

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

and

UNESCO Associated Schools in JAPAN



What is ESD ?

ESD is short for **E**ducation for **S**ustainable **D**evelopment. It aims to foster people for a sustainable society.

Society today faces many challenging issues. ESD aims to confront these issues from a local point of view to come up with solutions leading to new values and actions to create a more sustainable society.

The second Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education (formulated in June 2013) places ESD as one of the important educational principles in Japan, and the Courses of Study (publicly announced in 2008 and 2009) also contain the foundation for the creation of a sustainable society. Under the UN Resolution, the period 2005-2014 was declared as the United Nation Decade of ESD. With UNESCO as the lead agency of the Decade, various efforts for its implementation are progressing worldwide.

Abilities to be developed

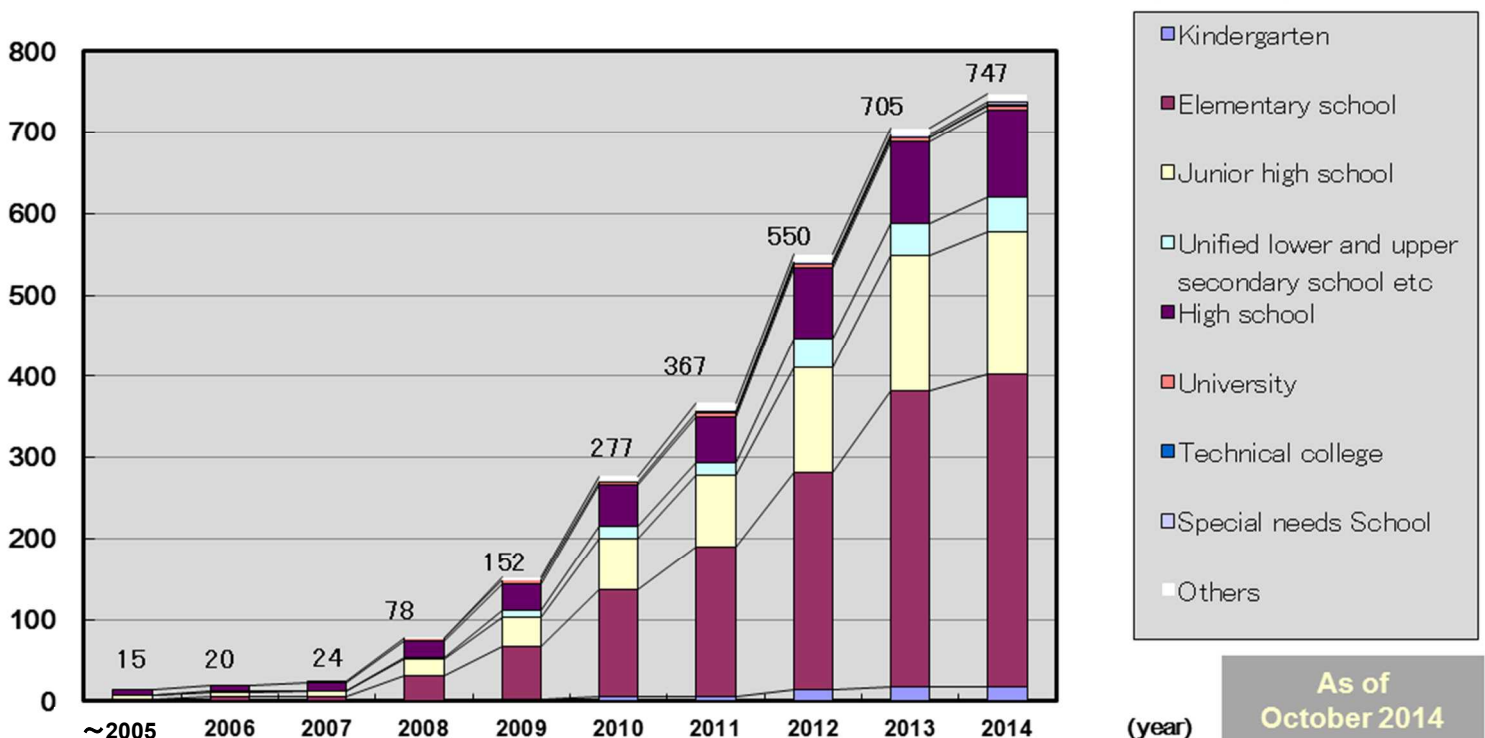
- Values related to sustainable development (ability to show respect for people, respect for diversity, non-exclusiveness, equality of opportunity, and respect for environment)
- Systematic thinking (understanding of the background to problems and phenomena, multidimensional and comprehensive standpoint)
- Ability to think of alternatives (critical thinking)
- Ability to collect and analyze information
- Communication skills
- Leadership

UNESCO Associated School is the base for ESD promotion

MEXT and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO place UNESCO Associated Schools as **the base for ESD promotion** and are making efforts to increase the number of member schools.

In addition, Natcom has drawn up the Guidelines for UNESCO Associated Schools to secure their quality.

(Number) Transition in the number of the UNESCO Associated Schools(ASPnet)



UNESCO Associated Schools

UNESCO Associated Schools practice peace and international cooperation in order to realize the ideals of UNESCO as set forth in the Constitution of UNESCO. There are more than 9,900 UNESCO Associated Schools in 180 countries and regions around the world (as of January 2014).

