

GUIDE FOR THE PROMOTION OF ESD

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Introduction

We sincerely appreciate you picking up this booklet.

This booklet was published with the hope of helping everyone interested in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) regardless of whether they belong to UNESCO Associated Schools or not.

Following the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development which started in 2005, the UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan were defined as a promotion base for ESD, and have been growing since then. In the last ten years, in addition to the significant increase in the number of member schools, each associated school has been expanding its ESD practices. ESD has been promoted continuously after 2015, and its practice is in the process of deepening. Furthermore, ESD is expected to be practised not only by UNESCO Associated Schools but also by all educational institutions and communities.

Meanwhile, we receive various questions and comments from teachers at Associated Schools, such as "I was newly assigned to ESD, but I don't know what to do" "We cannot continue ESD activities anymore because the teacher in charge of ESD was relocated" "I am practising ESD because I was told to by my supervisor, but I'm finding it difficult" and "Our school became a UNESCO Associated School, but what's the advantage?" Through these questions and comments, we can imagine the puzzled looks on teachers' faces.

The booklet introduces the programmes and projects that we support as the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) Secretariat from the perspective of what lies beyond ESD activities, which in other words, is what we should do so that ESD activities don't end with just the "activities". We are very glad if this booklet can be of any help to you and provide an opportunity to change teachers' "puzzled looks" to "smiles".

Lastly, we always welcome your comments and advice. We hope to be a catalyst of transformation working towards a sustainable future together with all of you.

Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO
UNESCO ASPnet Secretariat

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List of terms

ACCU	Asia-Pacific Culture Centre for UNESCO
ASPnet	UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network
ASPUnivNet	Interuniversity Network Supporting The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network
DESD	UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
GAP	Global Action Programme

Let's participate in ESD!
Which project is perfect for you?

START!

You sufficiently understand ESD.

- A. Yes
- B. No

You would like to know

- A. Specific ESD activities
- B. Widely about ESD, starting from its concept

Your school has joined ASPnet.

- A. Yes
- B. No

Your school would like to join ASPnet.

- A. Yes
- B. No

Which activities would you like to know?

- A. Activities in Japan
- B. Activities that expand to overseas.

Actually, you would like to

- A. Learn by participating in ESD.
- B. Invite a specialist and take part in learning that reflects the actual situation

UNESCO ASPnet Secretariat

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ESD Sustainable School Project

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National network for UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan

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UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) Secretariat

—To support schools joining ASPnet and to expand the network as an ESD promotion base—

As the ASPnet Secretariat, ACCU has supported schools joining ASPnet for nearly 10 years since 2008. During this period, the number of associated schools has dramatically increased from 20 institutions/schools to 1,044 institutions/schools as of October 2016 including those in the process of applying to UNESCO to join ASPnet, which is the most in the world and now accounts for approximately 10% of the total number of UNESCO Associated Schools in 182 countries. After the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), we have now been promoting schools joining ASPnet as well as providing support that enables each UNESCO Associated School to continuously carry out high-quality activities while cooperating with the people involved in ESD.

Specific activities of the ASPnet Secretariat are as follows:

- Consultations on applying to join ASPnet and assistance with application procedures
- Activity support for UNESCO Associated Schools (workshops, etc.)
- Operation and management of the UNESCO ASPnet official website
- Coordination for exchanges between UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan and abroad
- Comprehensive consultations about UNESCO Associated Schools
- ESD promotion support for institutions/schools

■Inquiries about ASPnet and UNESCO Associated Schools

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



Interuniversity Network Supporting The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPUnivNet) Secretariat

—For smooth support of UNESCO Associated Schools by higher education institutions—

Since its inauguration in December 2008, ASPUnivNet has continuously assisted schools with their applications to join ASPnet, held workshops for Associated Schools, and conducted research and analysis on the activities of Associated Schools and ESD for nearly 10 years. Presently, there are 20 universities (as of January 2017) who are continuously supporting ESD activities rooted in their communities.

To enable the steady progress of ASPUnivNet activities, ACCU has served as its secretariat since 2015. We will continue to support UNESCO Associated Schools in every region to facilitate their further cooperation with higher education institutions and a collaborative approach to the development of ESD.

