

Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, or 'ESD-J', is a nationwide network organization to connect various NGOs in Japan for Education for Sustainable Development in Japan and has been working closely with citizens, municipalities, academics and national government since 2003. Under this national umbrella organization, more than 40 regional talks on ESD were held in various cities and with its strong advocacy activities, a national implementation scheme of ESD had been finally set with the collaboration of several ministries. In the same time, ESD-J has working hard to communicate with partners in Asia in order to promote ESD and to share experience on ESD within the region.



Chair

Osamu ABE Professor, Rikkyo University
Board, Japan Environmental Education Forum (JEEF)

Members (as of Mar. 2007)

Organizations : 112 Individuals : 279 Supporting Organizations: 4

History

At the Johannesburg summit in 2002, a joint delegation of government representatives and Japanese civilians proposed 'A Decade of Education for Sustainable Development' (DESD). The 'DESD' promotion committee (hereafter referred to as DESD-J) was set up in June 2003, as a base for promoting civilian initiated DESD nationally.

A variety of domestic and international initiatives are being taken by the government related to 'policy proposal,' 'information sharing,' 'local network formation,' 'international network formation,' all linked to the promotion of ESD, and with a focus on a citizen-based participation pattern for community building, with local leaders at the forefront, in charge of overseeing support measures for education and learning, as well as for human rights, environment, development, gender, peace and youth issues.

Activities

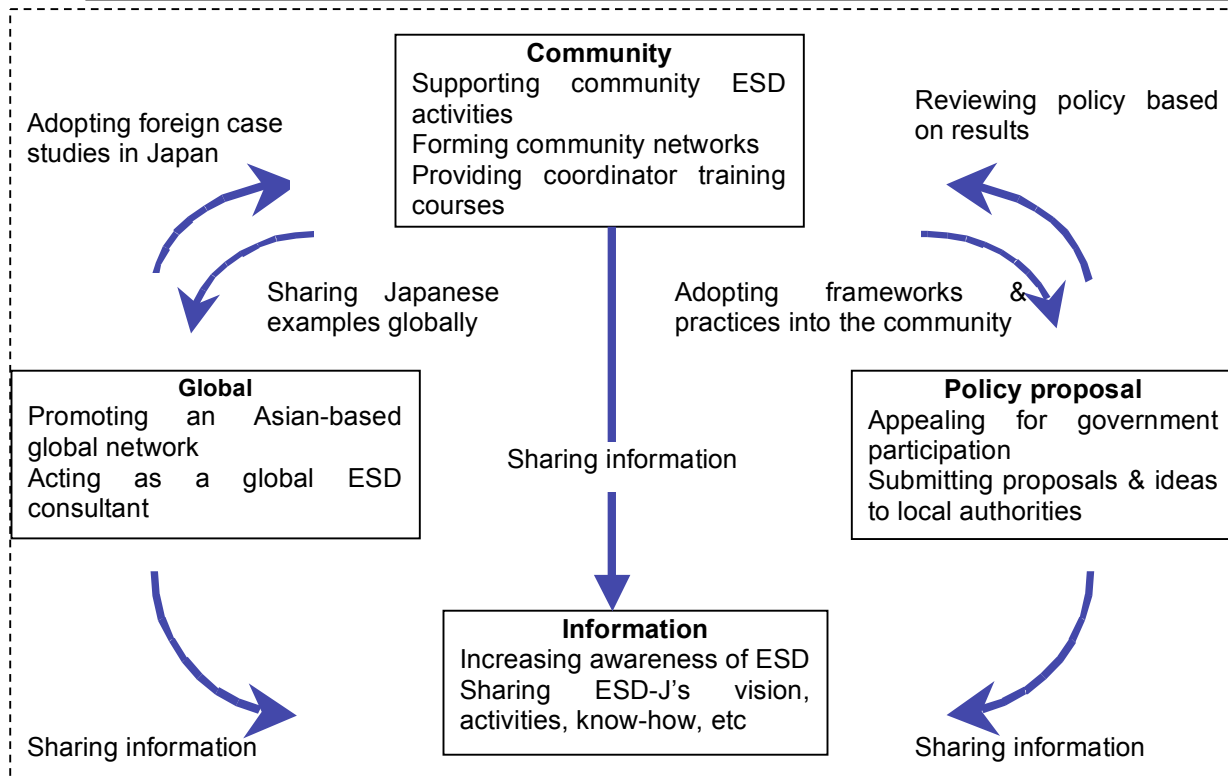
- ☆ Supporting ESD activities in the community, building Community Networks which focus on networking
- ☆ Policy proposal to help realize improved decision-making and concrete action.
- ☆ Sharing information through the various media, like through our website or seasonal publication 'ESD Report'
- ☆ Promoting an Asian-based ESD global Network

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Networking in Asia

In January 2005, at the 'Education for Sustainable Future Conference' held in India, ESD-J called for the Ahmedabad Declaration and addressed the need for an Asian ESD network with other participants from Asian countries. In September 2005, ESD-J held the international conference in Tokyo in order to discuss about the network of Asian ESD NGOs, inviting participants from 7 Asian countries.

From 2006, ESD-J and other NGO partners in China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Nepal and Philippines undertook a 3-year project, Asia Good ESD Practice Project (AGEPP), which translates into several languages, and then shares information on ESD case studies deeply rooted in Asian communities.



Discussion session of AGEPP in Tongyeong, Korea on 28th, April 2007

In April 2007, ESD-J held second AGEPP meeting in Korea inviting those NGOs looking for better ways of sharing good practices on ESD. (see <http://www.agepp.net/>)