In Japan there are 705 UNESCO Associated Schools (as of August 2014).

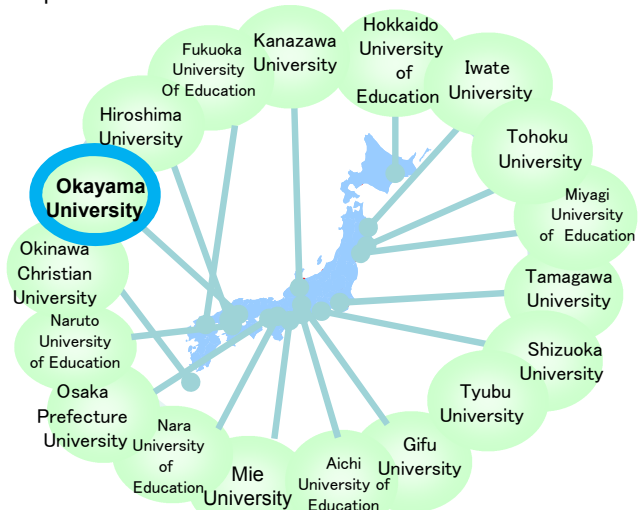
Reference: The Constitution of UNESCO (abstract)
Article 1 Purposes and functions

1. The purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and Fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.

ASPUnivNet

Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network

The ASPUnivnet is a characteristic project of Japan which provides assistance to UNESCO Associated Schools.



Secretariat for the ASPUnivNet 2013 -2014: Okayama University

The Guidelines for the UNESCO Associated Schools

August 20 ,2012 Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Key Points as a UNESCO Associated School

The following points are important for the activities of the UNESCO Associated Schools, and therefore it is anticipated that each school will take action bearing these points in mind:

- Recognize the merits of the other exchange partner schools and mutually learn from one another through the network of UNESCO Associated Schools both domestically and abroad.
- Endeavor to build an open network through collaboration with such organizations as local social education institutions and NPOs.
- Widely conduct promotion outside of school and commit to ensuring that our human society attains sustainable development through the activities of UNESCO Associated Schools such as through enhancement and utilization of various types of in-school and out-of-school training.
- Clearly indicate in the school management policies the efforts to implement the activities of the UNESCO Associated Schools, and enable the school as a whole to implement the activities of the UNESCO Associated Schools institutionally and continuously.
- Incorporate the UNESCO Associated Schools' activities into the school's own evaluation items and endeavor to improve the quality of the activities.
- Where necessary, while gaining the support and cooperation of higher education institutions such as the member universities of the ASPUnivNet^[1], work to enhance the activities of the UNESCO Associated Schools.

Key Points as a Base for the Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

The following points are important in order for the UNESCO Associated Schools to be able to develop as a base for the promotion of education for sustainable development (ESD), and it is anticipated that each school will take action bearing these points in mind.

- Clarify the qualities and abilities that the school wishes to foster through education for sustainable development (ESD), and strive to formulate a curriculum with a particular emphasis on a learning process which encourages students to find and resolve problems by themselves or through cooperation with others.
- Appropriately determine the contents that are to be taught such as through a cross-curricular teaching plan that focuses on period for integrated studies, and furthermore, strive to devise and improve teaching methods.
- Endeavor to spread the idea of education for sustainable development (ESD) by working on research and practice, and actively transmit the results as a base for promoting education for sustainable development.

[1] Network of universities supporting the work of the UNESCO Associated Schools as a partner of the UNESCO Associated Schools.

Education for sustainable development (ESD) is education that fosters leaders of a sustainable society, which includes the themes and contents of international understanding, the environment, multiculturalism, human rights, peace, development, and disaster prevention. As such, the themes and contents taken up by education for sustainable development (ESD) are not necessarily new. Instead, by re-thinking these themes anew from the perspective of education for sustainable development (ESD), it is intended that a common goal will be established for the efforts of individual fields, which is, the building of a sustainable society, and to give a clear direction to the development of concrete activities. In addition, by connecting each of the individual activities together, it also becomes possible for existing activities to be further enhanced and improved. In implementing education for sustainable development (ESD), such requirements as "Development of personality and human nature such as a spirit of self-sufficiency, judgment, and a sense of responsibility" and "Fostering of individuals who can recognize their relationship to others, society, and the natural environment and value the relationships and links" are necessary.

The concept of education for sustainable development (ESD) has been included in the current Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education (formulated in July 2008), and also lays the foundation for the philosophy of the "zest for living" indicated in the Courses of Study (publicly notified in 2008, 2009).

UNESCO World Conference on ESD ~ Learning Today for a Sustainable Future ~

(1) World Conference

10-12 November 2014, Aichi-Nagoya

A follow-up meeting gathering relevant domestic parties will be held on 13 November.



(2) Stakeholder Meetings,

4-8 November 2014, Okayama

① International Forum on UNESCO ASPnet
(6-8 November 2014)

② Youth Conference
(7 November 2014)

③ Global RCE Conference
(4-7 November 2014)



ESD Official Supporters



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We Support ESD !

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◇ For information on UNESCO Associated Schools(ASPNet) and application, please visit the website below:

http://www.unesco-school.jp/index.php?action=pages_view_main&page_id=500