



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies



**Education for Sustainable Development**  
... research and capacity development for ESD

# Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Programme

*Research and actions to advance  
partnerships for ESD across  
geographic, knowledge and sectoral  
boundaries*



REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE  
ON EDUCATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ACKNOWLEDGED BY



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY



ProSPER.Net

# ESD Programme at UNU-IAS: UNU Strategy to Promote ESD





- ⌘ Launched in 2003 as UNU's response to the UN General Assembly resolution to launch **Decade of ESD (DESD, 2005-2014)**
- ⌘ 2009 marks the mid-decade year  
**UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (31 Mar.~2 Apr. 2009, Bonn) → Bonn Declaration**
- ⌘ 5 major activity areas:
  1. Advocacy and dissemination of ESD and DESD;
  2. Promotion of **Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs)** and their networking;
  3. Strengthening of ESD activities of **higher education institutions**;
  4. Further development of on-line learning for ESD;
  5. Training of teachers and trainers on ESD



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**  
Institute of Advanced Studies

# What does ESD Programme do?

- ESD programme aims at knowledge creation and management through innovative networking for sustainable development (RCEs and ProSPER.Net)
- The main areas of Research & Development (R & D) derive from the main components of the ESD programme:
  -  Higher education
  -  Capacity development of private sector, government and youth
  -  Identifying synergies between diverse education and development agendas
  -  Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE)—regional networks mobilised for ESD



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies

# R & D Component (1): Higher education

## Main Areas of Research on Higher Education:

- 1.1. Action research on higher education reform at the institutional and organisational level
- 1.2. Critical inquiry into competencies and capabilities needed for transformation for sustainability



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies

## 1.1. Action research on higher education reform

### What is ProSPER.Net?

- ProSPER.Net: Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education and Research Network
- Network of higher education institutions in the Asia Pacific region
- Launched in 2008
- Currently 19 members







## 1.1. Action research on higher education reform

### ProSPER.Net Achievements (1): Joint Projects

Three inter-university projects are being carried out:

- 1) Establishing a postgraduate programme in **public policy** and sustainable development (led by TERI)
  - ✓ on-line trial course for 41 policy-makers from 13 countries is being delivered)
- 2) Integrating SD in **business school** curricula (led by AIT)
  - ✓ MBA in Sustainable Development (USM),
  - ✓ integration of sustainability in the existing MBA programme (UGM),
  - ✓ survey on integration of sustainability into practices of business schools, etc.
  - ✓ Publications are being prepared
- 3) Designing and piloting **faculty training** on SD (led by USM)
  - ✓ Editing of a training manual, to be used by partners, is on-going



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies



## 1.1. Action research on higher education reform

### ProSPER.Net Achievements (2): Promoting SD research through Award

- **ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award**
  - ❑ Established in 2008 by ProSPER.Net in cooperation with Elsevier
  - ❑ Given annually to recognise outstanding young scientists who have made significant contributions in the area of sustainable development.
  - ❑ Three awards were given in 2009 in the categories of business, engineering & technology and agriculture & natural resources.



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies





## 1.1. Action research on higher education reform **ProSPER.Net Future Plans**

New inter-university projects are forming, including:

- 1) Master of Development Practice (led by TERI University)
- 2) Summer School: The Challenges in Sustainable Development (led by RMIT)
- 3) Training and Research of ESD in Engineering & Built Environment Curriculum (led by USM)
- 4) Alternative University Appraisal (led by Hokkaido University), already started with partial funding from MEXT
- 5) Developing closer linkages to poverty reduction (led by AIT)
- 6) Integrating Sustainability in Business Schools – working with poverty and Global Compact (led by AIT)



The above proposals would be approved by the ProSPER.Net Board in November 2009



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies

## 1.2. Critical inquiry into competencies and capabilities for transformation for sustainability



### Critical analysis of competencies for sustainable development

- Organisation of the consultations with representatives of international organisations - Nairobi, November 2008 and Bonn, April 2009 leading to formation of expert/research group
- Guest editors for the special section in the next issue of the *Journal of Education for Sustainable Development*
- Other publications submitted for publication or being prepared



### Research and development of the ESD competencies of educators

- Member of the expert group on Competencies for ESD under the umbrella of UNECE, launched in April 2009



# R & D Component (2): Capacity building

## Designing and testing pedagogies and materials for ESD

### ⌘ Leadership Programmes on SCP and ESD for:

- ASEAN Ministries of Environment and Education, July 2008
- ASEAN Ministries of Environment, August 7, 2009
- University leaders in the Middle East and North African Regions – in collaboration with UNIDO, May 2009
- Teacher trainer workshop – in collaboration with APCEIU, September 2008
- Leadership programmes for youth – in collaboration with JUNEC, 3-4 times/year

### ⌘ **UNEP-Tongji IESD** (Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development)

International Master's and Doctoral Programmes in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies

# R & D Component (3): Creating Synergies

- 🌿 DESD is complementary to forerunning global initiatives:
  - Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
  - Education for All (EFA) movement
  - UN Literacy Decade.
- 🌿 Important to identify and promote synergies between diverse education and development agendas.