Specific support provided by the ASPUnivNet Secretariat are as follows:

- Liaison and coordination between associated universities, and also between associated universities and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
- Holding liaison meetings to share information on ASPUnivNet (twice a year)
- Publication of pamphlets to share information on ASPUnivNet activities (in Japanese and English)
- Operation and management of the ASPUnivNet website
- Support for projects worked on by the entire ASPUnivNet
- Designing, conducting and analyzing the annual survey of UNESCO Associated Schools in cooperation with ASPUnivNet

■ASPUnivNet Member Universities

- Hokkaido University of Education, Kushiro Campus
- Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University
- Miyagi University of Education
- College of Education, Tamagawa University
- School of Humanities and Culture, Tokai University
- Kanazawa University
- Faculty of Education, Shizuoka University
- Gifu University
- Aichi University of Education
- Chubu University
- Mie University
- Kyoto University of Foreign Studies
- Osaka Prefectural University
- Nara University of Education
- Okayama University
- Graduate School of Education, Hiroshima University
- Fukuyama City University
- Hiroshima City University
- Naruto University of Education
- University of Teacher Education Fukuoka



ESD Sustainable School Project

—To support and expand ESD initiatives and activities that take advantage of the characteristics of individual schools—



In September 2016, 24 institutions/schools which could further deepen their ESD initiatives, proactively expand their ESD activities, were attracted to ESD and could work together to develop its possibilities, were selected from the public offering as schools that were working intensively on ESD (hereinafter referred to as a “sustainable school”). Sustainable schools will conduct practical initiatives in an effort to build a sustainable future and society through education.

ACCU held a workshop for headmasters and teachers in charge of ESD (in September 2016) and an activity-sharing meeting (in January 2017) to introduce each other and to share the ESD activities of individual schools. During these meetings, they shared the direction in which the whole school was working on ESD, thereby increasing the attractiveness of the individual schools by learning from each other.

After the launch of the project, Sustainable Schools have been further energising their initiatives by visiting other sustainable schools, or inviting an outside specialist for in-school workshops.

ACCU will continue to spotlight the individual initiatives of each Sustainable School, as well as coming up with exciting new ways to shine a light on their activities. While growing together with the Sustainable Schools, ACCU will share their activities far and wide so that in the near future these activities will spread from Japan to the world.



Implementation of the whole school approach to climate change

—To solve global issues based on the whole school approach—

The Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education for Sustainable Development* was launched based on the Aichi-Nagoya Declaration on Education for Sustainable Development** which was adopted in November 2014. ACCU also develops activities in the area of “Transforming Learning and Training Environments” as a GAP key partner of UNESCO.

Since September 2016, ten UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan have been participating in the flagship project on climate change. In November, two teachers and one ACCU staff member participated in the International Workshop for Facilitators held in the Republic of Senegal, and deepened their understanding on the whole school approach and climate change with teachers and national coordinators from 12 countries. In Japan, a workshop was held in January 2017 for the UNESCO Associated Schools that were participating in the project, and each school will now finally start to take their own initiatives.

Until the completion of the project in March 2018, all participating schools will develop their own action plans by taking advantage of their own characteristics and carry out a variety of efforts to address climate change, a global issue, at the school and community level with the keyword of “whole school approach”. In addition, they are aiming to transform how they think the school should be through learning opportunities such as exchanges and study sessions with other schools participating in the project.



Visit to the Cours Sainte Marie de Hann School (Green wall conceived by the students)



International Workshop for Facilitators held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal



* “Relevant materials for promoting ESD” (Refer to page 17)
 ** “Relevant materials for promoting ESD” (Refer to page 17)

ESD Food Project

—To develop the problem-solving abilities of children/students by having them understand various different values through international collaborative learning—



In an effort to develop children/students who will become “a catalyst for transformation” in order to build a sustainable society, ACCU has planned and operated international collaborative learning projects since 2010. After changing themes and partner countries several times, we are now implementing the “ESD Food Project”.

In FY2016, we carried out the project in cooperation with NGOs and government agencies in Thailand, India and Indonesia. There are 28 schools including 8 schools from Japan (UNESCO Associated Schools and schools in the process of joining ASPnet) participating in the project and pursuing international collaborative learning in several groups on the theme of “Sustainable lifestyles focusing on ‘Food’”.

