

Okayama Declaration on RCEs and ESD Beyond 2014

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

RCE's are designed to achieve systemic transformation by contributing to the alignment of economies with social inclusion and equity and the renewable capacity of earth and planetary ecosystems. Seeking change at the interface of education, research, policy and practice, the RCEs commit to the strategies within the priorities of the Global Action Programme on ESD and beyond in the implementation of 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, for creating sustainable societies.

During the ten years of the global network RCEs together have been navigating a pathway for collective action on ESD. This pathway is generated through the RCE vision and implementation of contextual programmes for ESD, and through mutual respect and support within and across continents. RCE's commit to advancing ESD through recognition and respect for indigenous and traditional knowledge, and, in recognition of global interdependence will share responsibility for advancing ESD beyond borders in time and space, mindful of and including 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 up-scale actions that empower communities and diverse stakeholders for societal change in multicultural, social, political and economic environments, with compassion and care as individuals and collective members of society. The RCEs will accomplish their mission by building up multi-stakeholder networks with distinctive capacities for research and innovation, and having innovative democratic and constantly evolving governance systems.

In making 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 make RCE contributions through operational and strategic clusters and actions addressing various sustainability issues at the local and continental levels that are geared towards achieving the long term goals of ESD such as environmental stewardship, social justice, and safeguarding of the quality of all dimensions of life.