

# International Cooperation Initiative



Formation of ESD International Cooperation Models  
Utilizing the Knowledge of Universities

2009



**MEXT**

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
CULTURE, SPORTS,  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN



# Developing University-based ESD International Cooperration Models

Discussions about the necessity of the United Nations' Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in international society and its fundamental outline and objectives have been carried out repeatedly up to now, and its importance to future generations has come to be recognized. Moreover, now that we are midway into the UN's "Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)." there are demands to strengthen ESD's practical applications all the more as well as to arrange its theoretical aspects.

Amid such circumstances, since FY 2008, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) -Japan through the International Cooperation Program has been utilizing the knowledge possessed by universities in Japan. Moreover, in collaboration with universities and the like overseas, MEXT has been undertaking the development of model activities and practical teaching materials that can be used in the relevant sites by diverse people engaged in ESD.

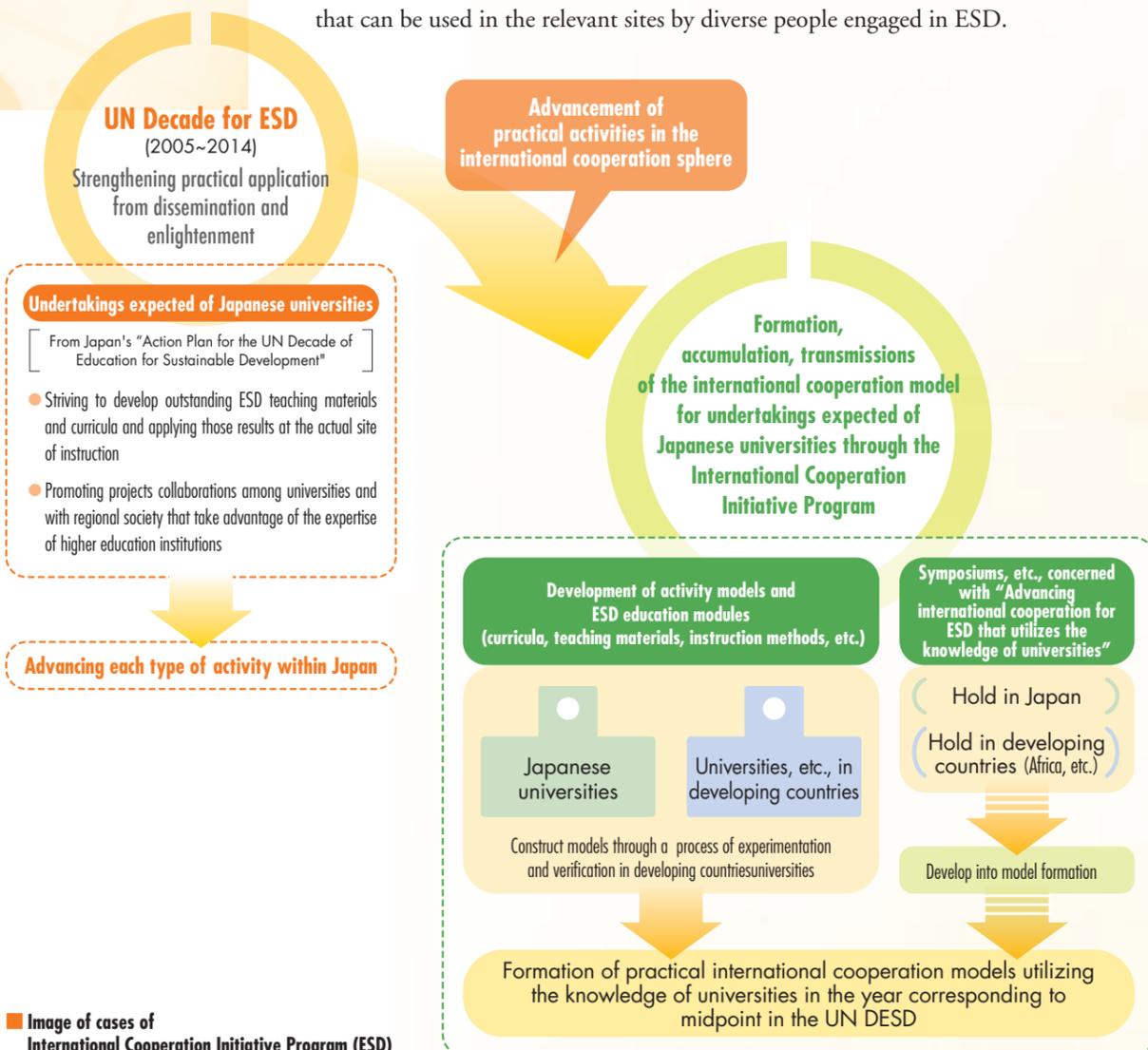


Image of cases of International Cooperation Initiative Program (ESD)

