



## FY 2010 ASPUnivNet Secretariat

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### Member Universities

- Kushiro Campus,  
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- Iwate University
- Graduate School of Environmental Studies,  
Tohoku University
- Miyagi University of Education
- Tamagawa University
- Kanazawa University
- Mie University
- Osaka Prefecture University
- Nara University of Education
- Naruto University of Education
- Okayama University
- Faculty of Languages and Cultures,  
Kyushu University



# Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network

ASPUnivNet



# Expectations on ASPUnivNet

Director-General for International Affairs,  
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology  
Secretary-General, The Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

**Nobuo Fujishima**

The Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUnivNet) was established in 2008 jointly by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO (JNCU). It is a framework for higher education institutions to provide qualitative support for the UNESCO Associated Schools, which Japan regards as key to the promotion of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Since ASPUnivNet is an unprecedented network of higher education institutions for supporting efforts at UNESCO Associated Schools, its activities attract worldwide attention.

At the 52nd United Nations General Assembly in 2002, it was declared that the decade from 2005 to 2014 would be the "Decade of ESD" (DESD) in response to a proposal from Japan, based on the endorsement of many countries. DESD is already in the latter half. Now that the decision has been made to hold the DESD closing conference in 2014 in Japan, the host country's efforts and contribution are attracting even greater international attention than ever. Against this background, Japan has proposed that the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), UNESCO's international network of schools, should be used as an effective means of promoting ESD. There are 237 schools participating in ASPnet (UNESCO Associated Schools) in Japan as of December 2010. Given that the number was only 19 in 2005, when DESD started, we are aware of the urgent need for action to ensure the quality of UNESCO Associated Schools in order to cope with the sharp increase in their number over the past few years.

Japan aims to increase the number of UNESCO Associated Schools to 500 by the time of the DESD closing conference in 2014. To achieve this target, we must step up commitment to enhancing ESD activities at UNESCO Associated Schools and strengthening the network among them, while striving to increase the number of UNESCO Associated Schools. ASPUnivNet is a very meaningful initiative in this respect because it can not only help universities directly contribute their intellectual resources to activities at UNESCO Associated Schools but also serve to foster cooperation between UNESCO Associated Schools and local educational institutions and thereby act as the hub of regional coordination.

Today, 12 universities in Japan participate in ASPUnivNet and assist the efforts at UNESCO Associated Schools as regional centers of cooperation. I hope that the network of universities that support UNESCO Associated Schools as their partners will spread more widely and help improve the quality and diversity of their activities. I also expect ASPUnivNet to become a pioneering initiative that we can proudly show to the world.



## Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network ASPUnivNet

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## What Is a UNESCO Associated School?

A UNESCO Associated School is a school that works in support of peace and international cooperation to achieve the ideals set forth in the UNESCO Charter. There are more than 8,500 UNESCO Associated Schools in 180 countries/regions (as of June 2010).

MEXT and JNCU regard UNESCO Associated Schools as the center for promoting ESD and strive to increase their number.

### What is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)?

ESD is a kind of **education to foster individuals to take part in creating a sustainable society**. The concept needs to be embodied based on the following two perspectives:

- ◎ **Cultivating personal character**, including **dignity**, self-reliance, judgment and responsibility;
- ◎ Educating people who can recognize relationships with others, society and the natural environment and value connections and bonds with them.

### New curriculum guidelines and ESD

New educational guidelines for kindergartens and the curriculum guidelines for elementary and junior high schools were announced in March 2008, and the curriculum guidelines for senior high schools in March 2009. These new curriculum guidelines include perspectives on the establishment of a sustainable society. Schools can provide education that adopts the concept of ESD by following the Fundamentals of Education Act and these new curriculum guidelines.

### Basic Educational Promotion Plan and ESD

In July 2008, the government formulated the Basic Educational Promotion Plan pursuant to the revised Fundamentals of Education Act. This Plan defines ESD as an important educational philosophy of Japan and clearly names the promotion of ESD as a policy to be implemented in the next five years.

## What Is ASPUnivNet?

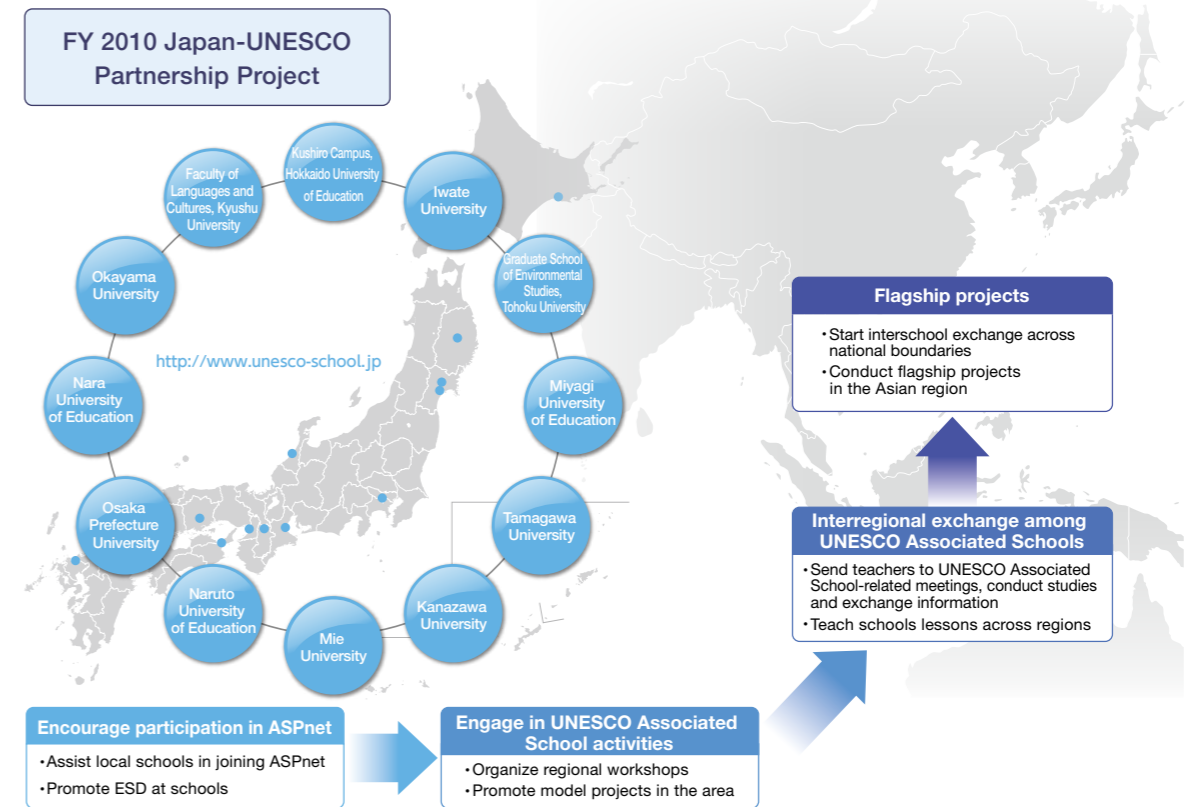
ASPUnivNet is a network of universities that support activities at UNESCO Associated Schools as their partners.

## Why Was ASPUnivNet Established?

UNESCO Associated Schools have a long history that dates back to 1953, when the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) was inaugurated to carry the philosophies stated in the UNESCO Charter into action at schools. The "Symposium on International Understanding and Education" was held in 2007 at Miyagi University of Education in Sendai, which is the birthplace of the world's private-sector UNESCO activities. This event triggered a surge in the number of applications to participate in ASPnet in the region, especially in Kesenuma. The driving force of this trend was universities supporting applications, along with universities' cooperation in school education. In November 2008, the "Gathering of UNESCO Associated Schools" was held at Miyagi University of Education, bringing together representatives of universities considering assisting UNESCO Associated Schools. They set forth the establishment of an interuniversity network. On December 2 to 5, "The International Forum on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Dialogue 2008" took place at the United Nations University in Tokyo under the auspices of MEXT, JNCU, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations University, the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, and Miyagi University of Education. The inauguration of the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUnivNet) was officially announced there to the world. There were eight member universities at that time, and the number has increased to 12 member universities today.

