



## ESD Experience Report from Next Generation:

We asked the next generation in ESD “What do you think is important and needs to be done to promote ESD programs that you have participated in?” Here are the answers from the children:



**1. Nachikatsuura Elementary School**  
It is important for us to learn the tradition and culture, then to pass on what we learned to next generation and provide information.



**2. Eco idea kids, Lake Biwa**  
To come to like the environment is the key to protect the environment. I began to like my town when I started ESD activities.



**3. Nichinoken**  
People around the world should value the awareness to “understand others and help each other”. I would like to be aware of that personally, and I hope adults will as well.



**4. Aichi-Nagoya Children's Conference on ESD**  
To communicate with a variety of people and things is important. I learned that expanding communication with others helps me be able to do something I couldn't do yesterday. The world will change by spreading communication.



**5. The Goi Peace Foundation**  
There are things that we, as children, can't do to promote ESD activities. Getting the help from adults will lead to a globally sustainable society.



**6. Tama&Okayama UNESCO associated schools**  
It is important to introduce our activities to citizens and schools in the local area. Having interests and awareness will lead to involvement in activities. It is also necessary to have an opportunity to share information and communicate with people around the world



**7. Girl scout Mikawa kitachiku of Aichi**  
Continual activities will empower our ability and that will lead to a bigger outcome. In addition, if we could introduce the outcome to many people, we can create a cycle to involve more people to promote the activities.



**8. Ramsar Center Japan**  
It is important to develop repeaters for ESD activities. Various experiences, including presenting at international conferences, will develop leading actors, and continual activities will provide more learning experiences. These experiences will contribute for a sustainable society.



**9. Chubu University**  
It is essential to recognize problems. It is especially essential to recognize the elements which complicate developing a sustainable society. We should not avoid talking about negative topics and approach them head-on.



**10. Kyoyama ESD Commission, Okayama city**  
The common item among the presentations today was “continual activity”. It is not easy but necessary. Continual activity will create a new prospect and activity.



**11. UNESCO club of Nara University of Education**  
Expanding communication between schools both nationwide and worldwide is necessary and it is our challenge. We will develop the communication and pass this on to next generation, when we become teachers.



## Closing Panel

### Summary of Round-Table Discussions



**Mr. Takashi Asai** Director General, UNESCO World Conference on ESD Promotion Bureau  
“E” in ESD stands for Education in many fields. Local governments have the idea that the Board of Education should be responsible for ESD, but this idea does not help in promoting ESD. The local governments who participated in the round-table discussion understand the broad meaning of education. Although the Board of Education plays a large role, it is more than just their issue, and the cities and towns as a whole, should think of ESD. The biggest issue is that ESD is hard to understand for citizens. I am always asked, “What is ESD?”, but it is difficult to answer in one word. That is because the theme of ESD is very large and it involves a lot of things. The head of a city or town has a large role and if he/she is a great leader, then ESD is well practiced throughout the city or town. Those cities have a unique opportunity to introduce ESD in easy manner and to promote ESD, rather than to just explain ESD.



**Mr. Masahiro Kawatei** Representative for CEPA Japan/ CSR Manager at Hakuodo Inc.,  
The challenges at local levels could be a “theme” for industries. It is essential to discuss a common theme in collaboration with local communities. Working on the theme creates discussions on how to manage the company to become sustainable, or how to produce stable employment. It is also necessary for local communities to approach industries for sharing key points, or for creating shared values with local governments, educational organizations, or NGOs. We need to implement activities from the stand point of both industries and local communities. Industry is an organization and varies in size. Respectful conversations with executives in authority are important for people on site, and it can be done in cooperation with local communities.



**Ms. Chisato Murakami** Secretariat-General of Policy Advocacy Coordinator, Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J)  
The common item from the speakers, who are practicing ESD actively in every field as NGOs, was “Quality of Education”. It is important to enhance the quality of ESD by gaining scientific/technical knowledge through social challenges and our daily lives, developing the ability to ask oneself a critical question from various points of views, or finding a social challenge and taking action with responsibility. It is essential to “change learning method”, to provide a learning opportunity mainly composed of participants rather than conventional participation. It is mentioned that teachers and NGOs need to build and empower their capability as facilitators. Additionally, coordinators play an essential role to operate an “ESD platform for local communities”, where schools and local societies can learn from each other. Those facilitators and coordinators require technical skills and experiences and they should be recognized through a job with income.

### For mainstreaming of ESD



**Mr. Wataru Iwamoto** Advisor to Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan(MEXT) Executive Advisor of Chiba University  
Current MDGs include the universalization of primary education and gender parity in primary and secondary education. However, the biggest issue is that only a little improvement has been seen in the promotion of primary education and this is the challenge for the next development goals. Meanwhile, ESD, basis for the quality of education supports children not to drop out of primary education by providing a high quality of education. For that reason, ESD needs to be positioned in Post MDGs and Post Dakar. ESD has both aspect of movement and that of pedagogy. The content of ESD has been gradually researched, but the pedagogy still needs to be developed. Meanwhile, ESD tells people the importance of living together in the meaning of intergenerational time line and geographic space line. It is necessary to create a community, where SD takes place, a network consisting of a variety of stakeholders, including youth and industries from local areas and a multi-layered network nationwide, to discuss how to develop ESD.