After the workshop for coordinators which was held in Thailand in June, participating schools started their activities in each country and we held an international workshop in Tokyo in November, inviting coordinators and teachers from participating schools in other countries. At this workshop, they shared the progress being made in individual countries and came up with specific activity plans and goals, which guided them to move ahead with the following project smoothly.

Through the project, the children/students deepened the discussion on how to solve issues based on a shared understanding of the situations in other countries obtained through the research on how various global issues affected “food” in their communities and countries.

Centring on the interactions with overseas countries which we have developed until now, ACCU will provide ongoing opportunities for international collaborative learning and assist with mutual learning that goes beyond borders.



National network for UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan

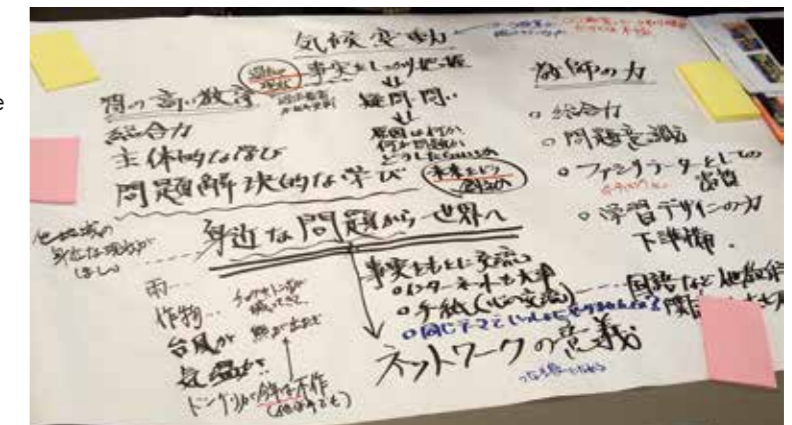
—To enable all UNESCO Associated Schools to be continuously connected to each other through the network—



“We will develop a national network, organized voluntarily, with fellow UNESCO Associated Schools in order to learn from each other and to raise the quality of activities. We will promote interaction and collaboration among UNESCO Associated Schools, and then enhance mechanisms for the exchange and use of information”.

The text above is stated in the commitment section of the Okayama Declaration of the UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan Promoting Education for Sustainable Development beyond the United Nations Decade of ESD*, which was adopted in November 2014. In response, in order to further promote ESD as a driving force for transforming education in Japan, some teachers at Associated Schools suggested building a school-led national network that included the UNESCO Associated Schools. By building and strengthening the network, they aim to promote ESD based on the whole school approach, and establish relationships between teachers at Associated Schools to allow them to frankly consult or discuss with each other whatever they want to ask others, such as the abilities and attitudes in children/students that teachers want to cultivate through ESD, teaching/learning methods and assessment methods.

To continue practising high-quality education, UNESCO Associated Schools are actively building a cross-border network in many communities to enable collaborative learning from each other, while also collaborating with boards of education, universities, NPOs and other supporting organizations. Moreover, ACCU, which serves as the ASPnet Secretariat, cooperates with the related parties and proactively provides discussion opportunities to support these voluntary activities.



* “Relevant materials for promoting ESD” (Refer to page 17)