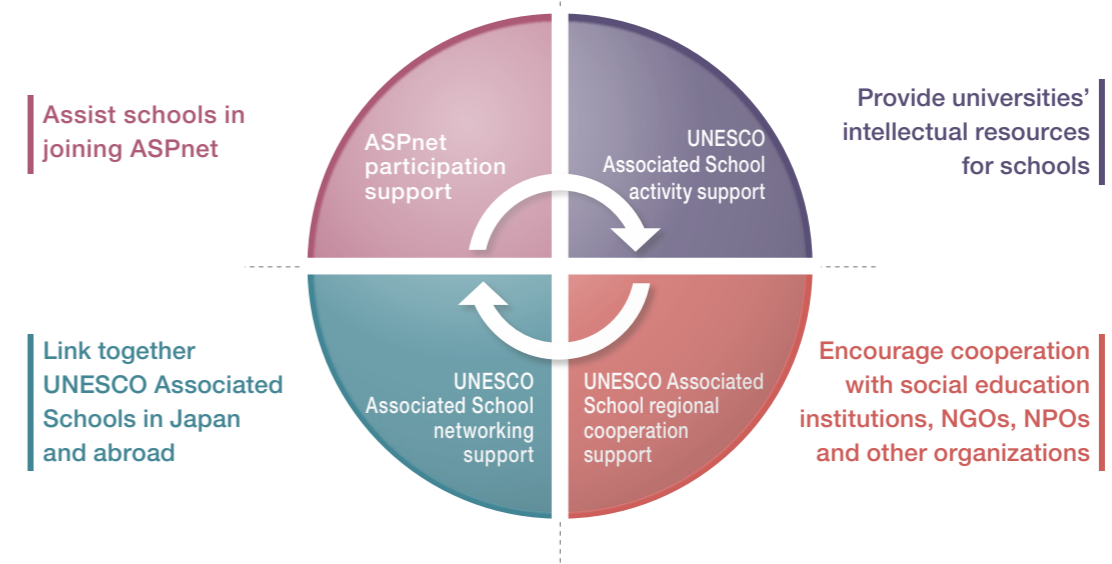
## Member Universities

Today, 12 universities participate in ASPUnivNet: Hokkaido University of Education's Kushiro Campus, Iwate University, Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Miyagi University of Education, Tamagawa University's College of Education, Kanazawa University, Nara University of Education, Mie University, Osaka Prefecture University, Naruto University of Education, Okayama University, and Kyushu University's Faculty of Languages and Cultures.



## What Can ASPUnivNet Do?

- 1 Assist schools in joining ASPnet (application and activities)
- 2 Provide intellectual resources held by universities for use in activities at UNESCO Associated Schools
- 3 Help schools network with other UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan and abroad
- 4 Foster regional cooperation between local educational institutions and UNESCO Associated Schools





## Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network Terms and Conditions

### ( Name )

Article 1 This organization shall be named the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (hereinafter referred to as "the Interuniversity Network." Its abbreviated name shall be ASPUnivNet.

### ( Aim )

Article 2 The Interuniversity Network is designed to allow universities to support, to the extent possible and on their own authority, ESD activities conducted by schools certified as UNESCO Associated Schools and schools intending to become UNESCO Associated Schools (hereinafter collectively referred to as "UNESCO Associated Schools") based on the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet). Its aim is to serve as a framework through which universities participating in the Interuniversity Network (hereinafter referred to as "Member Universities") exchange information useful for supporting schools and improve the quality of ESD.

### ( Membership qualification )

Article 3 Universities and other higher education institutions (including undergraduate and graduate schools) that understand the aim of the Interuniversity Network, participate in Interuniversity Network projects and engage in assistance to the extent possible in response to requests from UNESCO Associated Schools shall qualify for joining the Interuniversity Network (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Member Universities").

### ( Secretariat )

Article 4 A Secretariat shall be set up to ensure smooth and appropriate operation of the Interuniversity Network.

2 The role of the Secretariat shall be undertaken by Member Universities in turn for the term of two years.

### ( Secretary General )

Article 5 The Secretary General of the Interuniversity Network (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretary General") shall be appointed. The Secretary General shall be the head of the Member University serving as the Secretariat or a person appointed by the head.

2 The Deputy Secretary General of the Interuniversity Network may be appointed.

3 The Secretary General shall represent the Interuniversity Network and oversee its administrative work. If the Secretary General cannot oversee the administrative work due to circumstances beyond his or her control, a person appointed in advance by the Secretary General or the Deputy Secretary General shall perform the task on behalf of the Secretary General.

### ( Activities )

Article 6 In order to fulfill the aim stated in Article 2, the Interuniversity Network shall

- (1) Provide a place where UNESCO Associated Schools and Member Universities can gather and exchange information with one another;
- (2) Conduct activities related to the promotion of coordination and cooperation among Member Universities or among UNESCO Associated Schools; and
- (3) Conduct other activities needed to support UNESCO Associated Schools' activities primarily for ESD.

### ( Interuniversity Network Meeting )

Article 7 The Interuniversity Network shall organize annual Network Meetings. A Network Meeting shall also be convened by the Secretary General in any of the events below.

- (1) The Secretary General recognizes the need to convene one.
- (2) Three or more Member Universities request one by raising issues for discussion.

### ( Participation )

Article 8 A university or any higher education institution that intends to participate in the Interuniversity Network shall appoint a person in charge and submit an application to the Secretariat, using the separately defined Format 1.

2 After receiving an application stated above, the Secretariat shall refer the issue to the Interuniversity Network Meeting.

### ( Resignation )

Article 9 A Member University may resign from the Interuniversity Network on a voluntary basis.

2 A Member University that wants to resign shall notify the Secretariat with the separately defined Format 2.

### ( Support Member )

Article 10 The Interuniversity Network may appoint a Support Member who understands the aim of the Interuniversity Network and assists its projects.

2 An application of a candidate for Support Member shall be submitted to the Secretariat, using the separately defined Format 3

3 After receiving an application stated above, the Secretariat shall refer the issue to the Interuniversity Network Meeting.

### ( Operating and other costs )

Article 11 No membership fees or the cost of operations and other activities shall be charged at the time of joining the Interuniversity Network.

2 The cost of operating the Secretariat shall be borne by the Member University serving as the Secretariat.

3 Whenever a project to be conducted by the Interuniversity Network incurs cost, consultation shall be held.

### ( Revision of the Terms and Conditions )

Article 12 Any revision to the Terms and Conditions shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of those attending the Interuniversity Network Meeting.

### ( Dissolution )

Article 13 The Interuniversity Network may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of those attending the Interuniversity Network Meeting.

### ( Consultation )

Article 14 Any issue not stipulated in the Terms and Conditions shall be referred to the Interuniversity Network Meeting for discussion.

### Supplementary Provisions

1 The Terms and Conditions shall enter into force on September 5, 2009.

2 The first Secretariat at the inauguration of the Interuniversity Network shall be decided by the inaugural plenary meeting, and its term of service shall end on March 31, 2011, notwithstanding Article 4, Paragraph 2.

### 【 FY 2009 Workshop Organized by ASPUnivNet 】

## ASPnet & ASPUnivNet Double Workshop under the Japan-UNESCO Partnership Project

On December 26 to 28, 2009, a three-day workshop was held at the Tokyo International Exchange Center in Odaiba, Tokyo. The event brought together UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPnet members) from around Japan, along with eleven Member Universities of the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUnivNet), which aims to support UNESCO Associated Schools and consists of Hokkaido University of Education's Kushiro Campus ESD Center, Iwate University, Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Miyagi University of Education, Tamagawa University's College of Education, Kanazawa University, Nara University of Education, Mie University, Osaka Prefecture University, Okayama University, and Kyushu University's Faculty of Languages and Cultures. This workshop was planned under MEXT's FY 2009 Japan-UNESCO Partnership Project for the following objectives:

- (1) Increasing the number of UNESCO Associated Schools across Japan and improving the quality of their practices
- (2) Fostering exchange between supporting universities, UNESCO Associated Schools, and individuals involved in ESD around Japan
- (3) Launching a "flagship project" to promote international interschool cooperation

Day 1 (December 26) started with an address by President Takahashi of Miyagi University of Education, who serves as ASPUnivNet's Secretary General in this fiscal year, and keynote speeches by representatives of the Swedish National Agency for Education and UNESCO Bangkok, followed by lectures on good practice in ASPnet and ASPUnivNet. Then participants were divided into five working sessions focusing on "Community," "Food," "Culture," "Energy" and "International Understanding" and developed a model curriculum for each theme, working until late in the night for two days. On the last day, each working session made a presentation, which led to an information-sharing session involving lively debates and questions and answers. The workshop was successful.

UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan are expected to cooperate with ASPUnivNet to enhance their network and exchange with their counterparts abroad.





【 FY 2010 Workshop Organized by ASPUnivNet 】

## 2nd National Meeting of UNESCO Associated Schools and related events

On Saturday, October 30, the 2nd National Meeting of UNESCO Associated Schools was held at Miyagi University of Education under the auspices of MEXT and JNCU.

To coincide with this meeting, a sideline event (on Friday, October 29) and the ASPnet & ASPUnivNet Double Promotion Workshop (on Sunday, October 31) were also organized by the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUivNet).

### October 29 (Fri.): Sideline event, an open class for “Disaster Preparedness Education”

With the attendance of Mr. Nobuo Fujishima, MEXT Director-General for International Affairs, the event took place at Miyagi University of Education's Affiliated Elementary School.

Following the opening ceremony starting at 13:00, participants visited a fifth-grade class given as a “period for general studies” and held a panel discussion on “disaster preparedness education.”

At the panel discussion, presentations were made by Mr. Takahashi Shin, teacher at Affiliated Elementary School and member of Izumi Time Study Group; Mr. Toshiaki Ogata, teacher at Kesenuma City Koharagi Elementary School; Mr. Hiroyuki Kikuta, teacher at Kesenuma City Hashikami Junior High School; and Mr. Noriyoshi Takahashi, principal of Ogawara Town Kanagase Junior High School. Chief Researcher Goto of the National Institute for Educational Policy Research commented on them, and an earnest Q&A session was held.