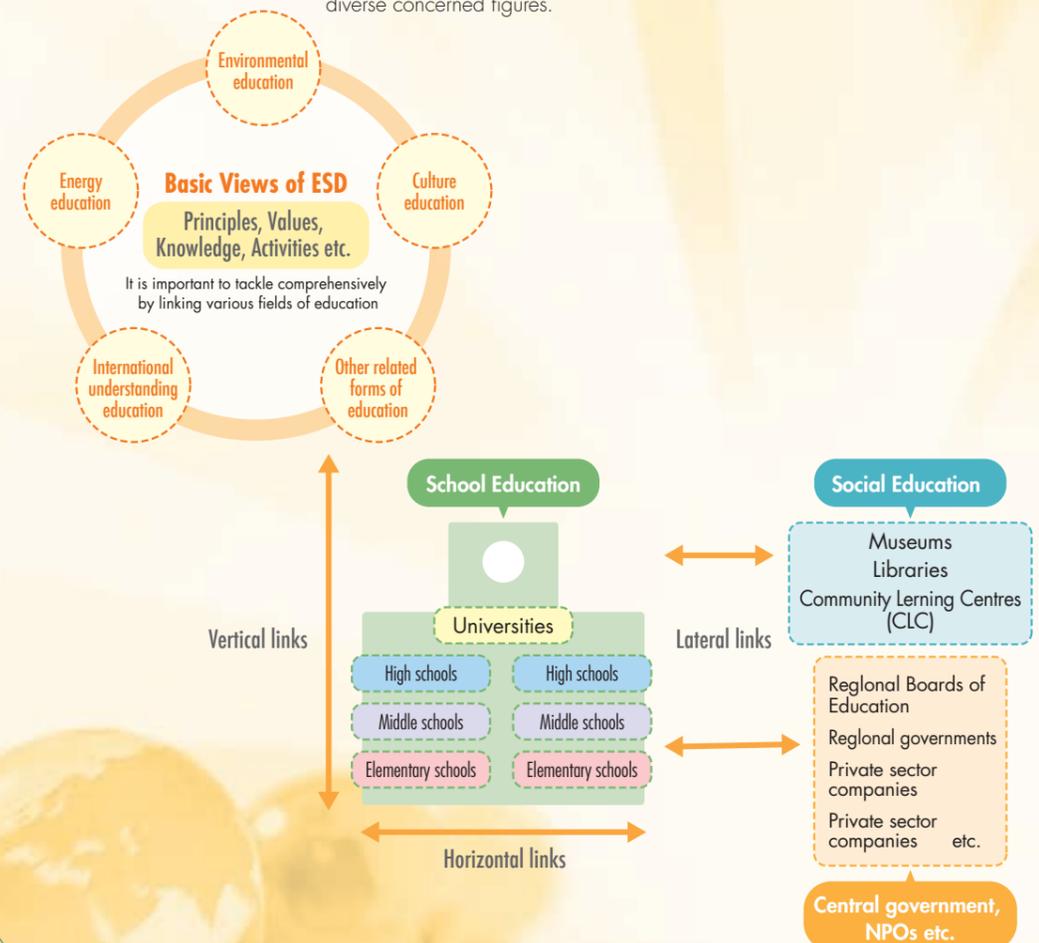
## What is ESD?

ESD, in brief, is to foster those who will shoulder the creation of a sustainable society. The following points are particularly necessary for implementing ESD.

- (1) Cultivating human nature, including the development of character, autonomy, judgment, and a sense of responsibility.
- (2) Fostering individuals who can acknowledge relationships with others, relationships with society, and relationships with the natural environment in addition to respecting relationships and connections.

For that reason, it is important for ESD not to be limited to individual fields that deal with problems involved in sustainable development, such as environmental education and international comprehension education but also to tackle this comprehensively in an interdisciplinary way from various aspects, including the environment, economy and society.

In December 2002, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, originally proposed by Japan, to make the ten-year period from 2005 to 2014 the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), and UNESCO was designated as the lead agency for promoting DESD. In Japan, the National Commission for UNESCO and related government ministries/agencies have been cooperating to promote ESD with diverse concerned figures.



# Cases Implemented in FY2009

In FY2009, nine Japanese universities will continue their collaboration with their counterparts in developing countries, in forming international ESD cooperation models for the benefit of the Asian and African regions.

This year's activities are distinguished by the implementation of ambitious efforts at the primary/middle/high school and university levels; and, in addition to individual fields, of new efforts aimed at establishing a framework model with ESD activities as its benchmark for the appraisal of universities, in conjunction with a broad range of domestic/international universities/organizations.

