

Citizens' Groups and NGOs

There are various aspects and fields related to ESD, and so it requires civic participation to expand it fully. There are 164 Designated Organizations participating in the Okayama ESD project in the Okayama region today. The number of organizations has greatly increased compared with the 27 original organizations in 2005. We aim for each citizen to become a good practitioner of ESD.

※As of September 2013



Shujitsu Forest School

Students and local citizens cooperate together in the “Making the Village Forest” movement at Mt. Kasai. They learn ESD through maintaining worn-out bamboo groves, making bamboo charcoal, planting red pines, and inoculating shiitake mushrooms. In late April every year, they organize a forest concert to show the importance of mountains to everyone. From now on, we will further expand this movement with other practitioners at Mt. Misao.

Taka-nou Group - thinking about the environment (Okayama Prefectural Takamatsu Agricultural High School)

We clean the irrigation canals twice a year with the cooperation of local administrations and people, enabling critically endangered fish to thrive. We conduct activities to protect and increase the reproduction of freshwater fish in the biotopes at school. We also count the number of freshwater fish in the biotope every other year and conduct water quality surveys of Ashimori River, which is our community river, four times a year. These activities are good opportunities to think about the importance of an ecosystem network and our local environment.



Notre Dame Seishin Educational Foundation Seishin Junior High School * Seishin Girls' High School

For approximately 25 years, we have been working on research and protection activities mainly focusing on the salamanders and newts that inhabit Okayama. This activity is mainly led by the students of the life sciences course. We expanded the range of activities to include the natural observation and creation of biotopes for reproductive experiments of rare animals and plants in Malaysia's Borneo Island, Okayama Hiruzen, and Zamami Okinawa Island. Our goal is to educate our female students so they can contribute to building a sustainable society.



Conference of the Okayama International NGO Network (COINN)

COINN is the only alliance organization of NGO groups in Okayama working on international collaboration (80 participating groups). Our mission is to cooperate with overseas NGOs to tackle world problems together. Since 1994, we have hosted ESD World Conferences by bringing together NGO representatives every year. We have been holding the “Okayama Earth Citizen Festival” promoting collaboration with member groups since 2004. We are also in charge of spreading information about the activities of the each group to our citizens.



We have realized ESD is the perfect word to describe the activities Tabula Rasa have been tackling over the last 10 years. Our way of town planning and reaching out to others is to realize ideas without being forced to stay within the conventional frameworks for beautifying Okayama. We believe that getting people to appreciate their towns in their own way will lead to a sustainable society.



Administrative Director of Tabula Rasa Non-Profit Organization: Naomi Kawakami

Tabula Rasa Non-Profit Organization

In Latin, Tabula Rasa means “a blank tablet,” a “clean slate.” Our groups, composed of individuals in the 20s and 30s, aims to establish a sustainable society by first addressing environmental issues and advocating a fun and fashionable ecological lifestyle and community development. Our main events include, holding a candle night and market in Nishigawa Canal Walkway, “Eco-Sma” which practices eco-activities ‘smartly’ by reusing dishes, and the “Happy Share Candle” event to revivify the candles once used at wedding ceremonies.



Green Partner Non-Profit Organization

Since 1997, Green Partner has been working on the conservation of the natural environment in Okayama with initiatives such as fighting against illegal dumping and cleaning up local areas. We have also been working on the issue of sea garbage, such as seafloor garbage and drifting garbage since 2008. We conserve and reclaim the Seto Inland Sea basin environment through cooperation with regional alliances. The Seto Inland Sea was once advocated as a jewel of the world, but in its present conditions it has become more like a “trash box.” If we do not remove the sea bottom garbage, the environment will be destroyed. We engage in natural environmental conservation in watershed areas with the motto, “Polish the world jewel - the Seto Inland Sea,” and we share practical activities with the whole Seto Inland Sea region.

Hearts of Gold Non-Profit Organization

Hearts of Gold assists in social development in Cambodia through the use of sport, activities and support for self-help programs such as the Japanese language education and the nursing home administration program run by the foster-parent system. Hearts of Gold also educates Japanese children about the current situation in developing countries (such as poverty, environment, food, human rights, and peace) and promotes learning about sustainable community development from an international point of view. Through these activities, Japanese youths review their own lives, think about the meaning of a sustainable society, and support activities to grapple with these issues in a positive way.



Activity Supporters

Organizations and participants who will support and promote ESD activities are essential. Research organizations, NPOs and educators support ESD initiatives in many ways such as helping to find solutions to local problems and making ESD curriculums.



