most importantly, we now share the significance of introducing a "multi-stakeholder process" as an approach to social decision-making in the context of "sustainable development" by seeking solutions with common objectives, and by learning from practical solutions by identifying the issues underlying the challenges from a wide range of perspectives. The RCE has also provided the meaning and viewpoint for schools and businesses to implement "sustainable development", with steady progress in raising awareness and engaging with new practitioners.

北海道道央圏のローカルSDGs(目標15関連)

	SDGsのターゲット	道央圏のローカルな目標
1	陸域生態系サービスの保全、回復、持続可能な利用	道央圏における重要里地、里山5箇所の保全
2	山地生態系の保全、持続可能な便益の強化	森林・野生生物生息地のモニタリングと機能評価
3	絶滅危惧種の保護および絶滅防止対策	道央圏版レッドリストの作成支援 自然保護区と絶滅危惧種の生息域の重ね合わせ(GAP分析)による生物多様性保全
4	侵略的外来種の移入防止、駆除の対策を導入	北海道の指定外来種12種の移入防止
5	生物多様性の価値を、計画策定及び会計に組み込む	森林環境税をはじめとするPESの導入へ向けての普及啓発

▲Example of SDG target localised for the central Hokkaido area

RCE Hokkaido Central Established in December 2015

RCE Hokkaido Central was established in 2015 with the vision of "realising a sustainable regional society over the next 100 years, base on the history and development of Hokkaido". Following the adoption of SDGs in the same year, the RCE has been pursuing the major objective of helping to achieve the SDGs as a multi-stakeholder platform. Civil society organisations, businesses, educational institutions, local governments, research institutions and other stakeholders have been implementing joint projects for the introduction of a multi-stakeholder process in decision-making, the development of educational programmes on ESD/SDGs, the promotion of fair trade and so on. This has helped members of the RCE to gain and share insights into how to achieve sustainable development that suits the central Hokkaido area. In implementing these initiatives, we are focusing on a "Plus One Principle" to try different approaches, different disciplines and different areas.



E-mail : info@rce-hc.org
Website : <http://rce-hc.org/>



Promotion for a Fair Trade Town

Fair Trade Hokkaido; City of Sapporo; consumer organisations; shops dealing in fair trade goods; high schools in Sapporo; and universities in the Sapporo area

◆ **Background and purpose**

Collaboration requires a common, concrete theme. The project aims to develop a mechanism for Sapporo and other municipal governments in the area to promote "fair trade", a theme that can be easily associated with sustainability and specific social issues.

◆ **Outline of activity**

Dating back to the 1980s, the history of the fair trade movement in the Sapporo area is one of the longest in Japan. However, interest in fair trade was limited to specific organisations and individuals, and thus the engagement of more stakeholders was needed in order to develop an area-wide initiative. In this light, the RCE engaged with traditional fair trade actors, as well as the municipal government, schools, and businesses to establish the Fair Trade Town Sapporo Strategic Conference on in September 2017 as a focal point to promote fair trade with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

The RCE started supporting with collaboration in study meetings, seminars and in creating teaching material development on fair trade, aiming to develop Sapporo, the capital city of Hokkaido, into a "Fair Trade Town". In November 2017, we organised a seminar and panel discussion event entitled "Aiming for a Fair Trade Town", followed by almost monthly events including a workshop on "Prospects for a Fair Trade Town: Six Goals to Develop Sapporo into a Fair Trade Town" in February 2018, and the sale of fair trade goods at the Hatsukita Shopping District Summer Festival in July 2018.

◆ **Result of activity**

Fair trade is a practice directly linked to all SDGs, particularly capturing the interest of those concerned with Goals 3, 4, 8, 10 and 12. By connecting organisations and sectors interested in specific topics, our RCE succeeded in sharing mutual insights and creating collaborative projects. Youth activities in particular are gaining momentum. Fair trade clearly serves as a catalyst for learning about various perspectives across disciplines, including: general consumer education on fair trade (sustainable production and consumption); opportunities for high school and college students to learn about the labour environment overseas in order to reflect on working conditions and decent work in Hokkaido (education for international understanding and career development); and opportunities for businesses, particularly corporate managers, to think about the working conditions of the disabled (development education). Collaboration among various stakeholders is also growing in strength and scale as they share the specific common objective of developing the capital Sapporo into an internationally recognised "Fair Trade Town", effectively enhancing involvement in sustainable production and consumption, and helping to find solutions to local issues such as the development of fair working conditions.



RCE Greater Sendai Established in May 2005

At the outset, local networks of schools, municipalities, universities, civil society organisations and businesses with specific missions related to ESD promotion, environmental education and community building came together to form a greater area network at the level of Miyagi Prefecture. Under the academic leadership of Miyagi University of Education and Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University, RCE Greater Sendai is a coalition of networks promoting ESD in partnership with the City of Sendai, civil society organisations, businesses, non-profits, and municipalities in Miyagi Prefecture, revolving around four local networks: (1) the Kesenuma area, characterised by community building centred on fisheries combined with a UNESCO school promoting ESD education; (2) the Osaki area, characterised by community building centred on agriculture and forestry, combined with environmental conservation in agriculture and a Ramsar Convention site; (3) the Shiroishi-Shichigashuku area, promoting the conservation of water-source forests through urban-rural exchanges; and (4) the Sendai area, characterised as a public-civic network of environmental education for building an environmentally-sound city. The local networks pursue their own specific missions, and gather at regular shared workshops on ESD and the SDGs.