Period for general studies at Affiliated Elementary School



Panel discussion on disaster preparedness education at Affiliated Elementary School

### October 30 (Sat.): 2nd National Meeting of UNESCO Associated Schools

The National Meeting began with a keynote speech by Executive Director Masami Zenia of Tokyo National Museum on “ESD to Foster ‘Energy to Live.’” In the afternoon, topic-specific study councils were held by teachers from UNESCO Associated Schools under the theme of “Seeking to Deepen Engagement as a UNESCO Associated School.”

These separate councils respectively focused on (1) ESD Penetration, (2) Intramural Collaboration, (3) Linkage with Textbooks, (4) Activity Continuity, (5) Creation of the Supportive Environment, (6) Regional Cooperation, and (7) Interschool Exchange. Subsequently, a panel discussion on “ESD to Foster ‘Energy to Live.’” was attended by Dr. Shigeki Kadoya, the National Institute for Educational Policy Research; Director Masahiko Uebayashi, Kanazawa City Board of Education; Principal Toshimi Fujimura, Kesenuma City Oya Elementary School; and Vice-Principal Hideho Fujimoto, Hiroshima Prefecture Hiroshima Junior and Senior High Schools. They made presentations on their practices and studies and held discussion on personal qualities and abilities developed through ESD.

The National Meeting brought together 330 teachers from UNESCO Associated Schools and people concerned from around Japan.



Executive Director Masami Zenia of Tokyo National Museum



Panel discussion

### October 31 (Sun.): ASPnet & ASPUnivNet Double Promotion Workshop

A double promotion workshop for the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUivNet) and the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) took place.

To allow Japanese UNESCO Associated Schools to interact with their counterparts from East Asia and Southeast Asia, the workshop was organized under the common theme of “The Rice Project” and was divided into four working sessions focusing on “Rice Growing and Biodiversity,” “Rice Growing and Learning Based on Hands-On Experience,” “Rice Growing and Food Culture/Food Education,” and “Rice Growing and Traditional Entertainment.” In each working session, participating schools made presentations on their programs, followed by a lively Q&A session.

The afternoon session was open to the public. It was organized as a mutual learning seminar of the Greater Sendai Area ESD/RCE Projects (Miyagi University of Education serving as the secretariat), which is an organization certified as a regional ESD center by the United Nations University.

The keynote speaker was Mr. Masahiko Ichiriki, representative director of The Kahoku Shimpo, who is a member of the Greater Sendai Area ESD/RCE Projects and planned the serialization of “Oriza no Wa” (The Circle of Oryza). After his speech titled “Rice Connects Regions and the World,” many questions were asked by audience, even beyond the scheduled time limit.

Participants from Thailand, South Korea and Madagascar reported ESD activities in their countries and the current state of UNESCO Associated Schools there. The outcomes of the disaster preparedness education at Miyagi University of Education's Affiliated Elementary School (the sideline event on October 29) and of working sessions were also reported.

It is hoped that ESD will further spread through participation in ASPnet as UNESCO Associated Schools and that the present workshop has helped UNESCO Associated Schools to share practices with others so that they can improve the quality of their ASPnet activities.



Working session on “Rice Growing and Biodiversity”



Commemorative speech titled “Rice Connects Regions and the World”

# Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network ASPUivNet Introduction

## Member University Profiles

- Kushiro Campus,  
Hokkaido University of Education
- Iwate University
- Graduate School of Environmental Studies,  
Tohoku University
- Miyagi University of Education
- Tamagawa University
- Kanazawa University
- Mie University
- Osaka Prefecture University
- Nara University of Education
- Naruto University of Education
- Okayama University
- Faculty of Languages and Cultures,  
Kyushu University



## Kushiro Campus, Hokkaido University of Education

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**URL** <http://www.kus.hokkyodai.ac.jp/>

**Contact** Fusayuki Kanda E-MAIL [kanda@kus.hokkyodai.ac.jp](mailto:kanda@kus.hokkyodai.ac.jp)  
Soichi Kawasaki E-MAIL [kawasaki@kus.hokkyodai.ac.jp](mailto:kawasaki@kus.hokkyodai.ac.jp)

### Regionally Integrated Campus to Create a Sustainable Society

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

Hokkaido University of Education's Kushiro Campus established the ESD Promotion Center in October 2008 in the wake of the selection of its "Regionally Integrated Campus to Create a Sustainable Society" as a government-funded Modern GP Project from FY 2007 to FY 2009. The Center aims to (1) conduct study and research on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), (2) support the development of teachers and local citizens who pursue the establishment of a sustainable society, and (3) promote ESD activities in cooperation with the local community.



The Regional Education course provided on the Kushiro Campus seeks to foster human resources that can address regional problems and cooperate with the local community through a practical, interdisciplinary curriculum taught on the regionally integrated campus.

With attention given to the two key phrases "regional education" and "environmental education," this course focuses on hands-on learning mainly through field work.

Based in northeastern Hokkaido, which is blessed with magnificent natural bounty, including the Kushiro Wetland, Akan, and Shiretoko, we are developing facilitators for the region to create a sustainable community that lives in harmony with nature, and we will certify them as "ESD Planners."

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

##### ◎ FY 2009

##### November 21: UNESCO Associated School Forum in Kushiro



The Forum took place at the Kushiro City Lifelong Learning Center (Manabotto) under the auspices of the ESD Promotion Center of Hokkaido University of Education's Kushiro Campus. Following a speech by a MEXT official on "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Effective Ways to Utilize UNESCO Associated Schools," participants listened to reports on education for international understanding in Kushiro and presentations on progressive ESD practices and UNESCO Associated Schools' efforts across Japan. The Forum was attended by teachers from schools in Kushiro and elsewhere, university representatives, and citizens.

In FY 2009, we focused on networking with UNESCO Associated Schools in Hokkaido, in cooperation with the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan and local boards of education.

##### ◎ FY 2010

##### November 20: UNESCO Associated School Seminar in Kushiro 2010

The Seminar was held at the Kushiro City Lifelong Learning Center (Manabotto) under the auspices of the ESD Promotion Center of Hokkaido University of Education's Kushiro Campus. Participants were first briefed on UNESCO Associated Schools and then listened to reports on various projects related to UNESCO Associated Schools and to presentations on ESD activities and UNESCO Associated Schools' efforts in Hokkaido.

The Seminar was attended mainly by teachers from schools in Kushiro, along with citizens and students. In FY 2010, we kept in touch with teachers at schools intending to join ASPnet in Hokkaido and provided them with advice and assistance in various ways so that we could help as many schools as possible to apply for membership.



## Iwate University

**Address** 3-18-8 Ueda, Morioka, Iwate, 020-8550  
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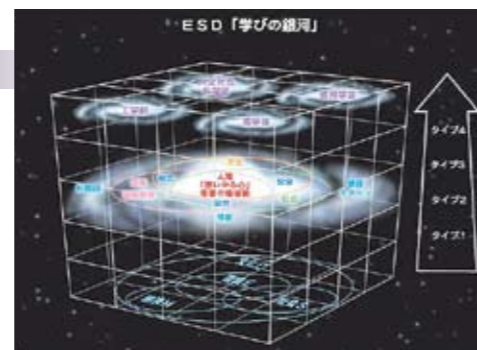
**Contact** Shinnosuke Tama (board member, vice-president)  
Masaaki Minami (professor)  
Kiyotaka Nakashima (project faculty member)  
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### “Galaxy of Learning,” ESD course labeling, Round Table on Education for Sustainable Development by All Education Institutions in Iwate, Joint Action to Turn Off the TV, Games, and the PC and Read Books Instead, Iwate Prefecture Education Summit, UNESCO Associated School Study Group

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

##### 1. Labeling ESD courses in university-wide general education

Iwate University conducted the “Galaxy of Learning” project from April 2006 to March 2009 as a MEXT Modern GP Project. For labeling ESD-related courses, all of the university’s general education courses were divided into four types and four categories: “E: Environment,” “S: Society,” “M: Market economics,” and “C: Culture” as categories; and “1. Creation of interest,” “2. Broadening and deepening of understanding,” “3. Student participation,” and “4. Experience in problem solving” as types. Using this four-by-four (=16) matrix as a guide, students are expected to incorporate ESD into their study.



##### 2. Activities of the Round Table on Education for Sustainable Development by All Education Institutions in Iwate



The Round Table on Education for Sustainable Development by All Education Institutions in Iwate was established in July 2008 by educational institutions in Iwate as a platform for collaboration and cooperation across different types of schools (different educational stages, public/private, etc.). We have carried out the “Joint Action to Turn Off the TV, Games, and the PC and Read Books Instead” twice to date, in 2009 and in 2010. With the goal of coordinating education with raising awareness of global warming prevention, prefecture-wide “Environment Week” (from May 30 to June 5, 2009 and 2010) was adopted by all kinds of schools in Iwate, from preschools and elementary schools to junior/senior high schools, universities, and vocational schools, and students turned off their TVs, games, and PCs to read books.