Okayama University

In 2007, Okayama University was designated as the “Okayama University UNESCO Chair for Research and Education for Sustainable Development.” From the standpoint of higher education, the chair places emphasis on giving specialist advice regarding local ESD activities, aids international cooperation in the environmental field and offers strong support to UNESCO ASPnet. Okayama University has participated in higher education ESD networks such as the HESD forum, ProSPER.NET, and ASPUnivNet since their foundation. Furthermore, the university has actively implemented ESD approaches to academic education through collaborative initiatives with the Okayama University UNESCO Chair, the Graduate School of Education Master’s Program and the Graduate School of Environmental and Life Sciences. We also established the ESD Promotion Center in the Graduate School of Education Master’s Program.

Okayama Environment Conservation Public Service Cooperation Foundation

“Asu-Eco” is an environmental learning institution run by Okayama Environment Conservation Public Service Cooperation Foundation. Our goal is creating opportunities to take action and encourage children to learn about the environment while having fun. We dispatch instructors and conduct events based on three basic concepts: “learn,” “act,” and “cooperate.”



Okayama University of Science Study Group for Supporting Local Environmental Education

Along with studying conservation in various aquatic environments from the headwaters to the downstream tidal flats of the Asahi River, the group shares its findings at community symposiums in relevant localities. We also actively send students to support and participate in ESD activities along the Asahi River, and develop manuals to conduct outdoor activities along river and tidelands safely.

It is important that each of us makes an effort to build a sustainable society. Whole communities can work together by deepening involvement in each activity and connecting them through the cooperation of diverse groups of supporters.

Graduate School of Education Master's Program ESD Promotion Center
Prof. Tsutomu Kawada



History and Future Goals for 2014 and beyond.

History of ESD in the World, Japan, and Okayama (after 2002)

Year	World	Japan	Okayama
2002	-The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UN-DESD) was proposed by the Japanese government, in cooperation with Japanese NGOs at the World Summit. -UNDESD (2005-2014) was adopted at the UN 57th General Assembly.		-Okayama City gave a presentation about the Environmental Partnership Project at a side event during the Johannesburg Summit.
2003		-The Japan Council on UNDESD (ESD-J), a network of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting ESD, was founded.	
2004		-The 1st Inter-ministerial Meeting on UNDESD was held.	-“10th Okayama NGO Summit for International Contribution” At the meeting, participants and the Okayama City mayor received a request to cooperate with RCE from the United Nations University.
2005	-UNDESD was launched. -The United Nations University accredited the first seven RCEs (Regional Centres of Expertise). -The International Implementation Scheme for UNDESD was approved by UNESCO.	-The Inter-ministerial Meeting on UNDESD was established within the Cabinet of the Japanese government. -The first Japanese RCEs were accredited.	-Launched Okayama ESD Promotion Commission (April). -The Okayama region was acknowledged as one of the world’s first seven RCEs (May).
2006	-The 1st Global RCE Conference was held in Yokohama. (Held annually since 2006).	-Formulation of Implementation Scheme for UNDESD -The Fundamental Law of Education was revised by the Japanese government, incorporating ESD.	-The 1st Okayama ESD Network Exchange Event -ESD observation group from RCE Tongyong visited Okayama.
2007	-4th International Conference on Environmental Education (Ahmedabad, India).	-The Diet Members Caucus for ESD Promotion was launched.	-Okayama University was acknowledged as the “UNESCO Chair on Education and Research for Sustainable Development” (April). -The 1st RCE Staff Meeting .
2008		-ESD Round Table Meeting -Amendment of Education Guidelines (elementary and junior high schools). -Formulation of the Basic Educational Promotion Plan by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology - Japan).	
2009	-UNESCO World Conference on DESD, incorporating mid-term ESD report, was held in Bonn, Germany.	-Calling for the “DESD World Festival” -The realization workshop of “Global Citizen's Conference on DESD 2009” was held. (Held annually since 2009).	-ESD inspectorate group from Tongyong in Korea visited Okayama.
2010		-Realization workshop of “DESD World Festival”	
2011		-The Great East Japan Earthquake (March 11) and the subsequent Fukushima nuclear power plant accident occurred.	-Okayama ESD Slogan Decided based on suggestions from public
2012	-United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.		-UNESCO World Conference on ESD Preparation office in Okayama City Hall was established
2013			-UNESCO World Conference on ESD Promotion Bureau in Okayama City Hall was established
2014	UNESCO World Conference on ESD		
2015~	ESD Future Goals		

Messages from supporters of the Okayama ESD Project.

Various organizations including administrations, schools, NGOs and NPOs work together to promote ESD and use Kominkans as central hubs in their collaborations in Okayama City. I hope further visions and plans for the development of ESD will be suggested and the achievements of Okayama City will be shared in the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in 2014.



Executive Director & Vice President, Okayama University: Hirofumi Abe

I visited Okayama for the first time to attend the RCE meeting held on the evening before the implementation of the Decade of ESD. Nine years has passed since then and I have been to Okayama many times to participate in conferences. I am really glad that ESD is making strides in Okayama and these innovations can be shared in the stakeholders meetings in 2014.