Tel : +81-22-214-3931
 Fax : +81-22-214-3342
 E-mail : kenkyo@adm.miyakyo-u.ac.jp
 Website : <https://www.tamaki3.jp>

Environmental Forum Sendai

Hosted by the City of Trees Forum for Environmental Education and Learning (FEEL Sendai), the Steering Committee for Environmental Forum Sendai is directly managed by participants (about 22 organisations each year, including non-profits, student groups, businesses and municipalities).

In recent years, students have been acting as secretariat for the Steering Committee.

FEEL Sendai, a component of RCE Greater Sendai, is a local network in the Sendai area. Composed of civil society organisations active in the fields of the environment, universities, the municipal government, and education board in the City of Sendai, FEEL Sendai seeks to build a sustainable society on environmental education and learning, with secretariat services provided by the Environmental Symbiosis Section, Environmental Bureau, City of Sendai.

◆ Background and purpose

FEEL Sendai was launched in 2004, based on the understanding that "environmental education and learning" is crucial for changing the attitude and behaviour of citizens interested in global issues through the lens of local environmental problems, in order to create a sustainable society. The initiatives of FEEL include: (1) Empowered Environmental Rescue Team; (2) Environmental Society Experiment; (3) Environmental Forum; (4) Sendai Environmental Youth College; and (5) FEEL Open Forum. The Environmental Forum, which started at the launch of FEEL, is a project to showcase the activities of environmental organisations based in Sendai and provide citizens with information on environmental problems.

◆ Outline of activity

At the annual Forum, environmental organisations based in Sendai (NPOs, universities, student groups, businesses, co-ops, municipal government, etc.) report on their respective activities and discuss an overarching theme, with the aim of making citizens more interested in environmental issues.

The theme of the Forum in 2004 was green procurement, followed by the linkage of local to global in 2005–2006, curbing global warming in 2007–2010, the environment and the Great Earthquake in 2011, and the global environment as everyone's business since 2012. Recently, the Forums have focused on the theme of the global environment as everyone's business, and particularly the topics "The Environment Coming Full Circle with Everyone's Effort", and "First Steps Start Here", respectively. The Forum typically featured events to think about the SDGs.

In 2018, 20 organisations participated in the Forum. Major exhibition booths included: "Rain Barrel: The Choice for Wise Living" (Water and Environment Network Tohoku, etc.); "Neonicotinoid in Your Living Space" (MELON); "Let's Face the Changing Climate and Environment" (Sendai Regional Headquarters, Japan Meteorological Agency); "Everything You Want to Know about Sustainability and SDGs" (RCE Greater Sendai); "Winter Paddy Fields: Nurturing Life in Harmony with the Environment" (Tohoku University); "Wonder of Bodies: Animal Fest" (Miyagi University of Education); "Our Initiatives for SDGs" (Co-op Miyagi); "Citizens' Pride in the 400-Year History of Yotsuya Canal" (Voluntary Group to Bring Yotsuya Water into the Cityscape); and "Tamaki Salon: Sendai Itinerant Environmental Learning Class" (Environmental Symbiosis Section, City of Sendai).

◆ Result of activity

(1) 15 years on, the Environmental Forum is now recognised by citizens as a regular annual event, with an increasing number of repeat participants. Attendance now numbers 1,000-1,500 each year, including the Mayor of Sendai. It has grown into an important communication platform for citizen groups and FEEL.

(2) Each year, more than 20 groups give ingenious presentations on a rotating basis. Environmental organisations have developed their communication skills not only through exhibiting, but also through experience learning and mini-workshops.

(3) Although it is said that civil society organisations active in the environmental field are mostly led by senior members, the participation of many college students in the Environmental Forum has helped develop inter-generational partnerships and communication between youths and older citizens. Significantly, college students have managed the secretariat in recent years with innovative ideas.



▲Exhibition booths at the 2017 Environmental Forum



▲Reception at the 2017 Environmental Forum



▲Poster for the 2018 Forum

Promotion of ESD in Collaboration with Schools and Local Community for Achieving SDGs in the Tohoku Region

Miyagi University of Education and ESD/UNESCO School Tohoku Consortium (comprising: networking organisations such as Miyagi University of Education, RCE Greater Sendai, UNU-IAS, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO and the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan; the Municipal Education Boards of Daisen (Akita Prefecture), Osaki, Hiraizumi, Kesennuma and Tadami; primary and secondary schools registered as UNESCO Schools; UNESCO Associations in Sendai, Kesennuma and Shiroishi; as well as municipal governments, businesses and non-profits such as GIAHS Promotion Section, Municipal Government of Osaki, Shirakami Sanchi Foundation, AXA Life Insurance Co. Ltd., and the Tohoku Chamber of Environment). The whole project is managed by the Steering Committee, with Miyagi University of Education serving as secretariat. Activities include the plenary Mutual Learning Seminars and events held in priority areas (10 sites) and by schools and associations. The outcomes are reported at the annual presentation event.

◆ Background and purpose

As secretariat, Miyagi University of Education, a member of RCE Greater Sendai, built a network to promote ESD activities, and increase UNESCO Schools in the Tohoku Region in a consortium project of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, implemented in 2014-2017. In the three years, 10 priority sites (UNESCO Schools, non-profits, municipal governments, etc.) were established for the promotion of ESD in Aomori, Iwate, Akita and Fukushima Prefectures, as well as in Miyagi Prefecture, where the activities had already been ongoing. Since 2018, we have been working to enhance the connections among the networks, and establish local hubs through mutual learning, in order to develop the priority areas into local hubs for ESD promotion. Currently, the 10 priority areas include: (1) Sendai; (2) Kesennuma; (3) Osaki; (4) Shiroishi/Shichigashuku; (5) Shirakami; (6) Daisen; (7) Hiraizumi; (8) Tadami; (9) Adachi; and (10) Tomiya (TBC). Among them, the Sendai, Kesennuma, Osaki and Tadami areas have been leading efforts for UNESCO School registration and community building. Modelled on these practices, some areas are addressing local ESD and SDG issues from the mutual learning and community building perspective. As a matter of course, Miyagi University of Education and other networking organisations (UNESCO, businesses and UNU-IAS) are also supporting those local initiatives.