We also organized the Iwate Prefecture Education Summit (4th Round

Table on Education for Sustainable Development by All Education Institutions in Iwate), which involved speeches and a panel discussion focusing on educational continuity between preschool, elementary school, and junior high school, considering the continuity of education across different educational stages based on the new educational/curriculum guidelines.

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

##### 1. UNESCO Associated School Study Group meeting

The UNESCO Associated School Study Group was held in July 2010 with the attendance of people from Iwate’s educational institutions participating in or interested in ASPnet. Through this Study Group, the same collaborations among Iwate’s educational institutions as seen in the Round Table on Education for Sustainable Development by All Education Institutions in Iwate are spreading across educators involved in UNESCO Associated Schools. The Study Group plans to continue to hold meetings.

##### 2. Activities to promote ASPnet

We encourage schools, especially small schools in rural areas in Iwate, to participate in ASPnet. The whole town of Kuzumaki in Iwate is committed to ESD, primarily energy and environmental education; not only educational institutions but even the town office and local NPOs are involved. Iwate University has encouraged Kuzumaki’s people concerned, including those at educational institutions like Kuzumaki Elementary School and at the town office, to apply to ASPnet to become a UNESCO Associated School, and explained the application procedure.

## Tohoku University [Graduate School of Environmental Studies]

**Address** 6-6-20 Aoba, Aramaki, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi  
**URL** [www.kankyo.tohoku.ac.jp](http://www.kankyo.tohoku.ac.jp)

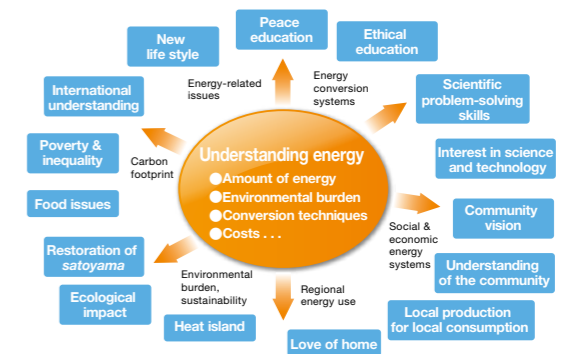
**Contact** Hiroshi Asanuma (associate professor)  
E-MAIL [asanuma@ni2.kankyo.tohoku.ac.jp](mailto:asanuma@ni2.kankyo.tohoku.ac.jp)  
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### Support for energy- and environment-related ESD activities

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Tohoku University was established in 2003. It is engaged in education and research with the mission of “establishing a culture supporting sustainable development and a social structure serving as the basis of a recycling-based society, and training people to acquire the high-level knowledge and skills needed to tackle global challenges in the 21st century.” This Graduate School provides environmental education and human resource development training for undergraduate and graduate students, adult students, and foreign students mainly from Asia.

The Graduate School conducts external ESD activities related to energy and the environment. The aim of studies here is not simply to learn about energy conversion and storage techniques, but to link them with various energy-related problems and search for a vision of a future society, technology, and life. We believe that we can offer deeper education by addressing energy and environmental issues in association with other challenges in ESD.



Role of energy & environmental education in ESD

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies supports UNESCO Associated Schools in the following areas.

##### 1. Providing information in the energy and environment field

Through provision of special classes on demand and exchange with teachers, we provide the latest information in this field, including energy amount calculation, environmental burdens, associated costs, and energy forecasts. Students are invited from UNESCO Associated Schools to attend an open class or visit the laboratories at Tohoku University.

##### 2. Preparing educational materials

We have developed a household energy and environmental account book, a system for a hands-on trial of solar power use, various generators, quizzes, and presentation files so that students in any grade can enjoy gaining experience on various occasions. Our educational materials may be lent out as well.

##### 3. Supporting curriculum development

We consult with teachers who want to engage in ESD from energy and environmental perspectives and assist their schools in developing optimal curricula.

##### 4. Commenting at workshops

Our members attend workshops for UNESCO Associated Schools and make comments to promote ESD activities at participating schools.

##### 5. Helping to join ASPnet

We help schools to prepare applications to join ASPnet. Assistance in translation of applications into English is also offered in a way that better reflects the intentions of each applicant school.

#### 【 Support in 2010 】

\*Special classes on demand (4 times), open classes on campus (6 times)

\*Curriculum development support (4 schools)

Household energy and environmental accounts of your family	
Car	( 1 ) unit(s) Number of units x 5 = ( 5 ) ←(a)
Air conditioner	( 1 ) unit(s) Number of units x 3 = ( 3 ) ←(b)
TV	( 2 ) unit(s) Number of units x 1 = ( 2 ) ←(c)
Refrigerator	( 1 ) unit(s) Number of units x 1 = ( 1 ) ←(d)
Total	(a) + (b) + (c) + (d) = ( 11 ) ←(e)
(e) x 50 = ( 550 ) This is the number of ( trees ) needed for absorbing ( carbon dioxide ).	

Household energy and environmental account book



Solar cooker



Small hydroelectric generator

<Educational materials for energy and environmental education>



## Miyagi University of Education

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**Promoting international understanding, environmental education, special support, food education, etc. by leveraging Tohoku's affluent resources**

### 【 Our ESD activities 】

#### ESD curriculum

To develop skills to solve the many challenges facing modern society (e.g., ability to act from a global perspective, ability to survive in changing times, qualities indispensable to teachers), we offer Contemporary Issues courses (sub-major) under the Education for Sustainable Development curriculum.

#### UNESCO Associated Schools and ASPUnivNet

Our university's Affiliated Elementary School was certified as Miyagi's first UNESCO Associated School in 2007. In 2008, Miyagi University of Education became Japan's second university certified as a UNESCO Associated School. Subsequently, we proposed the establishment of the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUivNet), and now serve as its Secretariat. In October of this year, the 2nd National Meeting of UNESCO Associated Schools was held on our campus.

#### Greater Sendai Area ESD Project

Miyagi University of Education acts as the Secretariat of the Greater Sendai Area ESD Project, which was certified for the first time in the world as a Regional Center for Expertise (RCE) of the United Nations University to promote ESD. Under this project, four regions (Sendai, Osaki-Tajiri, Kesennuma, and Shiroishi-Shichigashuku) and two universities (our university and Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies) are cooperating to enhance the common awareness of ESD in Miyagi Prefecture.

#### Participation in ProSPER.Net

ProSPER.Net is an academic network built by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies as a measure to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with the aim of facilitating collaboration and cooperation among higher research institutes in the Asian region. Miyagi University of Education became an official member in June 2008.



Certificate for RCE from the United Nations University

### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

#### As the Secretariat of ASPUnivNet (1)



We organize ASPnet & ASPUnivNet Double Promotion Network meetings. In December last year, a mutual learning workshop for UNESCO Associated Schools and their supporting universities was held in Odaiba, Tokyo. To allow Japanese UNESCO Associated Schools to interact with their counterparts in East Asia and Southeast Asia, we launched "The Rice Project" in October. Under this project, Mr. Masahiko Ichiriki, representative director of The Kahoku Shimpo, delivered a keynote speech (open to the public) titled "Rice Connects Regions and the World," and working sessions focusing on "Rice Growing and Biodiversity," "Rice Growing and Learning Based on Hands-On Experience," "Rice Growing and Food Culture/Food Education," and "Rice Growing and Traditional Entertainment" were held to provide an opportunity to exchange information.

#### As the Secretariat of ASPUnivNet (2)

In cooperation with ASPUnivNet Member Universities and the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), we offer guidance and advice to schools considering joining ASPnet, including those in Miyagi Prefecture, the Tohoku region, and elsewhere in Japan.

#### Support for UNESCO Associated Schools

(1) At seminars organized by schools or boards of education, we introduce the ideals of ESD and profiles of UNESCO Associated Schools. To schools wishing to join ASPnet, we give advice on application procedures and how to fill out an application.

(2) For schools already participating in ASPnet, we organize UNESCO Associated School workshops in cooperation with Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies. Workshops were held in Shiroishi City, Kesennuma City, and at our university in the last fiscal year, and will take place in Kesennuma twice this fiscal year.

(3) We make other efforts to promote ESD and support UNESCO Associated Schools in areas such as education for international understanding and environmental education, utilizing our resources and working in coordination with local boards of education. Greater Sendai Area ESD Project members, JICA, regional associations for international exchange, and NPOs. Examples of these activities include the development of ESD pilot materials based on Madagascar's zoo (environmental education), training for Australian elementary school teachers concerning education in English and international understanding (education for international understanding), and the Miyagi University of Education Dance Recital focusing on local tradition and education (regional heritage education).



