

Okayama Declaration on RCEs and ESD Beyond 2014

The global network of Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), having met in Okayama, Japan for the 9th Global RCE Conference, reaffirm the Tongyeong Declaration and hereby declare a renewed commitment to support relevant international ESD frameworks, including the Global Action Programme on ESD, beyond the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

RCEs are designed to achieve systemic transformation by contributing to the realization of socially inclusive and equitable economies within the renewable capacity of earth and planetary systems. Seeking change at the interface of education, research, policy and practice, RCEs commit to the strategies within the priority action areas of the Global Action Programme on ESD, namely actions for advancing policy, transforming learning and training environments, building capacities of educators and trainers, empowering and mobilizing youth, and accelerating sustainable solutions at the local and regional levels, to create sustainable societies.

During the ten years of the global network, RCEs have been navigating a pathway for collective action on ESD. This approach is based on the RCE vision and implementation of contextual programmes for ESD, as well as mutual respect and support within and across continents. RCEs commit to advancing ESD through recognition and respect for indigenous and traditional knowledge. In recognition of global interdependence, RCEs will share responsibility for advancing ESD beyond borders in time and space, mindful of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The global network of RCEs acknowledges the increasing role of formal and non-formal education in ESD and the transformative contributions of RCEs during the UN DESD and beyond, and commits to accelerate, mainstream and scale up actions that empower communities and diverse stakeholders for societal change in multicultural, social, political and economic environments, with compassion and care for individuals as collective members of society. The RCEs will accomplish their mission by building up multi-stakeholder networks with distinctive capacities for research and development, and having innovative and continuously evolving democratic, participatory governance systems.

In adopting this Okayama Declaration, each and every member of the global RCE community aspires to uphold the mission and ambitions of the RCE movement, and commits to contribute through operational and strategic clusters and actions to address sustainability issues at the local and continental levels, which are aimed at achieving the long-term goals of ESD, including environmental stewardship, social justice, and safeguarding the quality of all dimensions of life.