

# RCE E-Bulletin

June 2013

## Message from the Global RCE Service Centre:

Dear colleagues and friends,

First, allow us to extend our apologies for the last issue of the RCE bulletin, which some of you received numerous times. This was due to the large amount of files attached to the document. In the future, when we have large files attached, we will zip them to allow for easier mailings. Thank you to our colleagues who brought the issue to our attention!

With much appreciation,

The Global RCE Service Centre

## Upcoming Events:

### International Seminar and Workshop on Sustainable Cities: The Role of Higher Education in Shaping Sustainable Future

RCE Yogyakarta will be hosting a special international seminar and workshop alongside the ProSPER.Net General Assembly and Board meetings, to be held from 4 to 6 July 2013 at Universitas Gadjah Mada in Yogyakarta. The seminar and workshop will provide a platform to gather a broad range of stakeholders from academia, government ministries, local government, international organizations, NGOs, community groups, and experts on sustainable cities. For more information, visit <http://rce.lppm.ugm.ac.id/iswsc2013/>

### RCE Barcelona: Avalon Sustainability School

Avalon Sustainability School, organized by RCE Barcelona partners, develops transformational learning experiences for young people, aged 13 to 19. Participants come from diverse countries and backgrounds to learn from each other, take part in a variety of outdoor activities (rock climbing, canyoning, trekking and archery), art (photography, video, land art and dance), and learn skills such as teamwork, building with natural materials and being alone in the wild. This year's programme takes place in July in the Spanish Pyrenees. For more information visit <http://avalon-school.org/newsletter/index.html>

### 6<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting, 20-22 October 2013, Kitakyushu, Japan

RCE Kitakyushu, in close collaboration with the City of Kitakyushu, will host the 6th Asia-Pacific RCE Meeting from 20-22 October. The meeting will be part of the city's 50th anniversary celebration and a number of international conferences and events will be held around the same time, including the launch of the OECD Green Growth Studies; International Conference on Future Cities and the 3rd International Forum on the "Future Cities" Initiative. In addition to the usual discussion sessions on various thematic and strategic issues, RCE participants will have an opportunity to engage with the local community including youth, NPOs, schools and local business at the annual Kitakyushu event called "Eco Life Stage" where more than 100 local organizations set up booths and events to introduce their activities for a sustainable society. More details will be shared with you in due course.

### Forthcoming RCE Meetings in Africa

African RCEs in collaboration with the Global RCE Service Centre are planning two meetings this August. The first meeting is a two-day capacity development-support workshop for Kenyan RCEs that will be hosted by RCE Kakamega-Western on 1-2 August 2013. RCE Minna in collaboration with the National Universities Commission (NUC) of Nigeria is organizing the second as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> African RCE Continental Meeting. The meeting will bring together participants from all African RCEs and Nigerian Universities and will take place on 20-21 August 2013 in Abuja.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Global RCE Conference

The 8th Global Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) on Education for Sustainable Development Conference will take place from 26 to 29 November 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference will be hosted by RCE Greater Nairobi in collaboration with other African RCEs. The venue of the Conference will be the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Gigiri, Nairobi.

## Latest News:

### 5<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V)

The 5<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development was held in Yokohama, Japan from 1-3 June 2013. UNU-IAS co-hosted a special two part official side event on ESD. Part I of the side event was organized by UNESCO and co-organized by UNU-IAS and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. Entitled "ESD: A sound investment to accelerate African development" the side event will reinforce ESD as a sound investment in education. Part II was organized by UNU-IAS, co-organized by UNESCO, UNICEF and the RCE community, with the support of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan. Entitled "Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies in Africa through ESD", this side event will be held to highlight the role of ESD in building inclusive and resilient societies in Africa through strategic partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration in education and development planning. Attached, please find a report from the side event. You can download the full minutes on the [UNU-IAS website](#).

### UN-NGLS Consultation on 4 Post-2015 Reports

The consultation facilitated by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) in partnership with the Post-2015 Development Planning Team/Executive Office of the Secretary-General is now launched in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish. The consultation gathers critical analysis from civil society on four post-2015 reports submitted to the UN Secretary-General, namely:

1. High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Post-2015 HLP)
2. UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
3. UN Global Compact (UNGC)
4. UN Development Group (UNDG): The Global Conversation Begins

UN-NGLS is encouraging all interested stakeholders to submit written contributions in English, Spanish and French by 12 July 2013. The deadline for submitting written contributions in Arabic is 1 July 2013 due to Ramadan. For more information and to read the reports, visit: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/NGLSconsultation>

### RCE Middle Albania: Tirana GovJam

RCE Middle Albania took part the first Global GovJam from 4-6 June 2013. The event was a unique and highly successful experience - a global, volunteer-led innovation session that mixed citizens, public servants and innovation specialists in more than 30 cities on 5 continents. No one had ever done that before, and, it was a success! At the end of the Jam, around 650 people in over 30 cities had produced more than 120 projects. Watch a video of RCE Middle Albania's contribution here <http://youtu.be/AQrIcplElaA>. And check out all the Global GovJam events on the official website: <http://www.govjam.org/frontpage>

### RCE Greater Dhaka celebrates World Environment Day



RCE Greater Dhaka celebrated World Environment Day in line with the adopted theme of United Nations for the year 2013: 'Think.Eat.Save'. The worldwide slogan calling all to eat less to save food for others helps sustainable development that underlines the core issues of building communities so that all can live comfortably without consuming all resources. The Day's programme started with a rally on campus followed by a plantation at the university premises organized by the Center for Global Environmental Culture (CGEC) and the College of Tourism and Hospitality



Management (CTHM), with the collaboration of the wider RCE Greater Dhaka Network.

