

We wish our world to be enriched with nature, filled with the energy from the people, and not suffer from poverty or discrimination. To that end, the society must be equitable and autonomous, based on the lessons we learned from the East Japan Great Earthquake disasters. These are lessons such as self-reliance, cooperation with others, and rescue and assistance by public bodies.

To create such a peaceful society on our own, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been promoted in schools, companies, organizations, and communities throughout Japan.

A global collaboration on ESD is necessary to build a sustainable society, while taking into consideration global issues such as climate change, large-scale disasters, and disputes.

ESD activities teach you to appreciate the hardships and knowledge of predecessors, to take responsibility, and to promote the motivation and ability to create a better world. This requires that people from all walks of life work together.

It is important to participate in social activities, to work with others, to learn from field experience, and to work on the "questions" without answers.

We have promoted ESD activities all over Japan. In August 2014, the National Conference on ESD Practical Models 2014 was held in Tokyo, and we came to a conclusion with five proposals to strengthen the system for cooperation, and to implement policies to promote ESD inside and outside Japan during and after 2015.

1. Create a system to provide the support information/text in the implementation of ESD for all.

- A great deal of teaching materials and programs for ESD were developed. An archive, where anyone can share and use the materials and information, is required.
- A portal site which provides the latest information on the policies and the funds related to ESD is also required.

2. Create a system to focus on various ESD activities and to speak highly of each other.

- It is important to establish a structure with media, local government, companies, and the government, to "speak highly of" outstanding ESD practices.
- Let's promote ESD activities at the local community level, by developing an ESD award.

3. Create opportunities for coordinators to practice ESD actively.

- ESD will be accelerated at the local level, if local ESD coordinators play an active part in visualizing the training and learning opportunities to promote and coordinate ESD activities.
- It is necessary to develop more ESD coordinators and to value their social work.
- Trainings are needed for the coordinators and educators to strengthen their facilitation skills. This means the skills to draw individuality and spontaneously is also required.

4. Encourage citizens to participate in ESD activities at the local level.

- It is necessary for the heads of local governments and the local governments, to promote ESD based on the needs of the citizens, and also for the citizens to participate voluntarily and actively in the ESD initiative. Building an environment for future generations to practice ESD is indispensable.
- Schools, through curriculum, and society, through local activities in the area, can accelerate sustainable solutions at the local level.
- Collaboration of school work and local activities will empower youth to contribute to sustainable development, by teaching them the ability to live and survive in society.
- ESD takes place at the local area. It is effective to establish a consortium with public committees and councils in collaboration with elementary/middle/high school, higher education organizations, companies, administration, and NPO, to develop a sustainable society.

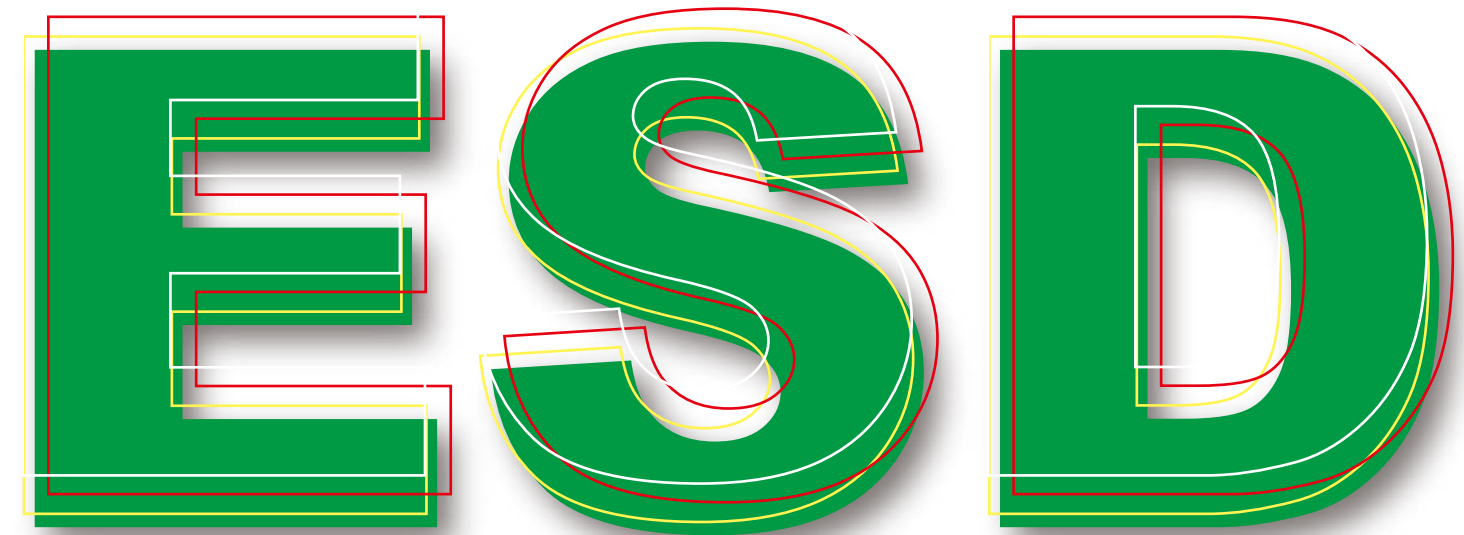
5. Connect people all over the world, to learn from each other and to work together to solve global issues.

- It is critically important to connect people with different cultures and history to empower the understanding of ESD, trust, and cooperation. It will help reduce poverty, protect fundamental human rights and the global environment, and develop global citizens.
- It is necessary to establish a system to connect schools and communities all over the world to learn from each other.
- To meet the expectations for Japan, from the world, the ESD activities that take place in Japan need to be visualized and introduced globally. It is necessary to build an internet website in English and to participate in international conferences.

Let's make a platform at the local and national level, to work with a network of citizens and organizations to accelerate the expansion of ESD. This should include government, business organizations, educational organizations, NPOs, and youth.



The Global citizen's Conference 2014 on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)



The Global citizen's Conference 2014 on the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)

Date + Time: August 21-22, 2014 10am-6pm

Venue: United Nations University

Organizer: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology,
the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Co-Organizers: United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS),

Supporting Organizations: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ministry of the Environment