2014 RCE Awards for Innovative Projects on Education for Sustainable Development

The Global RCE Service Centre of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) announces a call for nominations for the 2014 RCE Award. This year's award is linked to the RCE annual reporting. RCEs are encouraged to nominate one of their ongoing flagship projects for the award. Flagship projects illustrate how RCEs address prioritised local sustainable development challenges. They have the potential to leverage partnerships and funding for other projects within an RCE network.

Projects nominated for the Award are to demonstrate how an RCE is promoting multi-stakeholder learning processes through policy dialogue, research and collaborative partnerships. Award recipients will be recognized at the 9th Global RCE Conference that will be held on 4 – 7 November in Okayama, Japan.

Goal and categories for the Awards

The purpose of the Award is to celebrate outstanding projects on education for sustainable development (ESD) with a view to increasing the visibility of the work of individual RCEs as well as the Global RCE network. The Award also aims at highlighting how distinct sustainable development capacities, expertise and resources within an RCE network are being drawn upon to implement transformative collaborative projects within various ESD thematic areas. Submissions are invited in any of the following thematic categories to underscore the contribution of RCEs to the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and UNESCO's proposal for a Global Action Programme.

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate change
3. Disaster risk reduction
4. Health
5. Higher education
6. Inclusive development and learning
7. Sustainable consumption and production
8. Teacher education
9. Traditional knowledge
10. Youth

Within these categories RCEs implement a broad range of ESD projects and activities that include, but are not limited to the following:
- Bridging local and global perspectives on sustainable development
- Applying innovative assessment and evaluation strategies to collaborative ESD projects and activities
- Practicing reflexive, open-ended, communicative and interactive forms of steering and coordination.
- Contributing to community engagement, research and development.
- Enabling policy formulation and capacity development.

- Scaling up of ESD and sustainable development projects and activities with reference to the five priority areas in the UNESCO's proposal for a Global Action Programme (http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002243/224368e.pdf).

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for the RCE Award, nominated projects need to:

- Be a partnership between different RCE stakeholders.
- Be supported (joint nomination) by the key RCE participating stakeholders
- Be in the final stages of implementation.
- Have not been recognised in the 2013 RCE Award.
- Be the only one submission for a chosen category for the RCE (one submission per category is accepted from each RCE).

Criteria

To receive the 2014 Award, RCEs must demonstrate that their nominated projects meet the above-mentioned eligibility criteria and also:

- Address one or several sustainability challenges in the region
- Contribute to formal and/or non-formal learning and educational processes for sustainable development.
- Engage multiple stakeholders within a defined coordination structure.
- Discuss and demonstrate transformative learning and research dimensions in the project.
- Discuss and demonstrate development of new knowledge and innovations with reference to project category (if applicable).
- Encourage participation and support of local communities (if applicable)
- Discuss any challenges faced during implementation and how they were dealt with and overcome
- Discuss the ways of dissemination of project results
- Discuss ways of further scaling up, mainstreaming and deepening ideas and actions of the project (ways forward)

Format for Submission and review

Online submission of the Award project is to be done on the RCE Portal and can be done either as part of the Annual Reporting process (http://www.rce-network.org/portal/all-annual-reports), so RCE members can avoid inputting information twice. It can also be done outside the Annual Reporting process for those RCE members who prefer that option (http://www.rce-network.org/portal/awards). The dateline for online submission is **1ˢᵗ September 2014.**

Review of the submitted materials is to be undertaken by the RCE Working Group comprising representatives from RCEs and UNU-IAS. Announcement and celebration of the Award Winners will be on 6ᵗʰ November 2014.