

Okayama - building a sustainable society through community and cooperation



# RCE Okayama Okayama **ESD** Education for Sustainable Development Project

What can you give to the future?

May all on Earth find happiness.

**Learning together and pass on  
our precious earth to the next generation!**

Think locally; enrich life with each small action.

What really matters to you?



Okayama ESD Promotion Commission

## What is ESD (Education for Sustainable Development)?

ESD is learning how to carry out the “building of a sustainable society.” It is the process of learning we engage in when sharing opinions and tackling problems together in our daily life such as reducing disasters, caring for the environment and building peace, international understanding and multicultural coexistence. ESD means not only thinking, but also learning and taking actions to solve problems at hand, and create new values while building a sustainable society.



Education

## Japan's Initiative: A Future Nourished by a Decade of ESD.

At the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, the United Nations accepted a proposal from the Japanese government in cooperation with Japanese NGOs and declared 2005-2014 as “the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development”. Since 2005, UNESCO has created a range of international initiatives promoting ESD globally. The UNESCO World Conference on ESD will be held in Okayama City and Nagoya City (Aichi prefecture) in 2014. Locally, Okayama City has been promoting ESD activities in cooperation with various organizations and schools, especially at Community Learning Centers (Kominkans) and Associated Schools Project Networks (ASPnet). From 2015, the “New Okayama ESD Project” initiatives will also commence.



Sustainable



Development

## Aims of ESD

### Objectives

- Everyone should receive the benefits of high quality education.
- The principles, sense of values and actions that characterize sustainable development should inform every stage of learning.
- Education should bring about changes in values and behavior that help realize an environmentally and economically sustainable future for all.

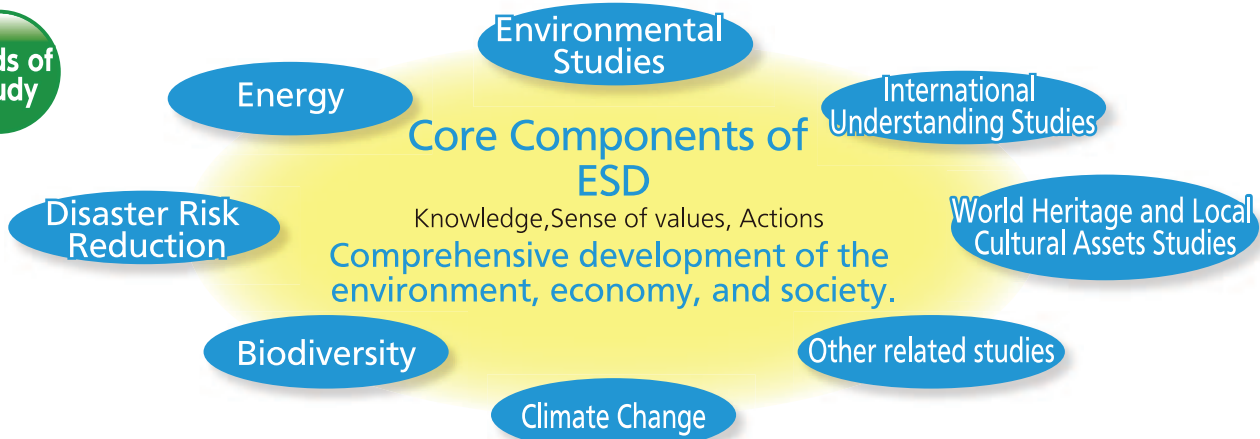
### Central Ideas

- ESD aims to develop leaders who can build a sustainable society, foster humanity, respect others and build meaningful relationships in communities.
- In order to comprehensively resolve challenges, it is essential to integrate general education and other educational fields such as the environment, international understanding and human rights, and foster interdisciplinary approaches.