**Hokkaidou University of Education**  
ESD model module development for Basic Education in Zambia  
Country ▶ Zambia

**International Christian University**  
Education for Sustainable Development in Primary and Secondary Schools: A South Africa-Japan Collaboration Project to Develop a Learning Module for Classroom Application  
Country ▶ South Africa

**Ehime University**  
Development of ESD materials aimed to form global ethics under the collaboration between Mozambique and Japan  
Country ▶ Mozambique

**Miyagi University of Education**  
Development of ESD Pilot Materials for Madagascar through Tsimbazaza Zoological and Botanical Garden  
Country ▶ Madagascar

## Case for Africa

In FY2008, Asia and Africa were established as the primary target regions, and 10 Japanese universities have been undertaking the formation of ESD International Cooperation Models in cooperation with universities in developing countries. Distinguishing features of this fiscal year are that among all six Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) concerned with ESD in Japan, core universities in four regions (Greater Sendai Area, Yokohama, Hyogo-Kobe and Okayama) have launched international cooperation programs on ESD themes through this Initiative and also that the Japanese Universities are aiming for collaborations with RCEs overseas (Cebu, Penang, Yogyakarta, and Maputo).

**Hokkaidou University of Education**  
Collaborative Institution ▶ Lusaka  
ESD model module development for Basic Education in Zambia

**International Christian University**  
Object ▶ The University of CapeTown  
Education for Sustainable Development in Primary and Secondary Schools: A South Africa-Japan Collaboration Project to Develop a Learning Module for Classroom Application

**Mie University**  
Object ▶ Muhimbili University College of Health  
Development of Community-based Medical Education Module Incorporating and Promoting the Concepts of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

**Ehime University**  
Object ▶ Eduardo Mondlane University Lurio University  
Development of ESD materials aimed to form global ethics under the collaboration between Mozambique and Japan

**Miyagi University of Education**  
Collaborative Institution ▶ Tsimbazaza Zoological and Botanical Garden  
Development of ESD Pilot Materials for Madagascar through Tsimbazaza Zoological and Botanical Garden

(More Information)  
[http://www.scp.mext.go.jp/esd/index\\_e.html](http://www.scp.mext.go.jp/esd/index_e.html)  
(International Cooperation Initiative HP, MEXT)

**Mie University**  
Development of Community-based Medical Education Module Incorporating and Promoting the Concepts of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)  
Country ▶ Thailand, Tanzania, Laos, the United Arab Emirates

**Yokohama National University**  
RCEs Collaboration for ESD Human Resource Development: A Proposal for "Summer Program"  
Country ▶ Malaysia, Philippines

**Osaka University**  
The Curriculum Compilation of Education for Sustainable Development(ESD) in the Asian Network-Focus on Secondary School  
Country ▶ Thailand, Philippines, China, Korea

**Tokyo University of Agriculture**  
Program on Enhancing Food, Agriculture and Environment Education for Elementary School in Developing Country  
Country ▶ Cambodia

**Hokkaidou University**  
Alternative University Appraisal based on Education for Sustainable Development  
Country ▶ Asia-Pacific region



Hokkaido University of Education

## ESD model module development for Basic Education in Zambia

Zambia

We will develop cooperative education models such as curricula and learning materials for use in local schools. Last year, we produced a compilation of ESD learning materials with a "water" theme, through analysis of research on the local water regime as well as water-related syllabi and textbooks in science/social studies.

This year, we intend to enhance the learning materials by re-orienting their content to students, and producing a handbook for teachers that Zambian teachers can utilize to optimize their use of said materials.

Specifically, this involves implementing experimental classes at local schools, which we later collaborate with local education officials in analyzing, then interviewing the students, to ultimately formulate an assessment of learning materials. Moreover, materials developed will be inter-linked, whereby two types will be produced to correspond to local primary school standards, for lower

and higher grade levels, respectively. This year's materials derived thusly are scheduled for use by teachers and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in schools throughout Zambia.



Miyagi University of Education

## Development of ESD Pilot Materials for Madagascar through Tsimbazaza Zoological and Botanical Garden

Madagascar

Madagascar, southeast of Africa and a late developer among developing nations, is known for its unique degree of biodiversity, along with the rapid endangerment of this rich environment.

We plan to produce ESD materials for educational use at the Tsimbazaza National Zoo. The zoo is the nation's largest and only national zoological/botanical garden and museum of natural history, visited by more than 200,000 people each year. It also possesses an abundance of rare educational materials, in addition to excellent educational staff. We have high hopes for the pilot project to be implemented in 2010, of a curriculum that utilizes ESD materials.

