

UNESCO ASPnet International ESD Events for Students and Teachers

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

4-8 November 2014
Okayama and other Prefectures, Japan

1. Background

To mark the end of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014), the Government of Japan and UNESCO will host a World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). During this event, which will take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 10 to 12 November, 2014, we will celebrate a decade of action and set the agenda for ESD beyond 2014. The Conference will also launch the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD as a follow-up to the Decade.

Before the Conference, a set of stakeholder meetings will take place in Okayama from 4 to 8 November: the UNESCO ASPnet International ESD Events for Students and Teachers, the UNESCO ESD Youth Conference and the Global Conference of the Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) on ESD.

The ASPnet International ESD Events will gather teachers and students from UNESCO Associated Schools around the world to present and share their experiences and initiatives in relation to ESD. One participating Japanese team and one overseas team will be identified to take part in the World Conference in Aichi-Nagoya as representatives of ASPnet schools to share their views and opinions with decision-makers and ESD experts.

2. Organizers

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Japan (MEXT); Japanese National Commission for UNESCO; UNESCO

3. ASPnet Platform for students

The Platform will gather students of UNESCO Associated Schools from 32 countries to exchange their experiences and practices in innovative, interactive and dynamic ways. Together, they will draft a joint declaration on how ASPnet will support ESD and the GAP in the future.

Objectives

- Share ESD achievements and commit to further ESD activities beyond the DESD.
- Strengthen interactions and cooperation among young people through the UNESCO ASPnet.
- Discuss the role of ASPnet students, as future decision-makers, in building sustainable societies.

Organizing Partners

Okayama City, Okayama City Board of Education, Okayama Prefecture, Okayama Prefectural Board of Education, Okayama Prefectural Association of Upper Secondary School Principals, Osaka Prefectural University and Osaka ASPnet

Schedule for the student participants

4 November: Exchange day in local school communities (*see Appendix A*)
6-7 November: Platform for Students
8 November: Excursion

Venue

Hotel Granvia Okayama (Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture)

Participants

31 overseas teams and 9 Japanese teams (*see Appendix B for list of invited countries*):
- 160 ASPnet students, aged 15-18 years old
- 40 ASPnet teachers

Working languages

English, Japanese and French for plenary sessions with simultaneous interpretation
English and Japanese for all other sessions

4. ASPnet Platform for teachers

The ASPnet Platform for Teachers will gather 40 ASPnet teachers from 32 countries to share their ESD achievements and discuss post-DESD efforts. Teachers will also participate in the Japan National Conference on UNESCO ASPnet to adopt an ASPnet declaration that will support ESD beyond 2014.

Objectives

- Share ESD achievements and ideas to further ESD activities in their schools.
- Discuss post-DESD actions and commitments to the GAP.
- Strengthen international partnerships among participants.

Organizing Partners

Okayama City, Okayama City Board of Education, Okayama Prefecture, Okayama Prefectural Board of Education, Okayama Prefectural Association of Upper Secondary School Principals, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

Schedule for the teacher participants

4 November: Exchange day in local school communities (*see Appendix A*)
6-7 November: Participation in the Platform for Students as observers
7 November: Platform for Teachers
8 November: Japan's National Conference on UNESCO ASPnet

Venue

Hotel Granvia Okayama (Okayama-City, Okayama Prefecture)

Participants

40 ASPnet teachers from 32 countries (31 from overseas and 9 Japanese teachers)