◆ Outline of activity

(1) Support for activities in priority areas

We provided support for public workshops at UNESCO Schools (in Adachi, Tadami, Tagajo and Tohoku Gakuin Junior and Senior High Schools), the FEEL Sendai Environmental Forum, the ESD Roundtable Meeting in Kesennuma, and GIAHS designation of the Osaki site, among others.

(2) Mutual Learning Seminars

1) 1st Mutual Learning Seminar (3 June)

We provided training for local coordinators in each of the priority areas by organising a basic learning seminar on local ESD activities and SDG initiatives. The Miyagi ESD Workshop, Tohoku Gakuin Junior and Senior High School and Tadami Municipal Education Board presented case study briefings.

2) 2nd Mutual Learning Seminar (3-4 August)

Part I featured a symposium on how to build community through partnerships between schools and local residents.

The discussion in Part II focused on reports on teaching practices from UNESCO Schools and other schools in priority areas, and reports from schools in the Tadami, Sendai and Osaki areas.



With the theme of "Igune to Fight Tsunamis", the participants made a field visit on Day 2 to the affected coastal area in Sendai, including Arahama Elementary School, a designated disaster site. This seminar was organised jointly with the Japanese Society of ESD.

3) 3rd Mutual Learning Seminar (2-3 November)

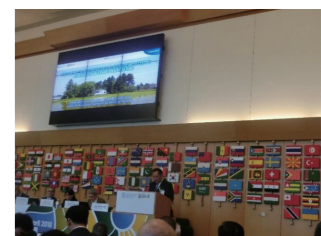
Following the 17th ESD/RCE Roundtable Meeting in Kesennuma the day before, local coordinators and teachers from the priority areas participated in the seminar to learn about the practice in Kesennuma that encourages collaboration between local residents and schools to think about "community building". Through the two-day exchange of opinions, the participants gained insight into the direction of community building with ESD and the challenges facing individual areas.

4) 4th Mutual Learning Seminar (mid-February 2019)

A presentation of reports on good practice is planned in this seminar regarding collaboration with schools for community building following the GIAHS designation of the Osaki area.

◆ Result of activity

The project started with the 10 priority areas, which had developed over the years, and reviewed their practices of school building and community building based on ESD. The objective for this fiscal year is to ensure that the areas share the meaning of advanced cases of practice, and enhance information exchange among them. So far, the whole community has come to share the direction of ESD in almost half of the priority areas, but the sharing has stayed within schools or non-profits in other areas. Through this initiative, it has become clear that the municipal government, schools and ESD in each priority area aim to: implement UNESCO Schools or their own ESD activities in Phase I; accumulate practices to work with local community and schools in Phase II; and create local hubs to ensure the sustainability of the local community by establishing an area-wide network to address ESD and SDGs in Phase III. The areas comprising RCE Greater Sendai (Sendai, Osaki and Kesennuma) have almost reached Phase III in general, while other areas have only reached Phase I or Phase II. We believe that taking those steps to verify the direction of ESD/SDG activities will help create sustainable communities and allow the development of talented people to realise sustainability.





RCE Yokohama Established in April 2006

In Yokohama City, the private and public sectors, including civil society, non-profits, non-governmental organisations, universities, businesses and the municipal government, promote environmental education and actions. In April 2006, the city of Yokohama was recognized as the secretariat of RCE Yokohama, and was acknowledged by the United Nations University as an RCE platform to ensure coordination of activities among those entities to realise a sustainable society. Since then, RCE Yokohama has facilitated encounters, exchanges, and collaboration among those who promote ESD in the city.

Around March, the annual RCE Yokohama Network Promotion Council meeting is held with the participation of universities, non-governmental organisations, non-profits, and civil society organisations based in the city, as well as the municipal government, to exchange information on environmental education and ESD, review the initiatives undertaken by each of the participants, and share relevant challenges. By promoting collaboration among the participants in this way, we have produced various results including the organisation of exchange meetings among student and civil society organisations. One example of this is a programme to integrate the perspective of youths in implementing or enhancing climate change education initiatives launched by stakeholders including businesses and civil society organisations.



Tel : +81-45-671-2484
 Fax : +81-45-641-3490
 E-mail : ks-rce@city.yokohama.jp
 Website : <http://www.city.yokohama.lg.jp/kankyo/kyoiku/rce/>

“Hama-com” – Competition for Yokohama Youth Environmental Actions

Universities, municipal government, private businesses,
non-governmental organisations and non-profits based in Yokohama

◆ Background and purpose

Yokohama has many college student organisations active in the environmental field, but their activities began to lose momentum due to the lack of interaction among different universities. Under these circumstances, the RCE Yokohama Youth Federation, composed of representatives from environmental groups, leveraged the network of the RCE to organise a competition among these environmental action groups.

The aim of “Hama-com” is to promote environmental activities through interaction among the participating youth groups and advice from the selection committee.

◆ Outline of activity

Based on the presentations of student environmental groups active at universities in Yokohama and opinion exchanges in small groups, the selection committee (composed of some five members from universities, the municipal government, educational institutions, businesses, non-profits, etc.) awards the “Hama-com Grand Prize” to the best group in terms of the impact of its activities on society, the sustainability of its activities and its commitment.