### RCE Srinagar celebrates World Environment Day

RCE Srinagar also organized a wide range of activities for World Environment Day. Considering the theme 'Think.Eat.Save', CEE Himalaya as part of RCE Srinagar focused on the topic of food wastage and the entire day's program was planned around the same. An important part of the WED celebrations included discussions on solid waste management in Gangtok. In addition to generating awareness amongst participants regarding food wastage and management of domestic waste, other key environmental issues were also touched upon. The event was

attended by more than 200 students. In addition, RCE Srinagar organized celebrations at two locations in Hamirpur district, Himachal Pradesh. The celebrations began with a rally in areas surrounding the participating schools. Following the rally, the students visited a nearby jungle with teachers and experts to learn about the rich biodiversity of the area. They then learnt about the causes of forest fires and ways to protect jungles from fires. After that the students proceeded to clean a patch of the the jungle by collecting *Chir Pine* (*Pinus roxburghii*) needles, a major cause of forest fires in summers. Afterwards, the students returned to their school and participated in various events like painting, poetry writing, and an environmental quiz. For more information please see the attached articles.

### **RCE UK Meeting (University of Gloucestershire, Cheltenham, 21 June 2013)**

Representatives of 7 RCEs in the UK came together in a meeting on 21 June 2013 to discuss UK regional priorities, challenges and future avenues for support and collaboration. The meeting, hosted by RCE Severn, proved to be an important space for participants to learn more about each others' activities and share individual and collective challenges, but more importantly to set up joint actions to improve communications and collaboration in the UK. Challenging issues were raised regarding governance; accessing funding; influencing change and promoting the educational agenda; and, engaging with European initiatives and decision-making processes. Some of these issues will be further discussed in a new series of webinars which will be jointly organised by RCEs in the UK and led by RCE Scotland. Other actions proposed for next academic year include the exploration of RCEs in the UK to engage in the employability/green skills agenda; work closer in youth projects and festivals; and, participate in M&E processes. It was also agreed that UK RCE meetings will take place in an annual basis every spring. RCE Manchester will be the next host. For more information, contact: Ingrid Mula (<mailto:ingridmula@glos.ac.uk>)

### **Meeting of RCEs in Barcelona and their contribution to GUNI conference**

Following on the updates on the GUNI conference in past bulletins, the RCE Global Service Centre would like to take special note of the role of RCE Wales, represented by Jane Claricoates, at the meeting. Their efforts to take the meeting outcomes forward to subsequent European RCE meetings are much appreciated. RCE Wales (UK), RCE Barcelona (Spain), RCE London, RCE Crete (Greece), Jogjakarta (Indonesia), RCE Penang (Malaysia), RCE Skane (Sweden), RCE Severn (UK), RCE Candidate Usti and Labem (Czech Republic) and RCE Candidate Lithuania came together in connection to the GUNI conference held in Barcelona, 13-15 May. In addition to the critical input to the discussion of transformation of higher education, they found an opportunity to share significant events in the lives of own ESD communities. Check out some familiar faces in this gallery of photos: <http://mosur.czp.cuni.cz/alba/barcelona/RCE/index.html>

### **Baltic and Black Sea Circle Consortium (BBCC)**

The Baltic and Black Sea Circle Consortium (BBCC) was established in 2005 in as an initiative in international cooperation between educational research and development institutions in the Baltic and Black Sea region, initially drawn from the countries around and near the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea ([www.ise-lv.eu](http://www.ise-lv.eu)). BBCC members meet every year at the annual international scientific conference "Sustainable Development. Culture. Education." The BBCC is recognised as a platform to engage with regions, especially in Eastern Europe, which might be interested in establishing RCEs. With the first attempt towards this goal undertaken in May through the conference in St. Petersburg, the network wishes to continue developing strategies for engagement. For more information contact Prof. Dr. Ilga Salite, University of Daugavpils [ilga.salite@du.lv](mailto:ilga.salite@du.lv) and Detlev Lindau-Bank, University of Vechta [detlev.lindau-bank@uni-vechta.de](mailto:detlev.lindau-bank@uni-vechta.de)

### **Second Call for Papers: World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities**

You are invited to submit expressions of interest to take part in the 2nd World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities (WSSDU-2014), to be held in Qatar on 28-30 January 2014. The symposium hopes to provide universities worldwide with an opportunity to display and present their works, while exchanging information, ideas and experiences with the wide network of participants. In addition, a book entitled "Transformative approaches to sustainable development across disciplines" is expected to be published, with all accepted papers. For more information please visit <http://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-als/veranstaltungen/world-symposium-on-sustainable-development-at-universities-wssd-u-2012.html>

### **Last Call: Zooming in on Biodiversity and Climate Change ASEAN-wide photo contest**

Do you want to help raise awareness for biodiversity and climate change? Join Zooming in on Biodiversity and Climate Change, an ASEAN-wide photography contest. The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and GIZ will accept entries until 31 July 2013. The contest is open to all residents of ASEAN Member States: Brunei Darussalam,

Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. There are three categories: professional, amateur, and student. For more information, see the attached document.

## New Publications and Resources:

### **New Publication: Inclusive and Relevant Learning Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa**

The United Nations Interagency Committee for Decade on Education for Sustainable Development launched a working paper on Inclusive and Relevant Learning Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa at the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). The paper was drafted with contributions from UNU-IAS, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNITAR, UNEP, and UN Habitat. It argues for the crucial role of education in sustainable African development and makes the case for new forms of learning and systems to be placed high on the global and African agendas, to ensure further progress. Please find the full text of the working paper attached.

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This is a publication of UNU-IAS RCE Global Service Centre.

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