### Essential Skills

- Sense of values in harmony with sustainable development: an inclusive approach showing respect for humanity, diversity, equal opportunity and the environment.
- Systematic thinking: understanding problems and contexts, taking into account diverse perspectives to form a complete picture of the situation
- Practical Planning: Critical thinking
- Data and information analysis
- Communicative competency
- Leadership

### Fields of Study

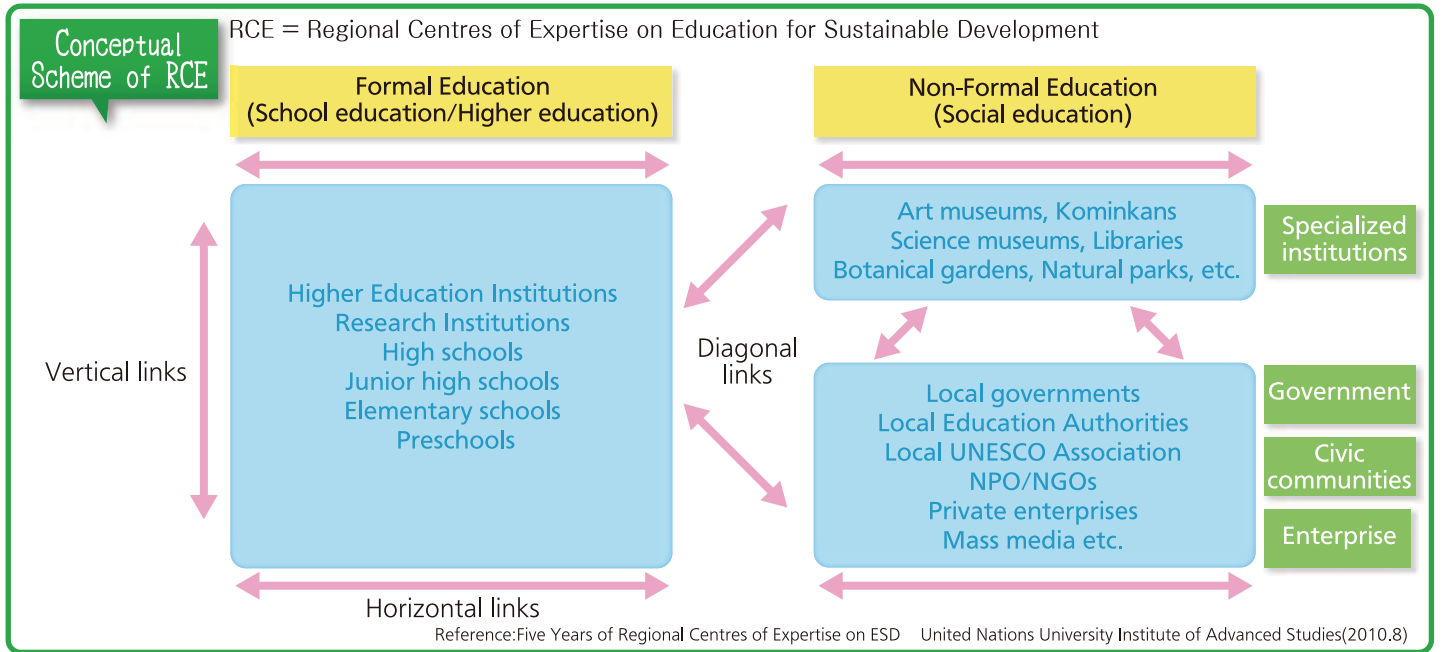


We aim to cultivate a new vision of humanity!