Launched in 2011, Hama-com has been held seven times so far. In FY2017, four student groups participated in the competition and the Grand Prize went to Step Up↑, an environmental volunteer group from Yokohama City University. Step Up↑, which consists of University students, carries out various eco-friendly activities both inside and outside of the University.

◆ Result of activity

The “Hama-com” project helped student groups develop their environmental activities and widen their perspectives by exposing them to new people and ideas.

The event also featured collaboration between local businesses and student groups, and interaction among student groups:

(1) In FY2017, the biotope in the Ferris University Ryokuen Campus was rearranged with the support of Ishii Landscaping.

(2) Groups participating in the competition held a joint new student welcoming event to scale up their exchanges.

(3) In FY2018, StepUp↑, a student group of Yokohama City University, will host a booth in “Future City Kankyo-Enikki* Exhibition 2018”, to be held by the Yokohama Resources Recycling Cooperative Business Association on 2 December.

*Kankyo-Enikki refers to environmentally-themed picture-diaries.



Chubu Sustainability Policy Academy

Organised by RCE Chubu Committee

Sponsored by Japan Fund for Global Environment

Supported by Aichi Association of University Presidents (Sustainability Planning Committee)

◆ Background and purpose

Aichi Prefecture hosted the 2014 UNESCO World Conference on ESD. The outcome document entitled "Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development" called for cooperation among UNESCO Member States in the promotion of the Global Action Programme (GAP) in 2015-2019. "Policy support" and "participation of youth" are two of the priorities identified by the GAP. Japan particularly lags behind in youth education activities on sustainability policies.

The purpose of Chubu Sustainability Policy Academy is to develop talented young people capable of presenting and working on realising policy recommendations on sustainability at various levels – local, national and international.

◆ Outline of activity

Chubu Sustainability Policy Academy offers a programme for young people in their 20s and 30s to learn about policies for realising a sustainable society. The project was launched in FY2016 with the sponsorship of the Japan Fund for Global Environment and the support of the Aichi Association of University Presidents. It aims to make international contributions to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015 by 2030, by learning about local policies to improve sustainability. The project encompasses the following activities.

(1) Desk study and fieldwork

The programme is composed of desk study, including lectures by guest speakers and discussions, as well as fieldwork. Various actors on the front lines have been invited as guest speakers, including politicians, academics, businesspeople and non-profit entities. Fieldwork sessions are also held twice a year to learn about the sustainability of the Watershed area. In total, about 10 sessions (almost once a month) are held each year. The programme covers various topics including: local energy and sustainability; large companies and SDGs: gender and sustainable society; Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the local economy; basin-level approaches to sustainable development; decent jobs and fair trade; and local administration and sustainable society.

(2) International partnerships

Trainees are dispatched to SDGs-related meetings of the ESD Global Action Programme (GAP) and United Nations University (UNU) to learn about international trends through information exchange, etc., and to seek potential partnerships and build solidarity.

(3) Result presentation and external evaluation/support

Trainees present the results of their study once a year. The presentations should be linked to policies on sustainability, in the form of a draft policy of a future politician or administrator, a business plan of a future entrepreneur, an educational practice or teaching plan of an educator, or an action policy of an NGO member. Local stakeholders and youngsters representing other RCEs in Japan are invited to the resulting presentation and evaluation event to encourage the sharing of information.

◆ Result of activity

The Chubu Sustainability Policy Academy project has produced the following results.

- Each year, about 30 incumbent local assembly members, aspiring politicians, local government officials, undergraduate and graduate students, and young members of non-profit organisations participated in some 10 lectures and fieldwork sessions to learn about and gain insight into local issues related to sustainability and the development of policies to solve them.
- Trainees learned how to develop concrete policies through policy-making practice on a topic of their choosing.
- As part of the activity to develop international partnerships, trainees were dispatched to international conferences (held in Japan and overseas) to nurture international solidarity on the issue of sustainability.
- Trainees from different social backgrounds built a multi-sector network through interaction.
- After completing the programme, trainees have reported that they are leveraging what they learned in the Academy in their current activities in the local assembly, municipal government or non-profit organisation, for example. In addition, four former trainees are intending to run for the next nationwide local elections.



▲ Scene from a lecture (speaker: Ms. Yukiko Kada)



▲ Fieldwork (on forest resources in the Kiso River basin)



◀ Dispatch to an international conference (10th Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting)



Result presentation /exchange event ▶



RCE Chubu Established in October 2007

Chubu Regional Centre of Expertise on ESD (RCE Chubu) conducts activities in Aichi, Gifu and Mie Prefectures.

The RCE Chubu Committee, composed of 78 entities including universities, primary and secondary schools, education boards, municipal governments, businesses, civil society organisations and non-profits, promote activities in three sectors: (1) Foundational Sector (ESD activities on topics such as basin zones and SDGs); (2) Practical Sector (practical ESD activities at UNESCO schools, etc.); and (3) Research Sector (research activities on ESD in universities and at the international level).

ESD activities at RCE Chubu are typically designed to solve local issues in the 12 major river basins in the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed, defined as the basin zones of rivers flowing into Ise and Mikawa Bays.

Tel : +81-568-51-4485
 Fax : +81-568-51-4736
 E-mail : office@chubu-esd.net
 Website : <http://chubu-esd.net/>



Project on Traditional Knowledge ESD in the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed

Organised by Chubu RCE Committee (Fundamental Sector)
Sponsored by Aichi Morikorokin (FY2016)

◆ Background and purpose

The Aichi-Nagoya Declaration, the outcome document of the 2014 UNESCO World Conference on ESD held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, recommends that "local and traditional knowledge (wisdom)" be respected in the practice of ESD. RCE Chubu (Fundamental Sector) had already built a Watershed (Bioregion) ESD Model to leverage rich traditional and local knowledge in the diverse natural environment of the watershed for the promotion of ESD. The concept was presented at the ESD World Conference (Plenary Workshop Cluster 5).