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**  
Institute of Advanced Studies

# Achievements

- ⌘ Education for International Understanding (EIU) and ESD
  - Teacher Training for Learning to Live Together – a Training Manual for EIU and ESD, in collaboration with APCEIU
- ⌘ Education for Development and ESD
  - Part of the Master of Development Practice (MDP) – TERI as a lead, in collaboration with Earth Institute
- ⌘ Environmental Education and ESD
  - Organisation of six workshops for 5WEEC, including preparation of the working papers on the subjects (some submitted for publication)



## R & D Component (4): Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE)

### Main Areas of Research on RCE:

- ⌘ Informing thematic networks to reorient education and address sustainability challenges
- ⌘ Rethinking ESD monitoring & evaluation— self-assessment of RCEs as learning
- ⌘ Analysis of RCEs as an experiment in social learning
- ⌘ Critical examination of RCE as a global ESD strategy



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies

# What is RCE?

- Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD -

- 🎗️ Concept of RCE was proposed by UNU in 2004
- 🎗️ A network of formal, non-formal and informal education and learning-related institutions who are mobilised to promote ESD at regional (sub-national) and local levels
- 🎗️ RCEs aspire to achieve the goals of DESD by translating its global objectives into the context of regional-local areas in which they operate

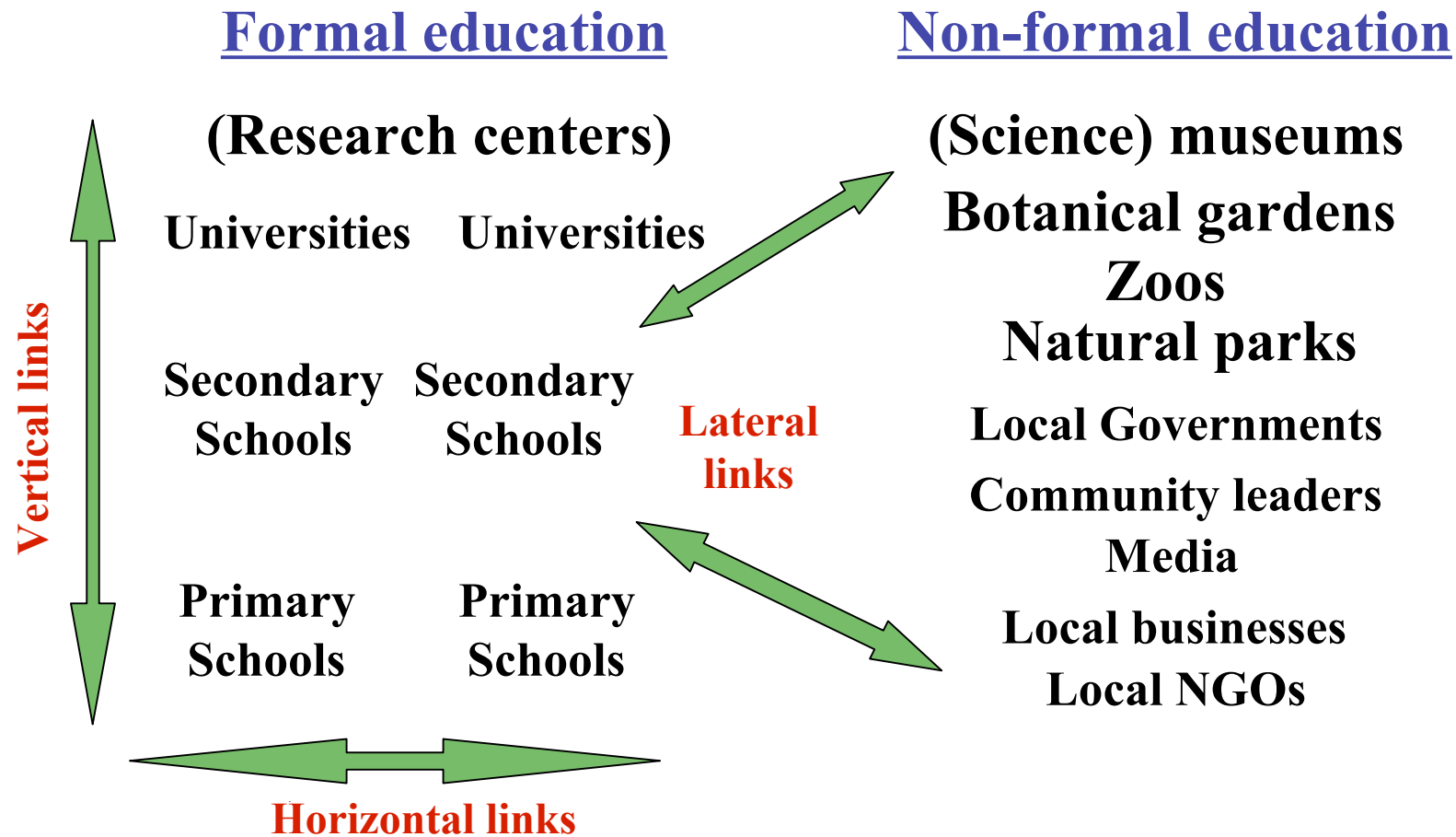


UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies

# Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs)



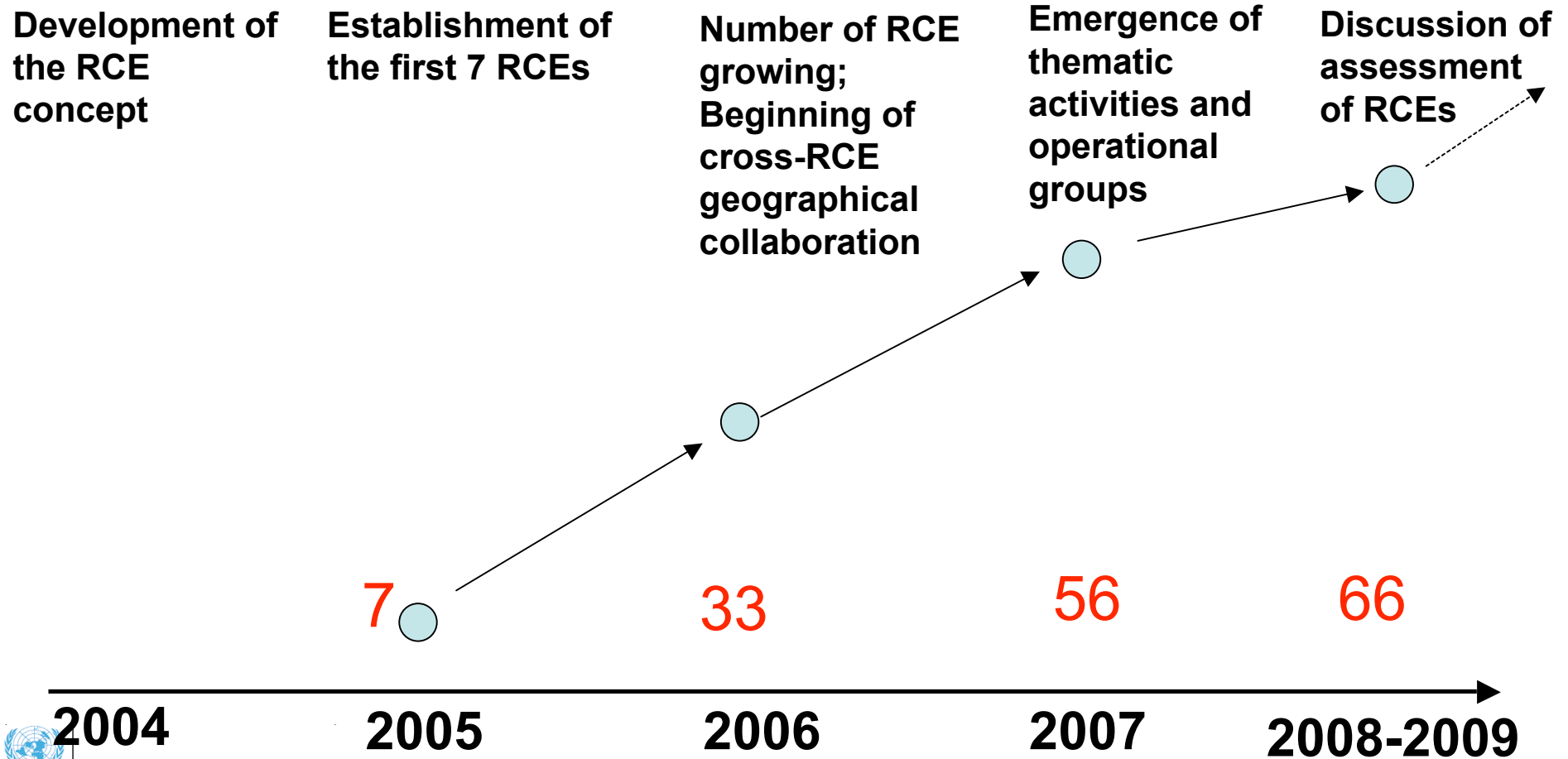
UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies



# Stages in evolution of global RCE community



2004



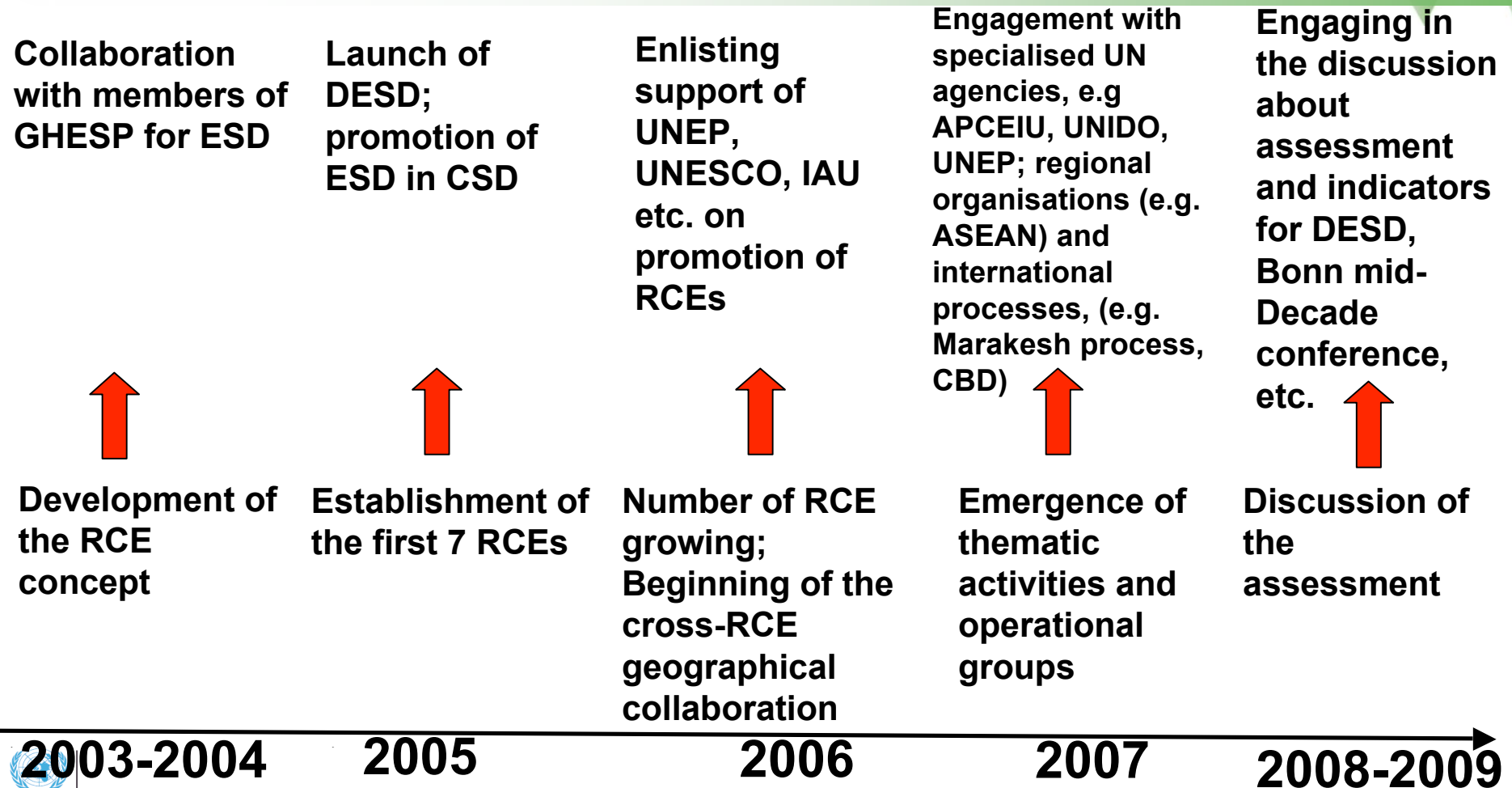
UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