# RCE spreading throughout the world

RCE = Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development

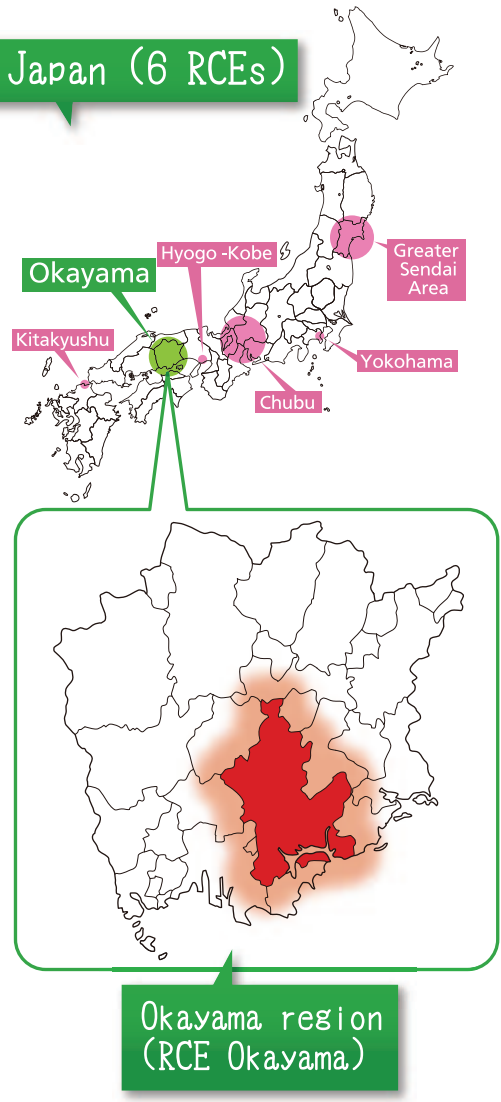
RCEs have been proposed and approved by the United Nations University in order to increase the number of regional centres that aim to enhance ESD all over the world. RCEs aim to be innovative venues for dialogue and cooperation between diverse organizations and groups (such as educational institutions, local governments, and civic groups.) The Okayama region was acknowledged as one of the world's first seven RCEs in June 2005. Currently the number of RCEs has increased to 117 and they will cooperate harmoniously with local networks based on their individual characteristics and needs.



## RCEs around the world (117 RCEs)



## RCEs in Japan (6 RCEs)



In 2002, the United Nations declared the “UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” to enhance ESD movements all over the world from 2005 through 2014. Since receiving this resolution, the United Nations University has been developing a global network of RCEs for the purpose of practicing global aims at the local level. RCE Okayama has worked proactively on ESD as a founding member from an early stage and now attracts attention from all over the world.



United Nations University  
Institute of  
Advanced Studies:  
Kazuhiko Takemoto  
Senior Director

※RCE Okayama is one of the initial seven RCEs. In June 2005, the Okayama region was acknowledged as one of the world's first seven RCEs.

# Come and see the “Okayama ESD Project”

## Introducing the Okayama ESD Project

In April 2005, we set up the Okayama ESD Promotion Commission, which is composed of related organizations and groups. Led by this council, we formulated the “Okayama ESD Project Fundamental Plan” and started the “Okayama ESD Project” in order to promote ESD activities in the Okayama region in our role as an RCE.

The number of project participants has increased and more than 160 organizations are presently active. Many schools practice ESD activities and local universities support the promotion of ESD activities through the project. Okayama City takes a central role as a secretariat and has placed ESD coordinators to help organizations that promote activities in conjunction with ESD, such as environmental education, in order to encourage local connections and build strong networks. Based on links through local community centres and high school districts, ESD activities are spreading widely and the “Okayama model” is gaining attention around the world.

There are over 100 RCE authorized localities all over the world and ESD activities are spreading domestically and internationally. Within this dynamic, we will contribute to the promotion of broad-based ESD by making use of our experience as the world's first authorized RCE, exchanging information about our past projects and achievements with our RCE partners.

## Characteristics of Okayama.

### Purpose of the ESD Project

“To create a community where people learn, think and act together towards realizing a sustainable society”