In this context, the Project on Traditional Knowledge ESD in the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed was launched in 2016 with the purpose of building an approach to ESD activities utilising traditional and local knowledge in the Ise-Mikawa Watershed area.

◆ Outline of activity

The project started with the collection of 39 cases in the upstream, midstream and downstream basins of the 12 major rivers emptying into Ise and Mikawa Bays that reflect traditional wisdom on clothing, food and housing, in order to identify how such knowledge may be applied to ESD. About nine workshops on traditional knowledge and ESD were also held each year for horizontal, vertical and cross-sectional integration of the findings.

(1) Research activity on traditional culture and nature/biology
Focusing on the clothing, food and housing, as well as community revitalisation, disaster prevention, festivals and other cultural elements of the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed area, this activity explored the possibility of developing traditional knowledge for ESD. As a result, 39 activities were collected for registration in a database.

(2) Learning Workshops on Traditional Knowledge in ESD

In addition to the collection of cases mentioned above, the project held nine Workshops on Traditional Knowledge in ESD in a year, with the involvement of entities practicing on-site and field activities to identify and solve local issues. Focusing on traditional knowledge, three Workshops were held for each of the following objectives: (i) interaction among basins (basin zones); (ii) interaction within basins (basin zones); and (iii) interaction among topics, to work on two different topics at the same time.

(3) Resulting presentation and exchange event of the Project on Traditional Knowledge ESD in the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed

The representatives of 17 groups engaged in activities to leverage traditional knowledge in the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed area participated in the year-end event for presenting results and discussing the potential development of their activities in relation to ESD.

◆ Result of activity

The Project on Traditional Knowledge ESD in the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed produced the following results.

- The above-mentioned activities effectively helped deepen understanding of the linkage between local traditional techniques and the natural environment.
- The integration of a new traditional knowledge perspective into the promotion of ESD in the Ise-Mikawa Bay Watershed area as a bioregion increased the visibility of the traditional knowledge in ESD approach.
- The scalability of activities for the preservation of traditional culture was identified in terms of both coverage and content by redefining them in relation to ESD.
- Some 100 local actors and young learners of sustainability gathered at the result presentation forum to consider how to ensure consistency of activities related to traditional and local knowledge.



RCE Hyogo-Kobe Established in 31 August 2007
(ESD Promotion Network Hyogo-Kobe)

Hyogo Prefecture, which extends from the Sea of Japan to the Seto Inland Sea, is considered to be a microcosm of Japan both geographically and demographically. In this context, RCE Hyogo-Kobe consists of various actors involved in ESD, such as universities, non-profits and other civil society organisations, high schools, private businesses (including Coop Kobe), and the Kagawa Memorial Centre.



Tel : +81-78-803-7970
Fax : +81-78-803-7971
E-mail : rcehyogokobe@port.kobe-u.ac.jp
Website : <http://rce.h.kobe-u.ac.jp>

ESD Study Tour Programme

Universities, civil society organisations including non-profits, businesses, Kobe City, etc.

◆ Background and purpose

Chances are limited for citizens and youngsters such as college students in Hyogo region to experience ESD. The Programme is intended to provide an opportunity for citizens and youngsters to participate in sustainability-oriented activities in the form of study tours, thereby increasing the visibility of ESD to a wide range of generations.

◆ Outline of activity

RCE Hyogo-Kobe members provide an opportunity for new ESD learners, such as college and high school students, to experience ESD practices first-hand as volunteers. Activities are classified into several categories including "welfare, health and sports", "support for disaster prevention, reduction and recovery", "protection of nature, environmental conservation and science", "cross-cultural understanding, international exchange and peace", "economic development and promotion of local industry", and "integration, community building and culture". Priority is given to activities that address cross-cutting issues rather than specific SDG targets. Concrete Programme activities range from the light "observing and listening" experience of simply participating in a lecture or workshop to the "helping and supporting" experience which includes the planning and implementation of the activity, to the "saying" experience which is facilitating the networking of participants, eventually transforming their lifestyle. The total annual number of participants is 400. Linked to formal education at Kobe University, the Programme also offers non-formal and informal learning opportunities for students from other universities and high schools.

◆ Result of activity

The most important result of the Programme is that both providers and participants can meet other people who they would not normally meet in daily life. Many participants (college students) highly value the Programme as a meaningful opportunity to experience ESD. The Programme also helps the host actors reflect on ESD by urging them to think about how their activities are related to ESD. Participants get to know ESD better by engaging in multiple activities. In addition, the Programme's website, which lists all activities, effectively helped ensure the linkage of ESD with the whole formal education curriculum at high school.

The screenshot shows the website for the ESD Study Tour Programme. At the top, it says "ESD スタディツアー" and "Education for Sustainable Development". There are navigation buttons for "参加方法", "スタディツアーとは", and "ESDとは". Below this, there are several activity listings with dates and descriptions. A calendar for September 2016 is shown at the bottom, with activities marked on specific days. The calendar includes dates from the 29th to the 11th, with activities like "児童館での環境" and "大船渡赤崎9月スタディツアー" highlighted.



ESD Café

◆ Background and purpose

The ESD Study Tour Programme, designed to experience multiple learning practices, could not be an adequate mechanism to integrate the practices and raise interest in other types of activities. Thus, the ESD Café was launched as a forum for the younger generation, including college and high school students, to talk with older generations about ESD, highlighting conflicts and inconsistencies across sectors, and considering how to solve them. The forum was named Café to encourage casual dialogue rather than imposing a serious meeting.