## Tamagawa University [College of Education]

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**Aiming towards international networking by promoting ESD programs ingeniously designed to suit local needs**



### 【 Our ESD activities and support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

#### 1. Background to participation in ASP and ASPUnivNet

Tamagawa University's College of Education joined the UNESCO Associated Schools Project (ASP) on October 24, 2008, on the recommendation of MEXT's Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, as "a higher education institution training teachers for international understanding." Tamagawa University was founded by Kuniyoshi Obara, a leader in the Taisho New Education Movement, as a teacher training school under the philosophy of *zenjin* education (holistic education). Building on tradition arising from this history, we are creating a regional network to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the priority program of UNESCO Associated Schools, while working in cooperation with public elementary and junior high schools and boards of education in neighboring areas (Cities of Tama, Inagi, Yokohama, Kawasaki, Sagami, Machida, etc.), the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, the Machida-Sagami UNESCO Association, ESD-J, and other NPOs. To support ASPnet activities, especially those for ESD, at elementary and junior high schools, Tamagawa University's College of Education joined the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUivNet) in November 2008 to foster interuniversity cooperation.

#### 2. Japan -UNESCO Partnership Project (commissioned by MEXT)

As a member of ASPUnivNet, we have been commissioned projects from MEXT's "Japan-UNESCO Partnership Project" since FY 2009, and we hosted a regional forum called the "ESD Seminar in Tamagawa University" on December 19, 2009 to deepen regional collaboration. This ESD Seminar attracted more than 80 people from inside and outside the university. Representatives of local schools, those of UNESCO Associated Schools, and Tamagawa Academy's teachers in environmental and international education gathered to engage in academic discussion and information exchange on the basic understanding of ESD and associated challenges, ways to foster interschool joint activities, and the role of the university. On August 9, 2010, an "ESD Working Group" focusing on efforts at UNESCO Associated Schools was held during the "Tamagawa Education Forum," a gathering for *zenjin* education that included the Tamagawa Academy's alumni. Just as in 2009, Tamagawa University hosted the "ESD Promotion Forum" on December 18, 2010, with the help of JNCU, as part of the MEXT-commissioned "Japan-UNESCO Partnership Project." The event attracted 105 participants and allowed them to deepen their understanding through discussion.

#### 3. Support for schools in the regional ASP network

As part of our activities to assist elementary and junior/senior high schools in applying to ASPnet, we gave advice to Izu City Amagi Junior High School (Shizuoka), Kawasaki City Masugata Junior High School, Machida City Oyamada Elementary School, Tama City Renkoji Elementary School, and Yokohama City Nagatadai Elementary School regarding education and educational material development for ESD promotion, and supported their demonstration lessons for educational studies. To foster remote exchange and learning, we use V-CUBE, a system under development at Tamagawa University Research Institute, to provide teleclasses for Tama City Minamitsurumaki Elementary School in Tokyo, Kamimura Gakuen Elementary School in Kagoshima, and Iwamizawa City Second Elementary School in Hokkaido.

#### 4. Prospects for activities in FY 2011 and beyond

In FY 2011 and ahead, we plan to encourage mainly elementary and junior high schools in the Machida and Tama areas to join ASPnet and develop and enhance ESD networks between local districts. Particular emphasis will be placed on the development of curricula focusing on ESD in elementary education and educational materials for training teachers. This will include our ongoing project to create ESD educational materials that seek ways for human society to exist in harmony with nature with particular attention to Tamagawa Academy's campus as a biotope and to *sato-yama* (rural environments where people and nature live in harmony) in the Oyamada district in Machida. From FY 2011 onward, in particular, we aim to construct an international network by enhancing exchange and cooperation with UNESCO Associated Schools in the Asia-Pacific region through UNESCO's networks, such as the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) and the Asia-Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education (APNIEVE).

#### 5. Activities of the Tamagawa University UNESCO Club

The Tamagawa University UNESCO Club is an extracurricular activity conducted primarily by teacher aspirants among our students as part of efforts as a UNESCO Associated School. With an eye toward a harmonious multicultural society, it engages in exchange and joint activities with foreign students studying in Japan, in cooperation with the Kanagawa International Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The Club is active in exchanging and collaborating with neighborhood universities (J. F. Oberlin University, Azabu University, Sagami Women's University, etc.) in undertaking ESD activities, as demonstrated by its participation in the "Sagamachi Student Symposium on the Environment" (Regional Consortium of Sagami-Machida Universities) to present reports. To promote linkage with overseas UNESCO Associated Schools, the Club organized a study tour to Greece from February 9 to 19, 2010. Members visited the Greek National Commission for UNESCO, Panteon University (UNESCO Chair), the American College of Greece, 4th Iraklio High School (UNESCO Associated School), the Greek-Japanese Association, and so forth to take a look at UNESCO activities in the country. The results of this study tour were compiled into a report in both Japanese and English. In August 2010, the Club arranged a study trip to Nikko, a World Heritage site, and held an exchange session with the Nikko UNESCO Association. Participants held deep discussion on suggestions that could be gained from Japan's religious tradition of the unity of Shintoism and Buddhism regarding inter-religious dialogue toward the coexistence of multiple cultures in global society, and created a bilingual report in Japanese and English.

#### 6. Collaboration with the UNESCO Headquarters

ASPnet (UNESCO Associated Schools), and ESD as its key program, are both carried out under the initiative of UNESCO, a specialized agency of the United Nations. Recognizing this, Tamagawa University's College of Education highly values participation in activities organized by the UNESCO Headquarters and collaboration with it. This is reflected in the fact that we attended the UNESCO World Conference on ESD, which took place from March 31 to April 2, 2009 in Bonn, in order to deepen communication with overseas UNESCO Associated Schools and related agencies and to collect information on ESD and other educational practices in foreign countries. We also participated in the World Conference on Higher Education 2009, held on July 5-8, 2009 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. At the Conference, we obtained information on UNESCO Chairs' efforts in international cooperation and interuniversity networking, and discussed with participants from other countries the role and challenges of higher education in promoting ESD, while deepening interaction with representatives of universities and higher education policy makers from other countries. On October 21-23, 2010, we attended the 14th UNESCO-APEID International Conference organized by UNESCO Bangkok to gather information on ESD programs at UNESCO Associated Schools in the Asia-Pacific region, especially those focusing on human resource development, and to engage in exchange with a view to establishing a network with UNESCO Associated Schools in the Asia-Pacific region.





## Kanazawa University

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### ESD promotion and establishment of a knowledge center in Hokuriku Internal ESD programs and support for UNESCO Associated Schools

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

Kanazawa University launched in FY 2008 an introductory ESD course "The Global Environment and the Establishment of a Sustainable Society." We are also making efforts to systematize and increase the visibility of environmental education and ESD on campus, for example, by strengthening ESD-related courses.

In accordance with our Second Mid-Term Plan, which requires Kanazawa University to enhance ESD-related courses and support for UNESCO Associated Schools, we expanded on-site exercises on environment and ESD and courses related to *satoyama-satoumi* (traditional land and marine conservation and utilization). In addition, we will set up a special program on the "environmental and ESD literacy" in FY 2011. Those who have successfully completed it will be granted certificates from Kanazawa University's president. With emphasis on hands-on training in ESD studies and education, we are intensifying field studies in *satoyama* in Kakuma, where Kanazawa University is located, and those focusing on the Noto Peninsula, where communities are on the verge of collapse due to depopulation, aging, and other factors.

Attention is also paid to internationalization of environmental and ESD education; we have been committed to developing foreign students and researchers invited under the young researcher exchange support program and other initiatives in the environmental and ESD field. Furthermore, in FY 2011, we will establish a "Special Course on Environmental and Eco-Friendly Technology" as a project to develop highly specialized professionals through interuniversity exchange between Japan, China, and Republic of Korea, and start a master's course called the English course on Environment + ESD at the Graduate School, which can be completed in English only.

To strengthen cooperation in ESD among 20 higher education institutions in Ishikawa, we are creating common materials for environmental education and ESD, while striving to share classes based on ICT.

In an effort to foster exchange of information and experiences among those involved in ESD in Hokuriku and facilitate their networking, we are building a platform for exchange with local entities, including academic institutions (e.g., zoos and museums), municipal governments (including community centers and public libraries), environmental- and ESD-related NGOs, and local companies (e.g., the Hokuriku Economic Federation and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry).

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

##### Overview

In FY 2008, under the Global Environment Fund Project "ESD Promotion in the Hokuriku Region with Emphasis on School Teachers," we held in Hokuriku five ESD seminars mainly for school teachers, an ESD symposium to raise public awareness on ESD, and ESD model projects for seven schools. To plan and operate these projects, we gathered individuals engaged in ESD from three prefectures in Hokuriku to organize a liaison committee for ESD promotion. Since FY 2009, the Global Environment Fund Project "ESD Promotion in the Hokuriku Region by Multiple Stakeholders" has been in progress conducting ESD seminars, ESD symposia, and ESD model projects in each of the three Hokuriku prefectures and further disseminating ESD among citizens through coordinated activities with social education projects at community centers and other public facilities. We have been commissioned projects from MEXT's "Japan-UNESCO Partnership Project" since FY 2009. As part of this, in FY 2009, we published the "Good Practices at UNESCO Associated Schools in Hokuriku" and held workshops and other events to present and communicate the outcomes.