To develop the corresponding materials, we are considering organizing Participatory Development (PD) discussions through the participation of the Tsimbazaza National Zoo Education Department, Ministry of Education, and teachers, in conjunction with a working group that consists of universities, teachers, and Sendai

Yagiyama Zoo. These ESD materials will emphasize the preservation of bio-diversity, as they are to be utilized in a zoo and in line with Madagascar's specific need to protect its natural environment. Furthermore, we intend to cultivate a deep understanding of school education in Madagascar, to facilitate development of widely-applicable materials for the future integration of ESD programs into school education.



Yokohama National University

## RCEs Collaboration for ESD Human Resource Development: A Proposal for "Summer Program"

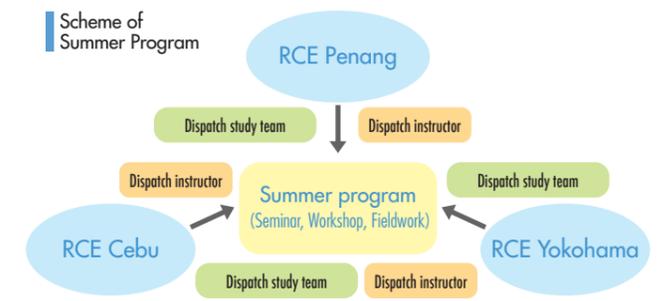
Malaysia, Philippines

We plan to develop a summer program for the cultivation of ESD personnel, revolving around international cooperation between RCEs (Regional Centres of Expertise for SD; 66 regions certified as at December of 2009). As proposed by the UNU, there are now RCEs, for the purpose of effectively implementing ESD through the establishment of cooperative networks between stakeholders and organizations that promote ESD regionally.

These efforts consist of promoting international coordination between RCEs by promoting and exploiting the knowledge of universities in developing a summer program (module, implementation plan, learning materials) for the cultivation of ESD personnel, through Yokohama National University's (core university of the Yokohama/Cebu/Penang RCE) collaboration with the University of the Philippines and University Sains Malaysia. The summer program's focus will

be to cultivate ESD personnel in Japan, Philippines, and Malaysia, by utilizing the RCE coordination framework based on the abundant experience accrued by YNU in its international implementation activities.

The summer program will be announced at RCE Conferences, ESD Conferences, UNESCO APEID, etc. (organized by the UNU and UNESCO), where feedback will be solicited, bringing attention to the role that Japanese/Asian higher education can play in international ESD efforts.



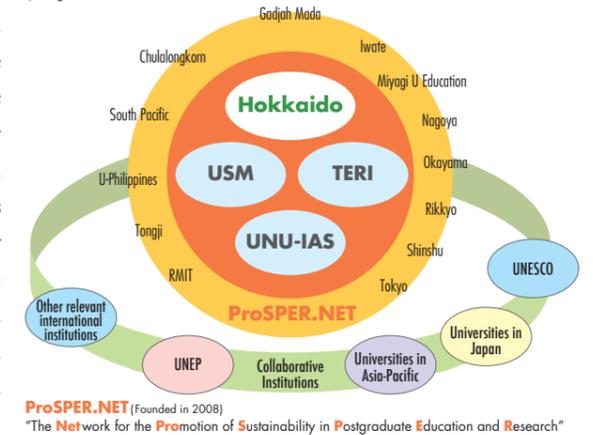
Hokkaido University

## Alternative University Appraisal based on Education for Sustainable Development

Asia-Pacific region

The realization of sustainable societies is presently one of mankind's most pressing issues. Hence, we will be establishing an "ESD University Appraisal Model" to serve as necessary guidance for universities in fostering elements that are necessary for further promotion of ESD activities by universities in the Asia-Pacific region. This project will proceed with the lead of Hokkaido University; UNU-IAS, University Sains Malaysia; University of Delhi (India); Yonsei University (S. Korea); and the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand) as the six core organizations, in conjunction with UNESCO and other international organizations, in boosting the value and attraction of ESD-oriented universities, while aiming to assist universities in developing countries with their ESD activities. Moreover, by diffusing this model widely throughout universities in the Asia-Pacific region, it will serve to reinforce cooperation between universities to achieve the ultimate goal - the formation of an "ESD Learning Community" - a collective that aims to learn from superior efforts implemented by others.

Opinions that were accumulated through countless opportunities at conferences and symposiums will be reflected in establishing this model. This project will also work to facilitate the incorporation of outcomes into the monitoring/appraisal framework for the 2nd cycle of UNESCO's DESD, as well as its promotion/diffusion.



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URL [http://www.scp.mext.go.jp/esd/index\\_e.html](http://www.scp.mext.go.jp/esd/index_e.html)

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