◆ Outline of activity

We organise three Café sessions per year, in late July, in September and in late January. In line with the direction of each session provided by the extended RCE Hyogo-Kobe Steering Committee meeting, network members, led by the young generation, jointly create the Café session to chat about ESD. Each session includes ice-breaking, World Café and the development of plans for future activities. The light meal, also an essential component of ESD Café, reflects members' ingenuities, such as emergency food arranged for daily consumption and a group task of making a Christmas cake.

Topics for ESD Café sessions in FY2018

- 28 July: Water
- 23 September: Inter-generational exchange on how to address SDGs
- 26 January: TBD

ESD Café is a project related to SDG Goal 17 (partnership).

◆ Result of activity

30-40 participants attend each session of the ESD Café. Since the annual RCE meeting is usually focused on RCE operation and project management, this is not a suitable forum to talk about ESD. For RCE members, the Café offers a good opportunity to reflect on issues related to ESD. It also serves as an opportunity to meet new RCE members, and for participants in the ESD Study Tour to review their activities. It thus helps generate participation and collaboration programmes in areas remotely related to the ESD Study Tour Programme. New participants in the RCE are another encouraging result of this activity.





RCE Okayama Established in June 2005

The Okayama ESD Project was launched in April 2005 with the establishment of the Okayama ESD Promotion Commission as a collaborative forum of various local stakeholders such as educational institutions, universities, and businesses. Locally based ESD activities are characterised by a whole-city approach, dedicated coordinators and on-going support by the municipality and universities, among others.

Since its inception, the number of member organisations has increased from 19 to more than 280.

Each of the organisations participating in the Commission promotes ESD by utilising its own resources. Some of them, including universities and businesses, leverage their skills and resources to assume intermediate support functions including providing assistance to the activities of schools, community centres and civil society organisations. The Okayama Municipal Government also provides financial and human resources for activities conducted by the Commission.

Major activities include the provision of subsidies to civil society organisations, etc., training of people to support local ESD activities, city-wide awareness-raising and information, facilitation of exchange and networking among member organisations and municipalities, and interaction with other regions on ESD.

The Okayama ESD Project is characterised by:

- Locally-based, city-wide initiatives;
- Participation of all generations and a wide variety of organisations;
- Deployment of dedicated coordinators and on-going support by universities, etc.
- On-going management of the secretariat by the local government



Tel : +81-86-803-1351
 Fax : +81-86-803-1777
 E-mail : esd@city.okayama.lg.jp
 Website : <https://www.okayama-tbox.jp/esd/>

Virtual Museum of Science Experience in Okayama

co2sos (non-profit organisation)

◆ Background and purpose

The realisation of a sustainable society entails the continuous provision of environmental learning opportunities for the public at the local level, as well as the development of talented people to lead ESD in the future. Based on this understanding, the project intends to inspire elementary and middle school students to become involved in ESD in the future by leveraging information technology (virtual 3D space and VR) as a learning technique and raising interest in science and information technology in general, with a special focus on global warming issues. It also aims to develop ESD leaders with communication, explanatory, and practical skills by inviting local college students to take the initiative in planning and running the project.

◆ Outline of activity

Senior staff members at the JAMSTEC Centre for Earth Information Science and Technology in Yokohama provide technical explanations on various scientific subjects such as global warming, ocean exploration and space development, using museums of science created in virtual 3D space. The lectures are relayed on the screen of the Museum of Science in Okayama City, allowing Q&A sessions between the participants and lecturers. Participants can also experience virtual reality through the avatar (alter ego in virtual 3D space) and a smartphone.

Under the guidance of local college students, participants can learn about the evolution of CO₂ concentration over Okayama using the Okayama City Museum of Science reproduced in virtual 3D space with data provided by a proprietary system developed by co2sos. A quiz machine challenges participants to answer questions on CO₂ concentration.

These activities are relevant to SDG Targets 4.7 (gaining knowledge through ESD) and 13.3 (education on climate change mitigation). In addition, collaboration with expert speakers and local college students is relevant to Target 17.17 (promotion of partnerships).



▲Experience in using an avatar

◆ Result of activity

For five and a half years, this project has provided environmental learning opportunities for some 1,800 visitors to the Science Museum in Okayama City (as of September 2018). The project is still in progress, as the number of participants continues to rise. This environmental learning has helped foster a sense of ownership in global warming issues by instilling the importance of energy conservation and forest preservation as attested by an analysis that revealed a correlation between locally observed CO₂ concentration data with local power consumption and the condition of forests in the vicinity. The results of a questionnaire survey of participants have also confirmed its effectiveness.

In regards to elementary and middle school students, we seek to promote understanding and interest in science and information technology in general not only through 3D images and lectures but also through the experience of using an avatar. Students who showed strong interest in those activities were invited to separate research activities on CO₂ concentration conducted by co2sos. Four of the research reports prepared under its guidance won awards in a scientific research competition organised by Tsukuba University. The findings were presented at the annual scientific event held at the Science Museum in Okayama City, in order to remind visitors of the importance of action against global warming. They also helped improve the existing materials for environmental learning.

College students involved in the planning and operation of the project have developed a positive, proactive attitude in planning and implementing various activities on their own. They are steadily growing into full-fledged players in ESD, planning and implementing various activities including environmental learning in the planetarium of the Science Museum (how the starry sky is affected by night-time illumination) and environmental quizzes for children in the lower grades of elementary school who are unable to follow the virtual science museum lectures.