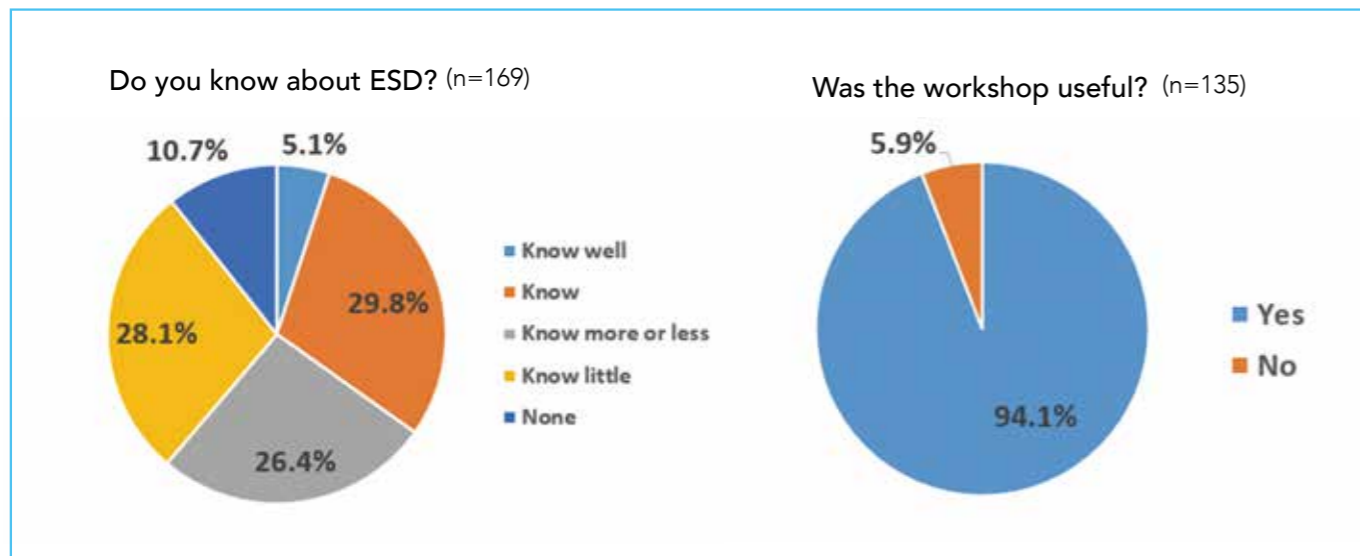
Training programme using the “Guide to Promoting ESD”

—For those who want to know about ESD,
and those who want to hold a workshop on ESD—

The “Guide to Promoting ESD” (hereinafter referred to as the ESD Guide), which our staff have been involved in compiling as specialists, was published in March 2016 by MEXT and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO. With this guide, we have organized workshops throughout the country aiming to further disseminate and expand ESD. In FY2016, in collaboration with MEXT and with the prefectural and municipal boards of education, we invited external specialists including those related to ASPUnivNet as lecturers and held workshops in five locations (Tokyo in July, Niigata in August, Shizuoka in October, eastern Hokkaido in November and Fukuoka in January) for members of the education boards and managerial teachers. The workshops are designed so that the participants can easily understand ESD and learn how to use the guide in a practical manner. When holding a workshop, we also conduct a questionnaire survey with participants on the ESD Guide and the workshop, and these results are shared with MEXT and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, the ESD Guide publisher, to make the guide more understandable and easier for practitioners to use.



Participants Survey



History of Education Cooperation between UNESCO and ACCU

ACCU was established and operated in accordance with the principles of UNESCO. We will continue to strive with UNESCO to achieve education for a peaceful and sustainable society.



UNESCO

ACCU

[The Constitution of UNESCO]

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.
"Building Peace in the minds of men and women"

About the Asia-Pacific Culture Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

—Connecting the people, cultivating wisdom, and building the future ACCU aims to spread the circle of learning to people in Japan and throughout the world—

ACCU has been engaged in activities in the fields of education and culture both in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region in accordance with the basic principles of UNESCO. From 2015, we have been contributing to the further development of projects related to UNESCO's Global Action Programme (GAP) in collaboration with various bodies as a GAP key partner.

ACCU carries out various programmes based on four main pillars: the Educational cooperation programme, the International exchange programme, the Model UN conference promotion programme, and the Cultural Heritage Protection Programme (Nara).

Education Cooperation Programme

In this section, we will introduce other ACCU programmes on education that are implemented outside the scope of the Japan-UNESCO Partnership Program.

Youth-led sustainable community

This is a project that empowers young people in Asia (aged between 15 and 35) to take their own initiatives for community development towards a sustainable future. ACCU cooperates with regional NGOs, and in addition to the activities in Pakistan and Bangladesh in FY2015, ACCU also deepened its activities in India, Indonesia and the Philippines in FY2016. Now, we are preparing a guide for youth leaders based on past practices and our knowledge of individual organizations, and a book featuring five steps to create a sustainable community. We aim to complete and publish in FY2017 in collaboration with the five countries mentioned above.