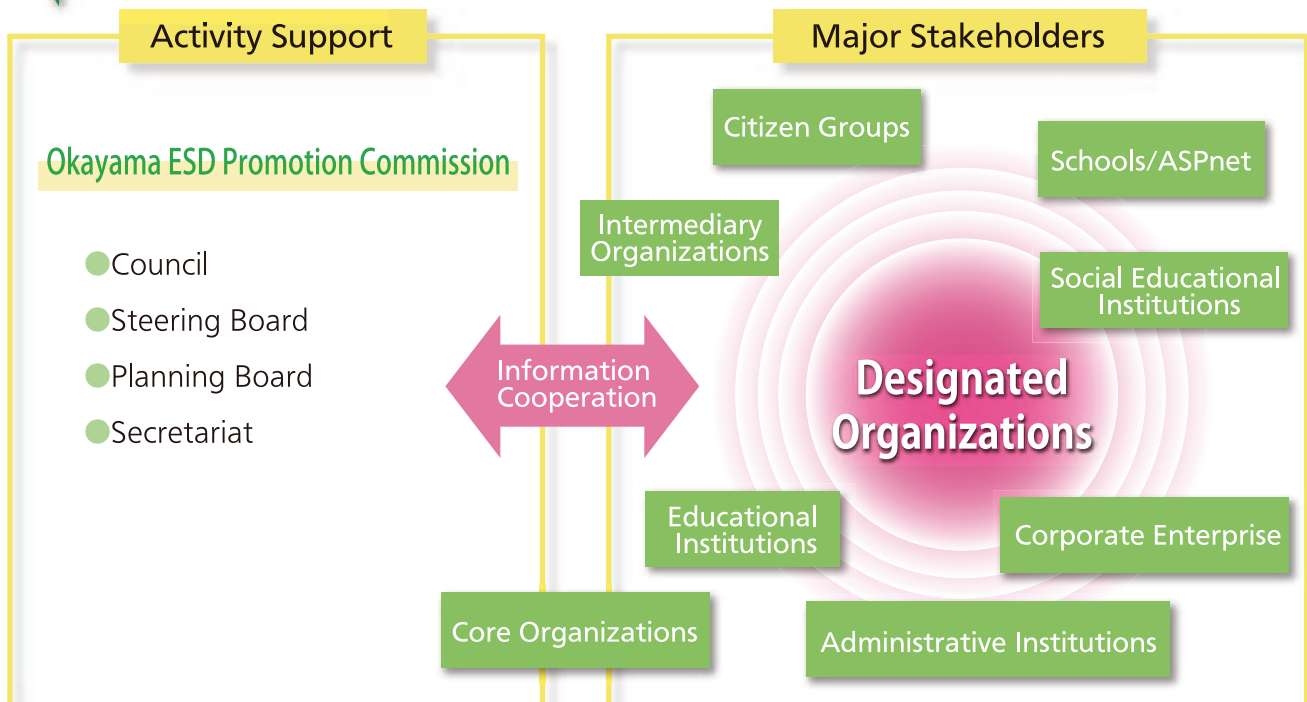


### Objectives of the ESD Project

- Improve knowledge and understanding about sustainable lifestyles among all people living in the Okayama region.
- Expand the circle of people who take initiative in building sustainable programs throughout the local community.
- Develop each organization involved in ESD and enhance its capabilities