Scene from an event▶

ESD Project in Kyoyama District, Okayama City

Okayama City Kyoyama District ESD Promotion Commission

◆ Background and purpose

Human relationships in local communities have weakened so much that people no longer know who lives next door. Urban dwellers can now survive without personal ties in the neighbourhood. As a result, an increasing number of residents do not "belong" to their community, losing interest in local issues to the detriment of the community's sustainability. A hometown is now simply a place where one happens to live. To remedy this situation, schools, community centres and local communities have joined forces since 2003 to promote community-wide education for sustainable development (ESD) based in community centres. In this project all local stakeholders promote ESD as educational activities for joint learning and action to recognise and share the current status and challenges for the local community and to realise a sustainable society by solving such issues. The project also aims to help attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or common objectives of the international community.

◆ Outline of activity

The whole community works together to develop common understanding, awareness and objectives so that people in different age groups and with different backgrounds and opinions may collaborate on developing a sustainable society. The process starts with the visualisation of the strengths and weaknesses of the community in accordance with the concept of jimoto-gaku. The characteristics and issues of the community are then filtered through the "ESD lens" (perspective of sustainable development) into the future vision of the community, composed of the following five objectives to be achieved. ESD activities are conducted systematically to achieve these objectives by 2030 (in line with the SDGs).

Objective 1

"To build a community where children and adults learn and work together to meet social challenges" : Both children and adults participate in the ESD Festival, which includes checking the local environment, an eco-tour to water sources (Kyoyama ESD Environmental Project: KEEP) and the ESD Summit. We also organise an introductory course with our original text "ESD in Cartoons" and ESD certificate exams, and issue Kyoyama ESD Fellow Certificates.

Objective 2

"To enhance local ties, carry on traditional culture, and create a community where humans and nature can thrive together" : We conduct activities such as the restarting of the Suijin Festival, preservation of ancient games and dietary culture and creation of habitats for familiar creatures. We also produce films to record collective memories (Movie Kyoyama) and seek to communicate ideas through plays (Kyoyama Community Centre Theatrical Group).

Objective 3

"To build a community where we can overcome language and cultural barriers to live together with foreign residents" : We promote Friendly Kyoyama, a cross-cultural programme to improve mutual understanding among local residents across national boundaries.

Objective 4

"To develop a safe, secure and comfortable community where everyone can live in peace, including the disabled and aged" : We promote a Local Ties Project for community-wide efforts to address various issues involving disabled children, child-rearing households, the elderly, disaster prevention and road traffic (including the Safe Driving in Kyoyama movement, Expedition for Jolly Good Things in Kyoyama activities, organisation of Kyoyama Community Café and Sessions on Child Rearing, and publication of a periodical "News on Community Bonds").

Objective 5

"To develop a community where learning ensures sustainable development by providing opportunities to put learning into practice" : The Road of Greenery and Water, a concept proposed by children participating in local ESD activities, was implemented along the Kannonji Canal as a Local Citizen-Proposed Collaborative Public Project. Children also value opportunities to engage in social activities. From the ESD and SDG perspective, a Kyoyama ESD and SDG Dialogue/Community-Wide Meeting (ESD Summit) is held as one of the events at the ESD Festival to integrate the opinions of local residents into community-building.

At the end of each fiscal year, the objectives, action plans, action results, evaluation and noteworthy features of those activities, as well as the outline of plans for the next year, are visualised, compiled and shared in the form of a matrix on the Summary Sheet. Based on this analysis, we perform PDCA activities to ensure the ongoing sustainable development of activities.

Kyoyama District is matching those activities with SDGs. Indeed, the Summary Sheet clearly indicates the correlation between individual activities and the Goals in detail. Based on these data, Kyoyama District has identified SDGs 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 as priorities, of which Goals 4 (Quality Education: ESD), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) are specified as top priorities.

◆ Result of activity

ESD activities in Kyoyama District go beyond the transformation of individuals and encompass the transformation of society. It is now common to see local residents working with educational institutions such as schools and community centres to engage in activities for building a sustainable society. Learners who experienced the transformation of value and behaviour required for building a sustainable society have initiated voluntary and proactive efforts, leading to the enhancement of the Okayama City Kyoyama District ESD Promotion Commission and the synergistic progress toward a sustainable society and human resource development. Key results of these efforts include: regular joint ESD training sessions among school teachers, local key people and experts; periodical reviews through school-community cooperation; reintroduction of traditional local celebrations and festivals; distribution of the quarterly "News on Community Bond" ; and promotion of ESD-based community building. In particular, the Road of Greenery and Water project, based on a proposal by children who received ESD, continues to evolve after urging adults to transform their society. In recognition of this project, the district was certified by the Okayama Municipal Government as a Habitat of Familiar Creatures in 2018. These community-wide ESD activities in Kyoyama District have helped the whole community to nurture and develop future aspirations generated among the local residents ranging from children to the elderly, effectively contributing to the building of a sustainable society.



◀ Scene from Kyoyama ESD/SDG Dialogue



◀ Scene from Workshop on Community Bonds



▲ Scene from Environmental Review in Kyoyama District



RCE Kitakyushu Established in December 2006

Since the establishment of a new system in 2017 for the promotion of ESD, the industrial, academic, public and private sectors have joined forces to advance ESD based at the Station for Learning and ESD. Five major projects are in progress with their own distinctive themes. There are now more opportunities for the younger generation to get involved, led by college and secondary school students in nearby areas. Leveraging our geographical advantage, exchanges with RCEs in South Korea have developed over the years.