**Mr. Yoshimitsu Suzuki** Director, Office of Environmental Education, Environmental Policy Bureau, Ministry of the Environment  
Although, “utilization and sharing of knowledge and experience” is important, how you feel, think, and learn is more important. I believe humans teach and learn from each other and improve consequently. Gaining knowledge and experience is the same as gaining information. It does not mean anything if you are holding it to yourself, but you can make the information meaningful by passing it on to someone. It is easy to talk about how you pass this on to the next generation, but very difficult to implement. Adults must put themselves in children's positions and think of how to pass on the experiences they gained as children. The reality now is that people are only aware of the word “ESD” and it is not practiced. It is essential to think of how to promote ESD, including, “information sharing” – the method to share information and “utilization of connectors” – how to connect the information.



**Mr. Tsunao Watanabe** Senior Programme Coordinator, United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability  
“Understand the challenges on the field! Create a new flow! Connect!” . These are my keywords. We are fumbling for a future image by facing the challenges in the field in every area and reviewing the local resources with long-cherished hope and knowledge. Understanding, regardless of one's position, and a new flow, should be established through those processes. Every draft proposal that we created over the last two days of the conference is very important. They are: create a system to share and use the materials and information on ESD activities, create an opportunity for coordinators (connectors) to practice actively, create a system to focus on ESD activities and share the accomplishments, promote international learning/collaboration to solve global challenges, and strengthen local government initiatives to involve citizens at the local level. Approaching a new challenge seriously at every site and accomplishing the challenge will create significant power. I believe that these 5 proposals will connect people, create a relationship to support each other and change society. Then the world will take action.



**Ms. Tomoko Shibao** Director of Education Cooperation Department Asia-Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU)  
“A place to gather ESD actors” is required both in the real and virtual world. ESD faces difficult challenges and there is difference between reality and ideal. Just like any other society, work place, or era, we must ensure that no energy dries up the world. “Youth” can be the center of activities instead of simply having them as participants. We should not worry about the outcome and provide more opportunities for youth to try. “Enabling Environment” , has been helping to create systems where youth can practice leadership and motivation will increase. “Fight Japan!” is my keyword. Although there are many training opportunities, chances, and systems, existing systems should also be utilized to promote ESD. Budget and policy as well as an international approach are essential. Japan has this responsibility as the country which proposed ESD. I hope Japan continues its role as a leading country, focusing on the impact on another countries, ODA, policy and international support/collaboration.



**Mr. Ryokichi Hirono** Professor Emeritus, Seikei University / Former Chair, Committee for Development Policy, United Nations Economic and Social Council Advisor, NPO Japan Council on the UN Decade of ESD Board Member, DESD World Festival Forum  
The promotion leader of ESD is important, but the question is for whom and what, they are doing this. All of the citizens in each area are the beneficiary of ESD. I think the basis of ESD is to think seriously of protecting the life and living of citizens. Local governments have the responsibility to protect the life and living of local citizens and to solve the issues that the citizens are interested most. Not only developing countries, but also developed countries, face challenges such as unemployment, poverty, human rights, domestic violence, discrimination, environmental degradation and infection, in current globalization. Additionally, in developed countries and some developing countries, decreasing birthrates and aging populations, or disappearing villages is advancing rapidly and ESD must contribute to solving these issues. What can we do? “E” for ESD is rather Empowerment than Education, and promoting SD can be done by not simply education/learning, but also by legislate/institutionalization/development of human resources for policy formation, implementation and budgeting. We should mainly focus on Empowerment for SD from now on. Empowerment for SD will force every ministry to cooperate with MEXT to solve the challenges of local societies both inside and outside Japan. These activities will strengthen international collaboration. I believe that future goals for ESD are to open our society, to develop human resources who have global viewpoints, and to strengthen international collaboration. A national platform is urgently needed to find challenges on our own, to think of the solutions, to create action plans together and to implement the plans. I hope to see domestic and international support for local systems and collaboration.

### Closing Speech



**Mr. Kihei Maekawa** Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology  
Although all the youth who presented today have a deep understanding of ESD, we still need to raise awareness of citizens regarding ESD. I had promoted ESD as the Director-General - Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau, until July 2014, and realize that ESD has not spread throughout schools enough. It is necessary for students' independently to teach the existing education, so that everyone is aware that issues such as environmental education, human rights education, peace education and global understanding education, will be linked to ESD. Marking the last year of DESD and organizing the UNESCO World Conference in Okayama-city and Nagoya-city Aichi in the fall, I hope that people especially those who work in school and social education fields, will gain more awareness on ESD. CSR and CSV are related to ESD in some parts, yet it is difficult for business organizations to create company benefits and shared values at the same time. I assume that those organizations require the competitive power to create shared values. The current administration proposed “Development of Global Human Resource”, as one of major challenges and they suggested a Global University/High School, started this year. However, it is a big question to emphasize only “the competitive power to win internationally”. Humans should live together in a global society. Every time I am asked to talk about global human resources, I explain about ESD, to tell them that there is more than just “winning” in the global society. We were able to share successful initiatives with various stakeholders over the last two days at this conference. Let's work with the network we established here on ESD for the next 10 to 20 years.