UNU-IAS

Institute of Advanced Studies

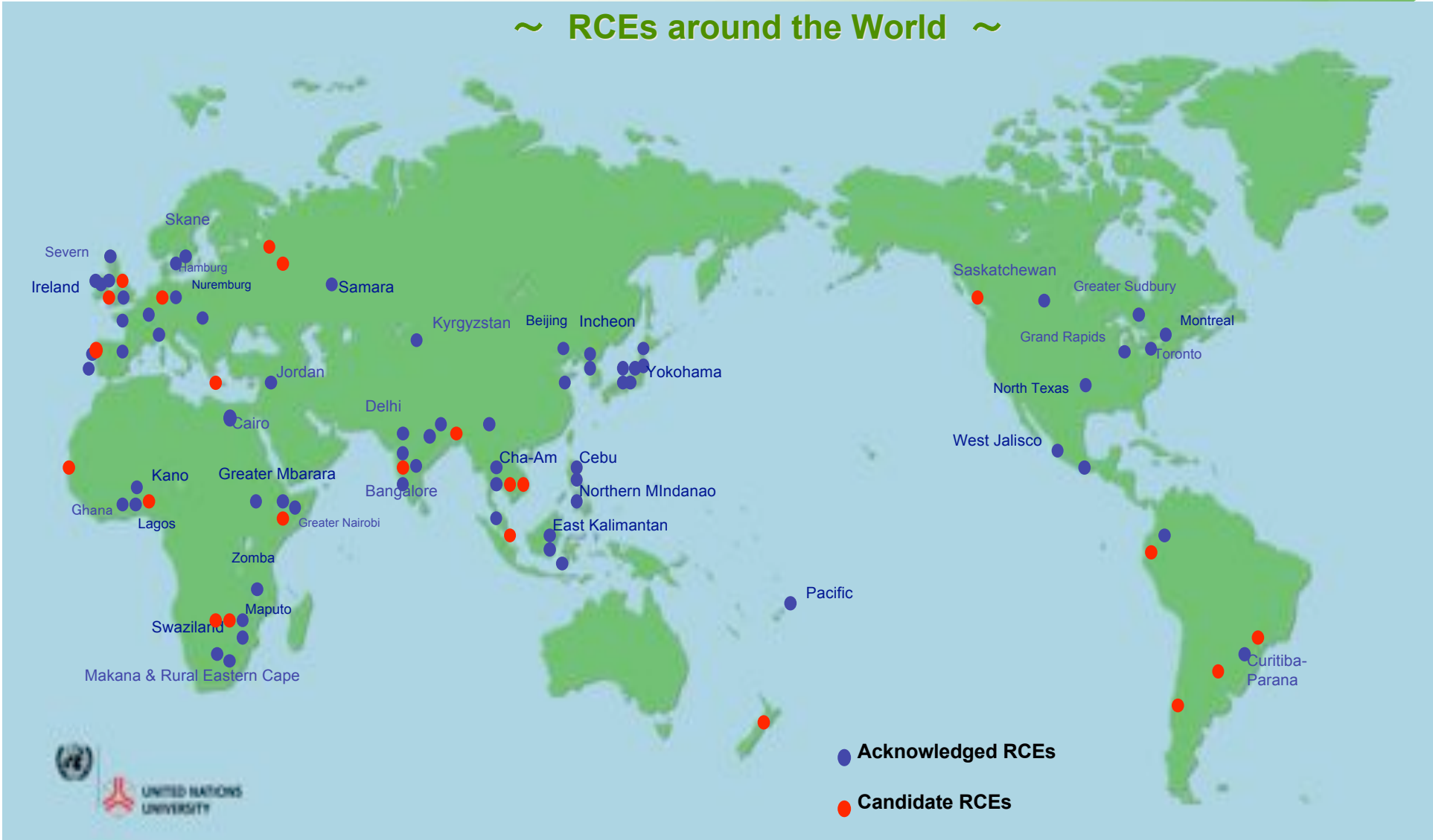
[www.ias.unu.edu](http://www.ias.unu.edu)