Tel : +81-93-531-5011
 Fax : +81-93-531-5011
 E-mail : k-esd@k-esd
 Website : <http://www.k-esd.jp/>

Five Core Projects to Promote ESD

Corporate and individual members of Kitakyushu ESD Council
 Kitakyushu Municipal Government
 Practical Promotion Programme, School of Regional Development, University of Kitakyushu

◆ Background and purpose

The Five Core Projects are implemented to achieve the following goals:

- Develop a programme where the whole of society can work together, in view of the lack of opportunities to connect the various activities conducted by associations and citizen groups;
- Ensure wide publicity through the visualisation of ESD and SDGs and the communication of activities undertaken by the Station (Platform) for Learning and ESD;
- Promote the activities to monitor ESD awareness research activities and networking with RCE overseas;
- Identify and develop ESD Coordinators to drive ESD activities;
- Raise awareness of and promote ESD for both male and female citizens of all generations by participating in events held by the municipal government, such as Future Firefly Day, as well as events sponsored by major local companies (such as TOTO and Kyushu Electric Power).

◆ Outline of activity

Project for Promoting Stakeholder Activities

The Monthly ESD Gathering is a learning event organised mainly by college students on various SDG topics to connect member groups and other stakeholders, such as citizens, local governments and businesses. Examples include a peace study for elementary school children on SDG 16 at the Citizen Centres, as well as the production of handmade signs welcoming the international conference of the Tripartite Environmental Education Network (TEEN) on SDGs 13 and 15.

Branding Project

Activities include the publication of an in-house magazine and the production of T-shirts, banners and signs, as well as communication on Facebook and the project website. ESD and SDGs will be further visualised by leveraging the cloth picture theatre of the SDG Interpretation Workshop.

Research/International Cooperation Project

RCE Kitakyushu leverages its geographical advantage for international interaction and information exchange, including by dispatching study tours to and receiving missions from RCEs in South Korea, as well as by participating in the Asia-Pacific RCE Regional Meeting. Activities also include the development of ESD teaching materials as tools for preserving and disseminating tradition, ESD awareness surveys and business surveys on gender issues.

Talent Identification and Development Project

We provide grants to fund ESD activities conducted primarily by the Citizen Centres as community-building hubs. Activities include organising a study session known as "Workshop to Chat on ESD" to identify and develop the drivers of ESD, including the Directors of the Citizen Centres and the members of the ESD Council.

Event Planning Project

College students are also involved in event planning and operation as part of practical training. Specific SDG themes are determined for individual events.



▲Rice-making at a Monthly ESD Gathering

◆ Result of activity

Project for Promoting Stakeholder Activities

Innovative ideas in determining various SDG themes and event activities have effectively expanded the network of citizens, students and RCE members. Serving as another opportunity to raise interest in SDGs, ESD, etc., the project effectively expanded and strengthened networks among the core actors in community building, such as the Citizen Centres, non-profits, non-governmental organisations and students. Collaboration with private businesses such as Kyushu Electric Power has also been successful. Going forward, we expect the project to continue evolving, engaging a wider range of businesses in planning.

Branding Project

Effective use of public relation tools increased the exposure and hence awareness of ESD and SDG activities.

Research/International Cooperation Project

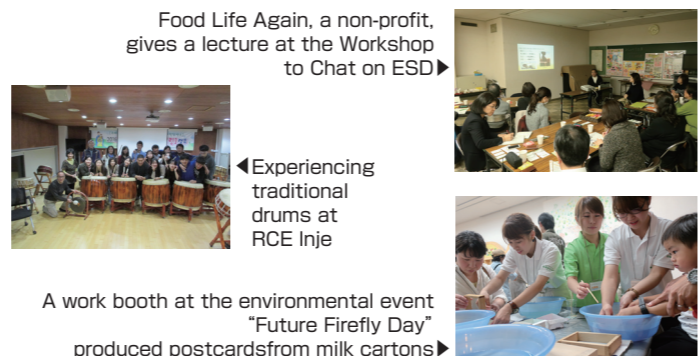
A visit to, and the reception of a mission from RCE Tongyeong and RCE Inje-Pyeongtaek from South Korea helped reinforce the primary importance of peace and environmental conservation. The exchange reminded us that there is no border in the minds of people. Conversation on New Year dishes through a kit of felt dishes and a series of questions helped improve mutual understanding of dietary culture. We also had an opportunity to interact with US teachers coming to Japan under the Fulbright Japan programme through the learning of traditional knowledge including experiencing rice-cake making and Kokura-ori weaving.

Talent Identification and Development Project

In 2017, grants were provided to six associations involved in environmental learning, ESD lectures and dietary education for children, among others, thus helping to develop a sustainable community. To increase participation in the Workshop to Chat on ESD, the seven Citizen Centres in Kitakyushu take turns in organising the Workshop. Facilitating the participation of community leaders in this way has effectively improved understanding and strengthened interaction on ESD throughout the city, as more participants have attended the Workshop, often repeatedly. More talented people are being identified and developed, all committed to "spreading the word".

Event Planning Project

Event planning and operation helped students learn more about SDGs. For example, a lecture and craft session on waste recycling enabled them to communicate the importance of the 3Rs (reduce, recycle, and reuse) and ESD/SDGs to the citizens participating in the event.



Food Life Again, a non-profit, gives a lecture at the Workshop to Chat on ESD ▶

◀Experiencing traditional drums at RCE Inje

A work booth at the environmental event "Future Firefly Day" produced postcards from milk cartons ▶

Acknowledgement:

The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) would like to thank all the authors of this publication for their wonderful contributions, based on their fruitful experiences in their respective RCEs. UNU-IAS also take this opportunity to thank its staff members for their hard work in producing this publication.

Disclaimer:

The content and views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of UNU-IAS.

