

**Reporting Continental Sessions**  
15:00-17:00, 23 November 2016

Moderator: Philip Vaughter (UNU-IAS)  
Africa: Maarifa Ali Mwakumanya (RCE Greater Pwani)  
Americas: Ibrahim Ibrahim (RCE Greater Portland)  
Asia Pacific: Brittany Lee Hardiman (RCE Greater Western Sydney)  
Europe: Jos Hermans (Regional Adviser to Europe)

**RCEs Africa**

**Discussion Points**

1. Development of strategic plans and capacity development programmes for enhanced and continued commitment for effective delivery of the Global Action Plan (GAP) and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is need for strategic direction and capacity development for effectively implementation of GAP and SDGs in Africa
2. Enhancing collaborations among the African RCEs to increase the strength to engage with the regional, continental and global bodies. This will enhance the collaboration and partnerships among African RCEs
3. Enhancing youth engagement frameworks such as the ESD youth networks in the region in the implementation of GAP and SDGs activities. This is to tap into youth potential energies for project implementation

**Action Points**

1. To engage with regional and continental Intergovernmental agencies such as the AU, ECOWAS, EAC, SADC, UNEP, UNDP etc to expand the linkages for the implementation of the GAP and SDGs. The region is requesting UNU-IAS to facilitate and support the engagement initiatives
2. To engage with the private sector for wider stakeholder involvement and to tap on the financial support for sustainability of GAP and ESD activities. This will be part of the on-going mobilization of the stakeholders' processes
3. To explore and strengthen communication channels among the African RCEs for sharing of information on the on-going activities. This will be realized through the establishment of African RCE Newsletter and strengthening of the continental monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and reporting strategies.

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## **RCE Americas**

### **Discussion Points**

#### **1. Communications**

The need to convey information in a timely and efficient matter for the whole RCE community in the region was discussed, including English and Spanish (and Portuguese and French when possible). The need for basic translation elements from English into Spanish was highlighted

#### **2. Curriculum Development**

The region is in need of curriculum development and distribution to teachers and professors in formal education systems. Too often there is a lot of enthusiasm but little knowledge of pedagogy or good practices.

#### **3. Youth**

The need for better engagement and communication with youth within the RCEs of the region was highlighted. The concern is that while some RCEs are quite actively integrating youth into their activities, others in the region are not

#### **4. Indigenous Knowledge and Communities Engagement**

The need to better engage with First Nations and Indigenous communities within RCE regions was also highlighted, especially given the nations' in the region's complicated relationship with Indigenous communities, including legal and land relations.

### **Actions Points**

#### **1. Communication**

- A Facebook page should be created for the RCEs in the region, as suggested by the regional action plan. Members of RCE Border Lands have offered to help with translation of summary points into Spanish
- A list serve will be updated to include all members
- Drop Box and/or Google Drive will be used to share, disseminate documents

#### **2. Curriculum Development**

- Ask RCEs to develop local biodiversity curriculum for students in their region as suggested at regional meeting
- Work on coordinating a structure for template between RCEs
- Ask RCEs to choose a mascot (RCE Borderlands says they can help with finding graphic designers)

#### **3. Youth**

- Create common communication platform for youth in region(s) – similar to African RCE Youth network
- Recommend each ‘region’ in Americas work with a given regional youth coordinator, and that all RCEs in the region select two youth to act as youth coordinator and as vice
- Continue work on exchanges between RCEs for youth in the regions

#### **4. Traditional Knowledge**

RCEs in Latin America create a diploma course on TK as it can be applied to ESD/SD  
Also, RCE Lima is working on a project looking at biodiversity, TK, and nutrition; RCE community invited to work with them on this.

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### **RCEs Asia Pacific**

#### **Discussion Points**

##### **1. RCE Collaborations**

- With over 30 RCEs collaborating and connecting, projects include research programmes, events, student exchanges, workshops and school student virtual connections, thematic initiatives, Awards
- RCE Tongyeong Sejahtera Forest Centre “Wellbeing Harmony and co-existence”: 23 RCEs celebrated the opening of the Sejahtera Forest Centre in 2015; 8th ESD International Forum (10 RCEs); Bridge to the World programme connecting South Korean High School students with RCEs globally, Sejahtera Forest Centre Research Fellowship RCE Penang for a 3 month comparative research
- Business of Sustainable Tourism Programme (RCE Greater Western Sydney)
- RCE Penang virtual collaboration;
- RCE Waikato Climate Change Initiative ESD (RCE Skane, RCE Iskandar)
- RCE Iskandar a living lab project (RCE Murray-Darling)
- RCE Okayama ESD Award
- RCEs are calling for more future collaboration

##### **2. Inter-governmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

- Strong interest to collaborate with AP RCEs
- IPBES Capacity Building Workshop during the 9th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (24 RCEs). Database connects with 1,200 experts and can inform policy work.
- Find a programme that connects all AP RCEs focused on biodiversity, food, ecosystems health and services and indigenous knowledge.

#### **Action Points**

1. AP RCE coordinating committee new volunteers
  2. Other future programme collaborations put forward by members included:
    - RCE Tongyeong: Bridge to the World programme to connect with RCEs
    - International youth camp for RCEs
    - Sejahtera Forest Centre Research Fellowship program
    - 24/24 program to virtually connect 24 schools in 24 hours to share project stories
    - RCE Chennai: VET eye health programs upskilling 300 students to assist with new optical shops and treatments/intervention. Looking to upscale across India, or regionally.
    - Expansion of IPBES program to include more AP RCEs and RAMSARS wetlands (RCE Iskandar)
    - RCE Central Semenanjung: Disadvantaged Children programme
    - RCE Greater Western Sydney future collaboration with a multi-discipline
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## **RCEs Europe**

### **Action Points**

1. Organizing an active RCE-recruitment for 2017 in order to assist existing RCEs that are in need of help, and to invite new partners in South and North to mobilize efforts for proposing new RCEs.
2. Continuing the support and funding of meaningful curriculum-development projects.
3. Providing a conference calendar, which shows which RCE will attend a conference. This should strengthen the collaboration and communication among the European RCEs. Margaret (RCE EM) and Maari (RCE Espoo) will develop a layout for the conference calendar. Although there was a conference calendar on the RCE Portal, there was the additional need to show which RCEs are engaged in which activities.
4. Organize a public awareness campaign on Migrants issues.
5. Organize an Open Call for the next continental meeting. Detlev, as communicator of the European RCEs will submit the open call to UNU-IAS.