

Commission's Activities

* Public Relations/ Educational Activities

ESD week

Organizations participating in the ESD project, such as Designated Organizations, community centres, citizens' groups and schools organize various events mainly in October and November. They aim to rally people's interest in ESD and learn from each other through active participation. It is an important period of time in expanding the "ESD circle"; thinking, learning and working together on projects in order to build a sustainable society.



Event Booth Exhibition



Sustaina-girls Talk Event

We hold exhibition booths for various events in Okayama City to inspire people's interest in ESD. For example, people can feel the essence of nature and learn the importance of natural resources at crafts booths.

Sustaina-girls (sustainability+girls) is a group of wonderful women with a vision of leading the world into a sustainable future. They are highly active in a range of fields. At talk events, they discuss the importance of lifestyle with participants and, from these discussions, find out hints and new ways of building a sustainable society.

* Exchange Programs

International RCE Exchanges



As an initial RCE member since authorization in 2005, RCE Okayama takes an active role in Global RCE Conferences and Asia-Pacific meetings highlighting activities

that promote the international exchange of ideas with our global partners. In 2014, the "Global RCE Conference" will be held in Okayama to mark the culmination of the Decade of ESD (Nov. 4th - 7th).



Exchange with Overseas ESD Practitioners

Domestic RCE Exchange

Office staff meetings are held once a year between the six RCEs (Greater Sendai, Yokohama, Chubu, Hyogo-Kobe, Okayama and KitaKyushu) in order to exchange information and collaborate in the promotion of ESD.



June 7th-10th 2012 we held the Asia-Pacific Workshop and "ESD Rice Project" in collaboration with UNESCO and the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO.

We shared knowledge and experiences related to ESD practices by exploring issues related to rice cultivation. Educators gathered from Thailand, Korea, the Philippines, and Japan to share their expertise and deepen knowledge through engaging in dialogue with local farmers and visiting elementary and high schools.

* Support for ESD Activities, Exchange & Training

Advancing Activities of Designated Organizations

We hold exchange events in order to build a robust ESD network of Designated Organization. Representatives introduce their organization's activities to each other and engage in consultations with one another. This is a great opportunity to deepen connections through exchanging information and learning about differing themes, activities and approaches. We also give financial support and activity subsidies, to the organizations including ASPnet.



ESD Training Support

We provide support for training such as giving lectures requested by community organizations, schools and primarily organizations. In addition to this, we offer a variety of workshops. We value sharing each other's thoughts and gaining knowledge through incorporating participatory activities in the training.



ESD Café

The ESD café is an initiative run in collaboration with the "Asu-Eco" Environment Learning Centre. It's a place where various kinds of people gather to express their thoughts and questions and pursue dialogue with one another. We invite experts from various fields and with different perspectives on issues to discuss topics such as the environment, economy, society, culture and history.



Creative Workshop

We carry out this creative workshop during ESD week to help participants develop effective management skills for ESD projects. Participants exchange ideas and develop essential planning skills to utilize in future endeavours. Participants greatly improve their skills through their active participation in this workshop.



Outreach Lectures

We visit community centres and local communities to talk about ESD using easy-to-understand explanations and activities that encourage group work and reflection. We have observed that people are getting increasingly interested in learning and talking about ESD in their local communities.

Okayama's Innovation: The Okayama ESD Model

Traditionally,

The people of Okayama utilized every aspect of the region's beautiful natural resources for agriculture and land reclamation. There is a long history of people co-habiting with their natural surroundings.

However,

There was a problem of the impending non-sustainable life

Clarification of "Diversification of Commu

1 Providing opportunities for diverse organizations and individuals to engage in ESD

- Making it happen: Opportunity → Dialogue → Learning
- Building a supportive network where various organizations can learn from each other.
- Increasing the number of organizations and residents who engage in ESD and expanding areas of activity.

Yes! Let's
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2 Government organizations proactively and continuously promoting ESD

- Providing useful and reliable safety procedures, building organizational power, and strong networks
- The New Public Issue - Developing acceptance of ESD as a genuine public measure by the whole community.



Okayama has the rich soil where ESD can take root.

3 Support from ESD professional

- Providing continued support
- Connecting a variety of groups inside and outside the community

Prospects for the future

● Increasing the number of participating organizations whilst maintaining a supportive network.

● Continuing the administration's role; responding to problems whilst running the secretariat.

● Building ESD coordinator development systems based on analysis of the qualities and abilities coordinators need.

● Thinking globally and acting locally to solve problems by facilitating collaboration between local organizations and Kominkans.

due to resident's limited aware-environmental crisis casued by styles.



The postwar industrial structure - changing lifestyles

◆ Increased urbanization, changing relationships with nature brought about by changing social structures, increased manifestation of social problems.

Community = Diverse challenges to be Resolved"

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4 Promoting ESD with Kominkans as the central hub

- Providing places for learning for the community
- As ESD coordinators, Kominkan staff build networks between NPOs, citizens' activities and local organizations.
- Re-acknowledging the Kominkan as a social educational institution
- Using ESD perspectives to give new meaning to community activities

5 Empowering ESD - communities taking the lead role with university support

- Universities cooperating with and supporting local ESD activities
- Utilizing specialist perspectives to reevaluate community resources and uncover their true merits

coordinators (at the secretariat)

- Building a trusting relationship and cooperative networks with ESD-related parties
- Reaching new understandings by utilizing experiences of external professionals

Work together
for better earth.



- Enhancing coordination in order to connect higher education institutions with the community and increase their participation in diverse fields of ESD.

- Establishing criteria and a means of assessment that measure how effectively ESD activities develop human resources suitable for "building a sustainable future."

- Promoting ESD through ASPnet, including elementary and junior high schools in Okayama City.
- Supporting the activities and financing of ASPnet.