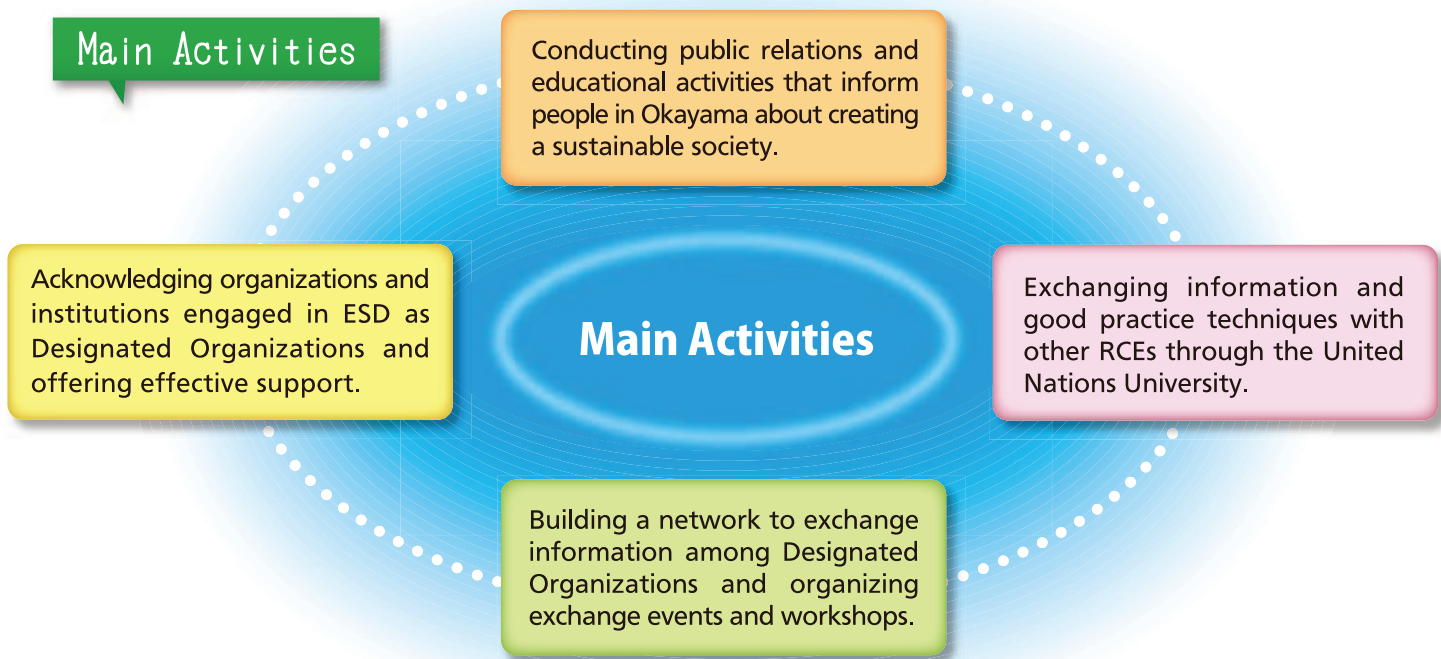
### Conceptual Scheme

### Okayama ESD Project

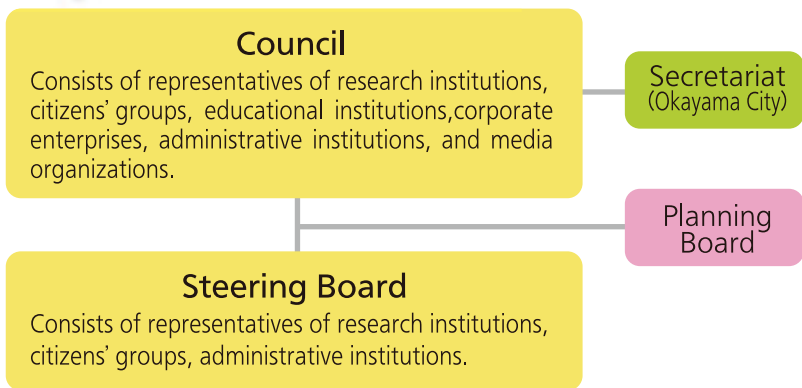


# What is the Okayama ESD Promotion Commission?

The Okayama ESD Promotion Commission aims to effectively promote the unique qualities of ESD initiatives created in the Okayama region. It consists of ESD-related educational institutions, citizen's groups, enterprises, administrations and media organizations. The secretariat is based in Okayama City and has been promoting the "Okayama ESD Project."



## Organizational Structure



## "Developing ESD activities in Okayama"

Today, we are facing various issues in the world and we need new prospects and policies to rectify them. Implementation of ESD practices and a sound development of general scientific understanding will pave the way. The future development of ESD activity depends on us all understanding the causes of problems, searching for a way to realize sustainable solutions and cooperating together to make this a reality.

The whole world is enthusiastic about the UNESCO World Conference in 2014. Fruitful discussions and meaningful activities are being promoted every day in Japan and Okayama, in its role as host city, Okayama will be one of the pioneers of this movement.



President of Okayama ESD Promotion Commission  
Emeritus Professor of Okayama University:  
Isao Aoyama

