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**Engagement with International Sustainability Processes**

**RCE Community Position Paper**

**1. Introduction**

**‘**Engagement with International Sustainability Processes’ as a strategic issue for the global RCE community was discussed at the 6th Global RCE Conference in 2011. This paper is a reflection of last year’s discussion, and it is envisaged that it evolves as the RCE community continues to discuss leading to the 7th Global RCE Conference.

**2. Opportunities**

Opportunities for engaging the RCE movement in international sustainability processes (ISP) can be made at UN high-profile events, as well as in regional platforms both UN and non-UN platforms. The UNDESD events include the 2014 UNESCO ESD Conference in Nagoya, and the 9th Global RCE Conference in Okayama, Japan.

Regional non-UN platforms include, among others, ASEAN & ASEAN+3, SARC (South Asia), SADC & AU (Africa), UNECE (Environment for Europe process), EcoWAS (West Africa), COPERNICUS Alliance, Global Compact (private-sector related).

Processes also include, among others, the DESD Global Monitoring & Evaluation, UN partnership for DESD, Educational QA/Accreditations, Energy Cities (Europe & Canada), ICLEI, Council of Europe, WEEC, EU Initiative-Joint Programming in HE, Engagement of local/municipal policy makers, PERL, World Environment Day, Earth Day, UNESCO ASPNet, IFM, MEADIS, and IUCN meetings.

**3. Modalities**

Action modalities could be in the form of side events in important, high-profile meetings, publications and research, influencing ISP through national governments, and engagement with important networks. Side events cover paper presentations and on communicating local practices by innovators.

Publications and research could be on good practices as multi-stakeholder initiative, change practices, recognizing strengths/weaknesses leading to realizing potential of RCEs, multiplying efforts through engagement with middle-level policy makers, mapping of connections between grassroots activities and international level policies, and mapping of products, among others.

RCEs should work with respective national governments and engage in dialogue with government officials at conferences and other formal settings. It is also important to engage with important ESD and SD-related networks.

**4. Follow-up Actions**

RCEs are asked to share what they have done with respect to actions identified at the

6th Global RCE conference, in the aspect of ‘Engagement in ISP’.

For the 7th Global RCE Conference, the group is asked to come up with a consensus decision on the following two points:

1. What are the key issues/challenges facing RCEs currently in ‘Engagement with International Sustainability Processes’?; and
2. What are the top three things the group feels need to be discussed in person at the 7th Global RCE Conference?