##### Activities in FY 2010

#### 1. ESD promotion and support for participation in ASPnet and exchange among its members in Hokuriku

- ESD courses mainly for school teachers
- Support for ESD seminars and workshops held by boards of education for UNESCO Associated Schools
- Support for school teachers' activities in ESD study organizations
- Cooperation in UNESCO Associated School training projects by the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan or other organizations
- Advice to schools preparing applications to ASPnet to promote participation of potential UNESCO Associated Schools

#### 2 ESD symposia in Hokuriku to raise public awareness on ESD

#### 3 Promotion of model projects in Hokuriku and documentation of their practices

#### 4 Interschool exchange and networking across regions

- Experience-sharing sessions between UNESCO Associated Schools in Hokuriku and those in Tokai
- Visit to senior high schools in an advanced region (Osaka) to learn UNESCO Associated School activities and to exchange opinions

#### 5 Enhancement of ESD curricula in teacher training courses at universities

- Studies to integrate ESD into teacher training courses at Kanazawa University
- Development and dissemination of common ESD educational materials for universities in Ishikawa

#### 6 Reinforcement of interuniversity cooperation to promote UNESCO Associated Schools

- Interuniversity ESD Collaboration Meeting in Hokuriku
- Interuniversity ESD Collaboration Meeting in Chubu

#### 7 Other assistance, e.g., workshops and lectures on demand at individual schools



Opening remarks at the ESD Seminar in Kanazawa



Presentation by Toyama City Chuo Elementary School



Collection of Good Practices at UNESCO Associated Schools in Hokuriku

## Mie University

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### Environmentally Advanced University, Environmental ISO Student Committee, University Social Responsibility (USR), career education, enhanced basic education, World Heritage "Kumano Kodo," UNESCO Club

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

Through a campus-wide effort, Mie University became certified as a UNESCO Associated School in August 2009 and has been committed to relevant activities since then. In other words, while being active as an ASPUnivNet member, we have been expanding and deepening various ESD activities by taking advantage of features as a comprehensive university.

ESD activities at Mie University mainly consist of (1) environmental education, (2) career education, (3) education for teachers and students seeking to become teachers, and (4) World Heritage education.

In the area of environmental education, we acquired ISO 14001 certification for all of our departments in 2007 to become Japan's first university to become certified this way. Our efforts under this certification include 3R activities led by the Environmental ISO Student Committee and "Mie University Brand Environmental Education," in which educational programs to support students' acquisition of environmental licenses and international environmental education are in progress. As a result of these efforts, Mie University was awarded in FY 2009 the grand prize in the environmental management category of the 8th Japan Environmental Management Award, along with four other prizes. And in FY 2010, the university won first place overall in the "Eco-Friendly University Ranking."

On the career education side, we provide training for elementary and junior/senior high school teachers, as well as teaching assistance in class through the UNESCO Club, under the theme "21st Century Human Resource Development: 'Energy to Live' and Career Education." For our own students, we are conducting a project titled "Nurturing a Wide Variety of Professionals Who Aim to Develop Others and Themselves," which was selected as MEXT's FY 2010 project to develop university students' career-finding capacity. For World Heritage education, students learn theories in class under the theme "Preserving Kumano Kodo and Passing It onto the Next Generation," and put them into action under the initiative of the UNESCO Club.

To educate teachers and students seeking to become teachers, we conduct "PANGAEA activities" on a monthly basis. In cooperation with the Tsu City Government and an NPO, we gather children willing to participate in activities on a Saturday afternoon to interact with people in other parts of Japan or the world over the Internet. Since FY 2009, we have been organizing a "UNESCO Associated School Workshop/Symposium in Mie University" as an important learning opportunity.

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

Being a UNESCO Associated School itself, Mie University provides a wide range of support, while offering education to university students. Mie University is the first UNESCO Associated School certified in Mie Prefecture. The number of UNESCO Associated Schools in Mie has already increased to six, including five public elementary and junior high schools in Suzuka City; the number is expected to rise further. We even plan to expand support beyond Mie Prefecture. Examples of our recent activities are described below.

##### Seminars for educators

We provide seminars on "Enhancing Academic Abilities and Improving Teaching" for municipal boards of education members and teachers of elementary schools, junior high schools, and integrated senior high schools in Mie. The aim of the seminars is "enhancing basic education for children around the world," which is pursued by UNESCO. While answering questions arising to teachers in their day-to-day teaching, we propose specific measures and hints to achieve the target after improvement.

##### World Heritage Workshop

On October 9, 2010, we provided the "Kumano Kodo and UNESCO Associated School Promotion Seminar." Although the program had to be modified due to bad weather, the event attracted 72 people, including educators and students in Mie. They exchanged meaningful opinions with members of the Association of Kumano Kodo Storytellers (top photo).

##### UNESCO Associated School Workshop/Symposium in Mie University

Since FY 2009, Mie University has been organizing a workshop to learn about UNESCO Associated Schools and a symposium where UNESCO Associated Schools report their activities. The photo in the middle shows a scene during poster presentation.

##### Support for teaching at UNESCO Associated Schools

Mie University aims to allow the program to cultivate "solid academic abilities and a well-rounded character" to take root in schools and ensure that students with "energy to live" play a part in regional development. Toward this goal, we offer teacher training, and our UNESCO Club members are involved as teaching assistants to elementary and junior high school teachers (bottom photo).





## Osaka Prefecture University

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### Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies, holistic approach to education, establishment of a regional network of UNESCO Associated Schools

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

##### 1. Establishment of Environmental Studies as an interdisciplinary sub-major for undergraduates and the International Environmental Activity Program for the graduate school

Humanity faces diverse problems associated with sustainability, and finding ways to tackle them is an urgent issue. For the sake of ESD, which aims to create a sustainable society, many point out the need to nurture so-called environmental human resources. This requires a correct understanding of a broad spectrum of environmental issues from multiple and scientific viewpoints, with a view to creating a sustainable, recycling-oriented society. To provide consistent education from undergraduate to graduate courses, we established in FY 2010 Environmental Studies as an interdisciplinary sub-major for all undergraduates and the International Environmental Activity Program for all graduate students on master's courses, as a result of cooperation among the School of Life & Environmental Sciences and the School of Engineering, which develop ecological science and environmental technologies, and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the School of Economics, which focus on sustainable social systems and lifestyles and on the formation of values and the attitude needed to foster them. (This project was selected in FY 2009 to be implemented under the "University Educational Program Development Program to Foster Environmental Human Resources" of the Ministry of the Environment.)

##### 2. Development of school teachers with comprehensive and holistic teaching capacity as key educators in ESD

Osaka Prefecture University has a track record of producing teachers for Osaka's prefectural public senior high schools as well as other junior and senior high schools in Osaka Prefecture. Our courses emphasize education and research that incorporate integrated, holistic approaches, which are also stressed in UNESCO's 21st-century vision based on ESD. We have also developed a program to foster collaboration capability, which allows many professionals in multiple fields of school education, including teachers of different subjects, social workers, and school counselors, to work in coordination. This enables us to educate teachers qualified for ESD practices, which require a comprehensive viewpoint.

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

##### 1. Support for UNESCO Associated School projects through international cooperation

In accordance with MEXT's measure that was launched in 2001 to revitalize ASPnet, UNESCO Associated Schools in Osaka pioneered in Japan pilot practices (research) based on participation in ASPnet and UNESCO's philosophy. Since even before the start of the United Nation's "Decade of ESD" in 2005, these schools have been addressing a broad range of educational issues that lead to a Culture of Peace, a philosophy advocated by UNESCO, and to the creation of a sustainable society, by linking them with regional issues. They have handled problems of their schools or communities as problems common to the world and organized events such as the "International ESD Conference of High School Students from Seven Asian and Scandinavian Countries" (2008). Osaka Prefecture University has been quick to support schools' efforts to participate in ASPnet and deepen learning at the regional and global levels, in the form of disseminating the significance of these actions across society, and has been passing the results of ASPnet onto society while searching for the best way for the university to relate to UNESCO Associated Schools.



##### 2. Assistance for the formation of a regional network of UNESCO Associated Schools

As a result of these developments, the "Osaka UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPnet) Network" was established in November 2009 as a public regional collaboration framework for UNESCO Associated Schools in Osaka. Officially recognized by the Osaka Prefecture Board of Education, this organization accepts not only UNESCO Associated Schools, but also schools considering participation in ASPnet and those supporting ASPnet. The Network now consists of 24 elementary and secondary educational institutions. Operated by school coordinators of member schools, who gather to exchange information and discuss joint projects and practices, this organization is becoming a progressive model of a regional network of UNESCO Associated Schools. As a member of this network since its inauguration, Osaka Prefecture University has been cooperating with educational authorities to promote collaboration with local UNESCO Associated Schools as well as all UNESCO Associated Schools. Osaka Prefecture University currently serves as the secretariat of this network.

##### 3. Promotion of mutual learning based on a network of different types of schools

One of the values of acting as a certified UNESCO Associated School is mutual learning among different types of schools, such as elementary schools, junior/senior high schools, and universities, enabled by the sharing of UNESCO's philosophy. Osaka Prefecture University and the Osaka UNESCO Associated Schools Network jointly organized an "Exchange Session for Mutual Learning 2010" in August 2010 as a Japan-UNESCO Partnership Project to provide an opportunity for students of different grades from different types of schools to learn from one another. A sequel to it, the "Exchange Session for Mutual Learning 2011," is now being planned. An important perspective here is not only that these projects are prepared by teachers at UNESCO Associated Schools to maintain students' learning experience at each school, but also that they are intended to be shared among all the UNESCO Associated Schools in Osaka. By having participating schools realize the value of UNESCO Associated Schools, these projects have even helped expand the initiative by increasing the number of UNESCO Associated Schools, while allowing existing UNESCO Associated Schools to mutually enhance the quality of activities.

