

**First RCE Thematic Conference: Towards Achieving the SDGs
5-7 December, 2017, Okayama, Japan**



UNITED NATIONS
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UNU-IAS

Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability

Closing Remarks

6 December, 2017, Okayama, Japan

Presenters:

- **Dr. Hiroki Fujii (Vice-Chair, Steering Board of Okayama ESD Promotion Commission)**
- **Prof. Hiroshi Kanzaki (Deputy President, Okayama University)**
- **Mr. Naoya Tsukamoto (Project Director, UNU-IAS)**

Dr. Hiroki Fujii (Vice-Chair, Steering Board of Okayama ESD Promotion Commission)

Dr. Hiroki Fujii thanked the Chairman, speakers and delegates for being an excellent audience providing stimulating discussion throughout the course of the conference. He also thanked Okayama University, United Nations University, Okayama city and companies for their support in organising and conducting the conference. It highlighted the importance of partnerships in each area as well as the linkage and cooperation between formal and informal education.

Prof. Hiroshi Kanzaki (Deputy President, Okayama University)

Prof. Hiroshi Kanzaki thanked students from the university, expressing the hope they would be involved in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and be future participants of future conferences, representing the young generation.

Mr. Naoya Tsukamoto (Project Director, UNU-IAS)

Mr. Naoya Tsukamoto delivered his closing address before the meeting was closed:

“Two days go quickly, thank you everyone for the richness and fruitfulness of the meeting. Appreciate the contributions to the meeting, the richness comes from the RCE (Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD) Networks, motivated and committed to come here, thank you for your participation. We have the privilege to come here, we have learned a lot from Okayama and will learn a lot tomorrow too. Thank you Okayama University and the City of Okayama for your warm hospitality. We are supported by staff from the Convention Centre, translators, students, UNU-IAS staff, thank you everyone who supported us to have this meeting. This First RCE Thematic Meeting has been experimental. We reduced the number of participants compared to the ordinary global meeting. We focused on three themes, even through these, you can reach all goals, but hope you had deeper discussions, and closer communication. The question is how much can we extract from this new experiment? Please bring insights, new ideas, relations, share them with your colleagues in your RCEs, students, other RCEs in your country and region. Let’s see each other next year in the next global meeting.”