SMILE Asia Project

The SMILE Asia Project is a project that supports literacy education focusing on mother and child health which ACCU has promoted in Asia. The project has so far been implemented in seven countries in Asia, and is now being implemented in Cambodia. Focusing on mother and child health which many women are highly interested in and providing learning materials which they can use with their child at home, we cooperate with local organizations and create an environment which enables them to maintain the literacy skills they have acquired in their daily lives even after completing the lessons.

In FY2016, the project was carried out for 75 adults (including 74 women) in 5 villages in Kampong Speu Province, which is located 45km from Phnom Penh. We visited the class to carry out monitoring, and listened to opinions on the project from the participants in order to better understand their needs.

This project is carried out with donations from various supporters and supporting companies including TOPPAN Printing Co., Ltd., which supports the Charity Concert.



Afghanistan Literacy Education Programme

We assign our staff to "The Project on Improvement of Literacy Education Management in Afghanistan(LEAF2)" implemented by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), and carry out activities along with the Literacy Department, Ministry of Education, Afghanistan to strengthen their ability to monitor and support the project. Since travel to Afghanistan was difficult due to safety issues, the Japanese staff were dispatched to India during the period from July to August, held meetings with the staff of the Literacy Department who were invited from Afghanistan, and confirmed the situation regarding how the current monitoring and assessment system was functioning, and developed future activity plans.

International Exchange Programme

International Exchange Programme for Teachers and Students

In an effort to promote mutual understanding and friendship between teachers/students in Japan and abroad, we conduct international exchange programmes for teachers/students in elementary and junior high schools. Participants visit various different communities, schools or educational/cultural facilities, or general families in different countries, and deepen their level of understanding on the educational system and the culture in the country they are visiting by deepening their exchanges with the teachers/students there.

- Countries involved in the invitation programme for teachers : China, Korea, Thailand, India
- Countries involved in the visit programme for teachers : China, Korea
- Country involved in the invitation programme for high school students : Thailand



Model UN Conference Promotion Programme

Model UN Conference for High School Students

Using donations from supporting companies, we conduct the Model UN Conference for High School Students

in collaboration with the Japan Committee for Global Classrooms for the purpose of developing international/global leaders of the next generation. Since FY2012, we have co-organized a national conference as the Secretariat of the Model UN Conference for High School Students, and have dispatched some outstanding teams to the international conferences.

Cultural Heritage Protection Programme

We established the Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation Office, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara Office) in Nara at the heart of our research and studies on cultural heritage. We organize training/workshops and international conferences in collaboration with international agencies to develop human resources responsible for protecting, preserving and restoring cultural heritage. In addition, we also give lectures at high schools in the prefecture and organize open seminars for the general public.

Public Relations regarding ACCU

ACCU News

ACCU News is a newsletter issued by ACCU three times a year. It includes not only ESD-related projects which ACCU is involved in, but also information on various other projects relating to international educational cooperation, international exchange, and others.
<http://www.accu.or.jp/jp/accunews/2016.html>



The ACCU website is accessible here!

<http://www.accu.or.jp/jp/index.html>

Please "like" and share our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/accu.or.jp/?fref=ts>



Let's start a collaborative learning project —ESD Food Project (2016) (Language: Japanese/English)

This book features activities of the “ESD Food Project”, which is an international collaborative learning project. In this project, children and students carried out activities acting as “a catalyst of transformation” with the theme of “food” to make their local communities, their countries and the whole world become a sustainable society. Participating in the project were seven Associated Schools and other schools that were in the process of joining ASPnet in Japan, along with five Associated Schools and other schools that were in the process of joining ASPnet in India. They carried out activities from September 2015 to the end of January 2016.



Let's think about the future of UNESCO Associated Schools—Whole School Approach (2016) (Language: Japanese/English)

This book features the workshop, “Let's think about the future of UNESCO Associated Schools”, which was held in December 2015. This workshop consisted of two sessions. In the first session, Ann FINLAYSON, an ESD and sustainable schools specialist in the UK, gave a lecture on the whole school approach, and in the second session, one teacher from an Associated School who had helped organize the workshop from the planning stage suggested they “establish a national network in Japan and learn from each other”. Participants exchanged opinions on what they wanted to achieve through the network.