# Linking RCE community to global development



# 66 Acknowledged RCEs + 23 RCE Candidates

~ RCEs around the World ~



## RCE Sub-Networks: Thematic, Operational, Research & Continental Networks

- ❑ At International RCE Conferences (2006 Yokohama, 2007 Penang, 2008 Barcelona, 2009 Montreal, 2010 planned in Curitiba), working groups on diverse thematic areas are held:
  - Thematic networks (Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP), Youth, Health, Teacher training, Biodiversity, E-learning, Climate change)
  - Operational networks (Fundraising, Reporting, Communications)
- ❑ Some thematic networks (e.g., Health) organize meetings to develop joint activities.
- ❑ Research networks are forming among RCEs. Some projects are funded externally (e.g., by EU, MEXT).
- ❑ Continental networks (North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Africa) are coordinated by RCEs



## RCE Sub-Networks: Concrete Joint Activities of RCE Thematic Networks



### Health and ESD

- Bangalore Conference on traditional medicine in November 2009
- Agreement of the action and research programmes (incl. one funded by MEXT)



### SCP and ESD

\* CLIPS: Community-based-research on Local-International Production System

- ESD-CLIPS\* –funded by EU (1 million euro over 3 years), with participation of 11 RCEs across 4 continents and UNU-IAS
- Collaboration of individual RCEs with UNEP's SCP programme
- Joint research and writing among RCEs
- Collaboration with UNIDO



### Biodiversity and ESD

- Production of materials, including cases studies, in collaboration with UNEP and other organisations
- Preparation of CBD COP10 side events, etc.



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies



**Education for Sustainable Development**  
... research and capacity development for ESD

# Contributions of ESD Programme to UNU-IAS



REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE  
ON EDUCATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ACKNOWLEDGED BY



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY



ProSPER.Net

# ESD programme enhances visibility of UNU-IAS

- Web-pages on ESD and RCEs are the most viewed programme pages within the UNU-IAS website. (Other pages ranked consistently high are generic pages like “About UNU-IAS”, vacancy announcements and fellowship-related.)

Number of Times ESD-related Pages were Viewed  
(April-August 2009)

	August	July	June	May	April
ESD	692	578	717	647	606
RCE	672	628	803	609	595
4 <sup>th</sup> Intl RCE Conference	860	930	1086	1574	899
About UNU-IAS	855	877	882	778	767

Source: UNU-IAS Intranet Web Statistics



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**  
Institute of Advanced Studies

# ESD programme of UNU-IAS is a recognised leader of ESD

- 🎗 International recognition: References to RCE, ProSPER.Net and other programmes by UNESCO (e.g. Bonn Declaration), UNEP, and regional organisations (e.g. SADC, African Union).
- 🎗 Recognition by the Japanese Government (not only by MOE-J but also by MEXT): The majority of ESD projects adopted and funded by MEXT International Cooperation Initiative involve RCEs.
- 🎗 Advisory role in various projects and international processes:
  - UNECE-ESD group
  - DESD Interagency committee



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**  
Institute of Advanced Studies



# Powerful mobilising effects of the initiatives of ESD Programme enhance legitimacy of and research opportunities for UNU-IAS

Examples of externally-raised funds by individual RCEs, RCE Consortia and ProSPER.Net members

	Amount Raised	Funding Source	Purpose
ESD-CLIPS	1 million euro	EU	Inter-RCE collaborative research on SCP
RCE Yokohama, RCE Penang, RCE Cebu	5 million JPY <i>(expected to be renewed for the next two fiscal years)</i>	MEXT International Cooperation Initiative (Competitive fund)	Inter-RCE development of ESD programme at graduate level
Hokkaido University w/ ProSPER.Net	5 million JPY <i>(expected to be renewed for the next two fiscal years)</i>	MEXT International Cooperation Initiative (Competitive fund)	Development of Alternative University Appraisal System
RCE KuwaZulu Natal (South Africa)	35,000 USD	SIDA	Support establishment of 14 RCEs in southern Africa, at least one in each of the member states of SADC (South African Development Community)
RCE Tongyeong	20 million USD	Korean Government	Construction of an ESD centre (physical RCE)



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute of Advanced Studies



**Education for Sustainable Development**  
... research and capacity development for ESD

For further information, please visit:

[www.ias.unu.edu/efsd](http://www.ias.unu.edu/efsd)

Thank you !



REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE  
ON EDUCATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ACKNOWLEDGED BY



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY



ProSPER.Net