## Nara University of Education

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### World Heritage Education

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

##### 1. National Summit on World Heritage Education 2010 in Nara: UNESCO Associated School Education Workshop at Nara University of Education

In FY 2010, as a sequel to the previous year's "National Pre-Summit on World Heritage Education in Nara: UNESCO Associated School Education Workshop at Nara University of Education," the "National Summit on World Heritage Education 2010 in Nara: UNESCO Associated School Education Workshop at Nara University of Education" was held on November 28 under the auspices of MEXT, Nara University of Education, Nara City Board of Education, Nara National Museum, and the World Heritage Education Liaison Council. This workshop addresses World Heritage and other cultural heritage as a means to foster pride in the community and conduct education on the environment, peace, international understanding, and human rights. Its aim is to translate the ideals advocated by UNESCO into action at schools through efforts such as developing contributors to a sustainable society.

With the attendance of about 800 people from around Japan, including board of education members promoting World Heritage education, the National Summit progressed successfully in an enthusiastic atmosphere.

In the morning session, titled "Education for Sustainable Development and World Heritage Education," a symposium on World Heritage education was held, with Professor Isao Tabuchi at Nara University of Education serving as the coordinator and with the participation of Mr. Takashi Asai, director of the Office for International Cooperation, International Affairs Division, MEXT Minister's Secretariat, Dr. Han Gyeong-Gu, chairman of the Korean Society of Education for International Understanding, and Mr. Tsutomu Ishihara, manager of the School Education Division, Nara City Board of Education, as symposiasts.

In the afternoon, 11 thematic working sessions for teachers and a World Heritage education workshop for citizens were held at separate venues, followed by a lecture titled "Aspects of Nara That Should Be Passed onto Children" by Mr. Atsushi Nishiyama, director of the Curator Department, Nara National Museum.

The World Heritage education workshop consisted of a lecture "Going to the truth of the establishment of Nara Heijo-kyo" by Mr. Kazuto Inoue, vice-president of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, an original *gagaku* music performance by pupils at Nara City Daianji-Nishi Elementary School, and a Noh farce performance by pupils at Nara City Tsukigase Elementary School. The audience was impressed by the outcome of the ESD activities.



Nara University of Education's President Nagatomo making remarks



Original gagaku music performance by pupils at Nara City Daianji-Nishi Elementary School



Noh farce performance by pupils at Nara City Tsukigase Elementary School

##### 2. Field work to prepare materials for World Heritage education by students

During FY 2010, we conducted field work to prepare materials for World Heritage education on June 30 and July 7 at the Heijo Palace ruins, Kofukuji Temple, Yakushiji Temple, Toshodaiji Temple, Kasuga Taisha Shrine, Kasuga Primeval Forest, Todaiji Temple, Gangoji Temple, and the Naramachi district. Its aim was to deepen our students' practice in World Heritage education. The results of the field work were published as "World Heritage in Nara Learned with Friends."

##### 3. Open Class "Hands-On Learning of Nara World Heritage for Parents and Children"

This open class was held to deepen the understanding of "Historic Monuments of Ancient Nara," which are listed as a World Heritage site. Elementary and junior high school students and their parents were given an opportunity to visit Todaiji and Kofukuji Temples, guided by Nara University of Education teachers and the Association of Nara Volunteer Tour Guides members, and they learned about ESD through World Heritage (on October 23, 2010).

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

##### Efforts to invigorate activities at certified and applying members of ASPnet

Our efforts this fiscal year have mainly focused on the following two areas.

###### (1) Nara ESD Camp 2010

[Date] August 22-23, 2010  
[Place] National Youth Exchange House in Awaji  
[Participants] Teachers and students from certified and applying member schools of ASPnet  
[Program] Activities mainly under the following five themes  
• Past, present, and future of ESD  
• World Heritage education  
• Global challenges in connection with us  
• Qualifications we need as the next generation  
• Nara ASPnet Children's Conference



###### (2) Workshop for teachers involved in designing community-based student activities

[Date] October 7-8, 2010  
[Place] Toyama City Chuo Elementary School; Affiliated Elementary School of the University of Toyama's Faculty of Human Development; "Gassho-no-Sato" village in Gokayama, Toyama; Shirakawago, Gifu  
[Participants] Teachers from certified and applying member schools of ASPnet  
[Program] Activities mainly in the following two areas  
• Visiting schools playing pioneering roles in promoting ESD to learn about their practices and obtain suggestions about future ESD efforts at schools to which participating teachers belong  
• Learning about community efforts to deal with development and conservation issues in Shirakawago and Gokayama and obtain suggestions about desirable ways to balance World Heritage preservation and tourism in Nara



Visit to Toyama City Chuo Elementary School



Tour of Gokayama



## Naruto University of Education

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### Shikoku Pilgrimage, Environmental education, International understanding

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

Naruto University of Education recently joined ASPUnivNet in FY 2010. Although a new member, we have been making active commitment to ESD and its equivalent activities in cooperation with local boards of education and schools.

#### 1. Pilgrimage Walk program

The program allows our students and local schoolchildren to walk the trails of the Shikoku Pilgrimage, which is deeply rooted in Shikoku's regional culture and yet appeals to many people of today, and thereby aims to foster exchange with local people supporting the pilgrimage and deepen understanding of the traditional culture. In coordination with our graduate course on "Shikoku Pilgrimage and Regional Culture," this program is also designed to provide students with an opportunity to gain both a first-hand understanding of local culture and practice their teaching skills.

#### 2. Shoboji River Environmental Education program

The program focuses on the Shoboji River, a tributary of the Yoshino River running through our local region, and serves as a framework for cooperation among local volunteer groups, elementary schools and Naruto University of Education to study the state of the river, including water quality inspection, wild bird observation, observation of fish and waterside creatures, and a survey of the river basin environment, by using the fourth graders' period for general studies for one year. In FY 2008, we received the Minister of the Environment Award in recognition of our commitment to environmental education.

#### 3. International Festival

The International Festival organized in FY 2010 by our International Cooperation Center for the Teacher Education and Training brought together those interested in education for international understanding, including individuals engaged in such education and representatives of international cooperation agencies/groups and of teacher training institutions. Across differences in position or background, participants shared with others views on education for international understanding based on their own background, interest and experience and discussed the future vision of education for international understanding and a platform for it.

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

We have assisted schools in the Shikoku region in applying for ASPnet, including filling out an application and translating it into English, and have conducted and supported ESD and its equivalent activities in close cooperation with local boards of education, volunteer groups, and schools. With many ESD-related initiatives seen burgeoning in other parts of Japan, we are expected to incorporate them into our UNESCO Associated School support program and further enhance our assistance.



Taking a rest and having a chat at an observation point along a mountain trail for the Pilgrimage



Morning departure in the Pilgrimage Walk program from Fujidera Temple, holy temple No. 11

## Okayama University [Graduate School of Environmental Science, Graduate School of Education]

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 Tsutomu Kawada  
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#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

##### 1. About the UNESCO Chair at Okayama University

In FY 2006, Okayama University submitted a request to establish the "UNESCO Chair in Research and Education for Sustainable Development at Okayama University," and it was approved by UNESCO in April 2007. The UNESCO Chair at Okayama University aims to promote projects concerning Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The Okayama region was certified as one of the world's first seven Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD in June 2005. Local governments, schools NGOs, and civic groups have been jointly engaged in ESD activities to date, but their collaboration with higher education institutions is insufficient. Realizing the need to enhance ESD activities as a higher education institution and broaden ESD activities in coordination with institutions involved in RCE Okayama, we decided to request the approval of the establishment of a UNESCO Chair. Since the approval, the Okayama region has seen the establishment of mechanisms for various organizations to address ESD in the fields of international collaboration, domestic collaboration, school education and social education.

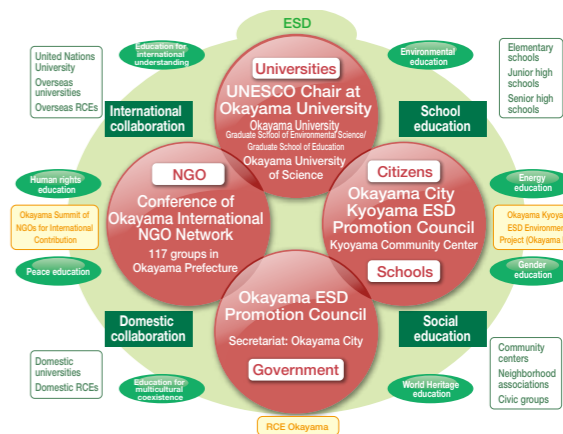


Chart 1. Institutions involved in RCE Okayama and their ESD efforts

##### 2. Operating structure of the UNESCO Chair at Okayama University

The UNESCO Chair at Okayama University is operated as Okayama University's all-campus organization, and the head of the Graduate School of Environmental Science serves as the Chair Holder. The Chair has established close cooperative relations with ESD-related organizations in Okayama, as demonstrated by its conclusion of an agreement for ESD promotion with Okayama City and the participation of Okayama University's representatives in RCE Okayama's steering organization.