UNESCO Education Sector ESD Program Specialist: Yoko Mochizuki



Okayama KEEP Steering Commission Member: Koki Inoue

I have been participating in ESD since 2005 in the Kyoyama district of Okayama City. Therefore, Kyoyama was important as my starting point where I was able to learn many things and meet various people. I will keep sowing “seeds of ESD” to help develop a hopeful society.

※KEEP=Kyoyama ESD Environment Project



Ashimori Waterside Study



Takebe Natural Energy Stroll

Outline of the UNESCO World Conference on ESD

“UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development” will take place in Okayama City and Nagoya City (Aichi Prefecture) in autumn 2014. UNESCO and the Japanese government will organize a set of stakeholder meetings in Okayama City to review the efforts made during the “UNESCO Decade of ESD.” Also follow-on conferences will be held to discuss the importance of ESD after 2014 and provide input and recommendations to the High-Level Segment Conference and the Plenary, which will be held in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture.

International Forum on UNESCO ASPnet

ASPnet high school students and teachers, who are engaged in ESD activities all over the world share their experiences of ESD and discuss ways to make a better future together. The Student Forum will be planned and operated by high school students themselves. High school students from 34 countries will come to participate.

- ◆Students' Forum ◆Teachers' Forum
- ◆Conference on UNESCO ASPnet

Youth Conference

Practitioners of ESD from all over the world, aged 18-35 years, will share their knowledge and experiences in discussions about the promotion of ESD after 2014.

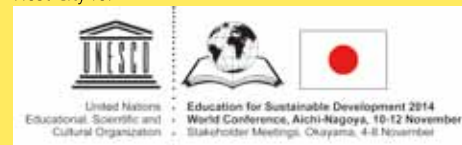
Global RCE Conference

Participants from 117^(※) RCEs including Okayama City will discuss their efforts to promote activities and make a commitment to strengthening them beyond the end of the Decade. (※As of May 2013)

Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD

Participants from Kominkans of Japan and CLCs in Asia-Pacific region will discuss the achievements of ESD to date and their visions for future developments after 2014.

Host City for



Tentative schedule of conferences of UNESCO World Conference on ESD

October	Nov. 1 Sat.	Nov. 2 Sun.	Nov. 3 Mon.	Nov. 4 Tue.	Nov. 5 Wed.	Nov. 6 Thu.	Nov. 7 Fri.	Nov. 8 Sat.	Nov. 9 Sun.	Nov. 10 Mon.	Nov. 11 Tue.	Nov. 12 Wed.	Nov. 13 Thu.
Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD Oct. 9-12 [Okayama Convention Center]			Culture Day										
						★ESD Week Opening Ceremony							
						International Forum on UNESCO ASPnet (Hotel Granvia Okayama, Okayama University)							
							Youth Conference (Okayama International Center)	Excursion					
						9th Global RCE Conference (Okayama Convention Center)							
										High-Level Segment and Plenary sessions (in Aichi, Nagoya)			
						← ESD Week →							

Transportation



By Shinkansen Bullet Train

- Approx. 3 hours from Tokyo
- Approx. 1 hour from Kyoto
- Approx. 45 minutes from Shin Osaka
- Approx. 1 hour and 40 minutes from Hakata

By Car

- Approx. 2 hours from Osaka (Chugoku Expressway / Sanyo Expressway)
- Approx. 2 hours from Yonago in Tottori Prefecture/Sanin Area (Yonago Expressway/ Chugoku Expressway/ Okayama Expressway/ Sanyo Expressway)
- Approx. 2 hours and 15 minutes from Kochi in Shikoku Area (Kochi Expressway/ Takamatsu Expressway/ Seto Expressway/Sanyo Expressway)

Okayama ESD Promotion Commission (Secretariat: UNESCO World Conference on ESD Promotion Bureau in Okayama City)

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[Descriptions of pictures on the cover]

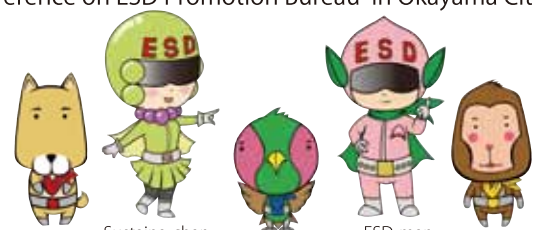
U p p e r : Aerial view of Okayama City from above Mt. Misao

Lower Left : Statue of Momotaro at Okayama station

Left of the lower-middle : View of Okayama Castle from Okayama Korakuen Garden

Right of the lower-middle : Daiichi Fujita Elementary School “Waterside Study”

Lower right : Fireflies in the Takeeda district in Okayama City



Sustaina-chan ESD-man ESD website navigation mascots