ASPUnivNet Pamphlet (2017) (Language: Japanese/English)

This pamphlet includes comprehensive information on the UNESCO Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPUnivNet). The pamphlet is filled with information on the support provided by ASPUnivNet, as well as activities conducted by the individual associated universities. <http://www.unesco-school.mext.go.jp/ASPUnivNet/>



Guide for Promoting ESD (2016) (Language: Japanese/English)

This guide is mainly for instructing teachers and managerial teachers, etc. responsible for planning and conducting workshops on ESD at boards of education and education centres which are in the position of promoting ESD to schools. The guide aims to explain the importance of ESD and specific methods used to practise ESD at schools to teachers who don't yet know about ESD and teachers who don't yet know how to teach ESD. http://www.mext.go.jp/component/a_menu/other/micro_detail/_icsFiles/afiedfile/2016/09/14/1369326_01.pdf



UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan as Bases for Promoting ESD—Current Status and Way Forward (2015) (Language: Japanese/English)

At the conclusion of DESD and the official launch of GAP, this book was published for the purpose of providing information to further improve the quality of ESD practices while clarifying the characteristics of ESD practices that have been promoted by UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan. This book includes discussions with specialists who have been providing support for the activities of UNESCO Associated Schools and those of school headmasters and teachers from the standpoint of ESD practitioners.

* The four materials mentioned above can be downloaded from the “Educational Materials” section of the official ASPnet in Japan website <http://www.unesco-school.mext.go.jp/materials.edu/>



UNESCO Associated Schools ESD Good Practices in Japan (2014) (Language: Japanese/English)

This book, which summarizes DESD activities, was published to commemorate the UNESCO ASPnet International ESD Events (in Okayama City, Okayama Prefecture, November 6-8, 2014), one of the Stakeholder Meetings that was being held prior to the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Aichi-Nagoya, November 10-12, 2014) which will serve as a springboard for further progress of ESD both inside and outside Japan after 2015. This book includes ESD good practices of 84 UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan.



Global Action Programme (GAP)

As goals to be globally targeted from 2016 to 2030, the SDGs, which consist of 17 goals and 169 targets, were established at United Nations Headquarters in 2015. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/> (United Nations website, English) http://www.unic.or.jp/activities/economic_social_development/sustainable_development/2030agenda/ (United Nations Information Centre, Japanese)



Framework for promoting ESD in Japan and worldwide Sustainable Development Goals: SDGs

The Global Action Programme was developed in 2014 as the follow-up framework after the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development for the period from 2015 to 2020. It includes five priority action areas: (1) Advancing policies (policy support for ESD), (2) Transforming the learning and training environments (whole-institution approaches towards ESD), (3) Building capacities of educators and trainers (developing educators/trainers who practise ESD), (4) Empowering and mobilizing youth (supporting ESD actions of the youth) and (5) Accelerating, sustainable solutions at local level (facilitating ESD actions at a community level). ACCU is a GAP key partner of (2) Transforming the learning and training environment. <http://www.mext.go.jp/unesco/004/1345280.htm> (MEXT website)

Aichi-Nagoya Declaration

The Declaration was adopted at “the ministerial-level meeting and wrap-up meeting” of the UNESCO World Conference on ESD held in November 2014 and calls for all stakeholders to strengthen their efforts on ESD and take their allocated actions. http://www.esd-jpnatcom.mext.go.jp/conference/result/pdf/Aichi-Nagoya_Declaration_ja.pdf

Okayama Declaration of UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan Promoting Education for Sustainable Development beyond the United Nations Decade of ESD

This Declaration was adopted at the 6th Japan's National Conference on UNESCO ASPnet held in November 2014, and calls for everyone related to UNESCO Associated Schools to promote ESD under the promotion of GAP and aim for the further improvement of education quality. http://www.esd-jpnatcom.mext.go.jp/conference/result/pdf/Aichi-Nagoya_Declaration_school_ja.pdf



Guide for the Promotion of ESD

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