The Chair's activities are supported by external competitive funds and internal expenses, including those at the discretion of the President. From FY 2007 to FY 2009, the Chair was operated under the "International Environmental Specialist Development Program Based on Regional Communication" funded by MEXT's special educational research expenses (collaboration and conversion projects). Funds are also sourced from MEXT's Organizational Graduate School Education Reform Promotion Program, the exchange fund of the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO, and so forth.

##### 3. ESD activities at Okayama University

###### (1) ESD activities linked with the community

The UNESCO Chair at Okayama University emphasizes professional advice on ESD and cooperation on international collaboration from the standpoint of a higher education institution. Since 1994, Okayama has held the "Okayama Summit of NGOs for International Contribution" annually, and its main topic has been ESD since 2003. Among the series of these summit meetings, the ESD International Conference in 2006 and the Kominkan Summit in 2007 were organized by Okayama University.

ESD in the Okayama region can be characterized by activities based in community centers (*kominkan* in Japanese). Through joint projects with *kominkan*, such as regional environmental inspection, eco-tours, the ESD Festival, the ESD Summit (region-wide conference), workshops, and study groups, we engage in activities to improve the regional educational capacity and enhance the sustainability of local communities through coordination between social education and school education.



Kominkan Summit 2007

###### (2) Cooperation with domestic and overseas higher education institutions on ESD

Okayama University promotes cooperation with domestic and overseas higher education institutions by participating in the HESD Forum (a network of domestic higher education institutions for ESD) and ProSPER.Net (a network of universities in the Asia-Pacific region for ESD).

To incorporate ESD into liberal arts education (i.e. increase ESD-related courses), ESD-related courses are clearly identified in syllabi for liberal arts courses. We have also created a brochure that gives new students an overview of ESD and explains ESD-related courses, and distribute its copies to all the newly-enrolled students in undergraduate and graduate programs.

In our graduate education, the "Human Resources Training Program for Restoring the Environment in Asia: Convergence of Recycling-Based Society Development Study and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)" was selected in FY 2008 to be implemented under the MEXT's Organizational Graduate School Education Reform Promotion Program. As a result, we established a human resources training course for ESD in the Graduate School of Environmental Science.



ESD Festival (Koyoyama Community Center)

##### 4. Coordination with school education at elementary and junior/senior high schools

In cooperation with Okayama City, Okayama University has set up the "Special Committee on ESD Promotion Techniques" to develop ESD curricula for elementary and junior high schools in Okayama City. Being one of the inaugural members of the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUivNet), we support UNESCO Associated Schools and schools committed to ESD in Okayama Prefecture through the concerted efforts of the Graduate School of Education, the Graduate School of Environmental Science, the UNESCO Chair at Okayama University and other internal organizations.

Under the Japan-UNESCO Partnership Project, we organized the "Okayama District ESD Workshop" on December 25, 2009, for those concerned in elementary and junior high schools in Okayama City, and the "Workshop and Exchange Session for UNESCO Associated Schools and ESD Schools in the Okayama District" on December 6, 2010. Our Graduate School of Education has adopted ESD for teacher training and organizes various workshops for those concerned in local schools.



## Kyushu University [Faculty of Languages and Cultures]

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### International understanding, international cooperation, cross-cultural communication

#### 【 Profile of Kyushu University's Faculty of Languages and Cultures 】

The Faculty of Languages and Cultures, Kyushu University, consists of academics comprehensively and scientifically studying cultures in various countries and regions in the world with attention to language. For Japan to play an even greater leading role in modern society in the midst of rapid globalization and informatization, it needs to have outstanding human resources that serve as a bridge linking Japan and the world in every possible field. These professionals must have, in addition to knowledge and experience in their special fields, high proficiency in the languages of the countries or the regions concerned and a deep understanding of their culture. We are committed to the education of such human resources.

#### 【 Our ESD activities 】

We conduct

- Projects on education for international understanding;
- Projects on international cooperation; and
- Projects on cross-cultural communication.

#### 【 Our support for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

##### 1. Support for schools joining ASPnet

In cooperation with boards of education in the Kyushu and Yamaguchi regions, we assist schools wishing to join ASPnet by providing guidance on the application procedure.

##### 2. Support for UNESCO Associated School activities

- To improve the quality of activities at UNESCO Associated Schools, we organize UNESCO Associated School workshops in cooperation with the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU), and the Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J).
- We cooperate on the provision of special classes on demand, for which the university's teachers and foreign students are dispatched.
- We cooperate with local NGOs/NPOs to provide information conducive to activities at UNESCO Associated Schools.

##### 3. Assistance for the networking of UNESCO Associated Schools

We support exchange and partnerships between UNESCO Associated Schools in Kyushu and Yamaguchi with their counterparts in Asia (especially Republic of Korea and China), which is geographically close to the region.



UNESCO Associated School Workshop in Fukuoka jointly organized with NFUAJ



Lecturers at the workshop with Mr. Lee San Je, Korean National Commission for UNESCO(our partner in Korea, Republic)

## Profile of our support member

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#### 【 Keywords 】

**Holistic approach** ...

Education for international understanding, environmental and consumer education, citizenship education, education for school crisis management and risk avoidance, education for school library use, ESD curriculum development, development of ESD practice observation and evaluation techniques

**Knot working** .....

Educational network building and organizational theory

**Leaning for All** .....

Advice and assistance to LFA, a non-profit organization supporting the learning of children and students suffering poverty or other difficulties in Japan

#### 【 Past support provided for UNESCO Associated Schools 】

Although we are not involved in activities to directly and constantly support UNESCO Associated Schools, we conduct lectures and workshops on ESD in teacher training universities/courses and provide research guidance and practical assistance for teachers in active service and students studying to become teachers. We also conduct lectures and workshops to support practical ESD research and the development, restructuring and dissemination of ESD education in schools and areas mainly in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

#### 【 Major activities in 2009-2010 】

- Support for ESD Study Group at the Tokorozawa City Education Center in Saitama (from May 2010 to present)
- ESD workshop at the Nakano Ward Board of Education in Tokyo (Aug. 2010)
- LFA's lectures and workshops to support students and teachers (from Aug. 2010 to present)
- Observation record and evaluation feedback for Koto Ward Shinonome Elementary School, Tokyo (Oct. 2010)
- Basic course for environmental education leader training at Zao Nature House in Miyagi (Nov. 2010)
- Place for intellectual and emotional learning "Forum on Education Based on School Libraries" (Dec. 2010)
- Lectures and workshops at Graduate School of Teacher Education, Tokyo Gakugei University (2009 and 2010)
- Lectures on social education research and instruction techniques at Chuo University (2009 and 2010)
- ACCU, "A Guide to Using ESD Materials: Hope for a Sustainable Future" (2009)
- ACCU, "ESD Projects for Schools and Others" (2010)
- Itabashi Ward citizen ESD workshop in Tokyo (Dec. 2009)
- Jiyu Gakuen School observation record and evaluation feedback (Dec. 2009)

#### 【 Next topics of interest 】

- Expansion of research in ESD observation and evaluation techniques and implementation of their trials (practical HOPE evaluation)
- Approach to ESD practices for teacher development, training for existing teachers, and teacher education

## Future of ASPUnivNet

The Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated School Project Network (ASPUnivNet) was inaugurated at the end of 2008 by eight universities committed to ESD. Although no particular abbreviated name is defined for it, people at UNESCO Associated Schools have recently and affectionately come to call the Network "univnet" (*yunibunetto*).

ASPUnivNet is a network of universities and other higher education institutions supporting voluntary activities at UNESCO Associated Schools. We hope that UNESCO Associated Schools, the mainstay of this initiative, will unleash their unique abilities underpinned by their own local educational capacity and fulfill people's wish that children grow to support the future Earth. ASPUnivNet is willing to work in the background to help these efforts at UNESCO Associated Schools.

Activities at UNESCO Associated Schools can be characterized by their leading role as pilot schools and an outstanding network across national boundaries. ASPUnivNet plans to propose flagship projects among schools in the Asia-Pacific region. The first focuses on "okome" (rice). We hope that this flagship project will help children develop global perspectives that cross national boundaries.

ASPUnivNet has 12 member universities today. We expect additional universities to join early in 2011. For the benefit of UNESCO Associated Schools, it would be desirable if every prefecture had at least one member university. We will continue to urge other universities to participate in this initiative.

The United Nations' "Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (DESD) continues from 2005 to 2014. Although we aim to get ESD on track during this period, "sustainability" is our perpetual goal. With an eye toward the near future and beyond, we will go forward together with UNESCO Associated Schools, while strengthening ties with them so that we continue to be a reliable partner that provides them with quality support.

(ASPUnivNet Secretariat)