



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Calling for the Establishment of Effective Mechanism for Sustainable Society

Asian NGO made a proposal to G8 Summit and appeals to the related key stakeholders

For upcoming G8 Summit in Toyako, Hokkaido, the Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J)¹ is now submitting the proposal with NGOs from Asian countries to G8 and Environmental Ministers Meeting. ESD-J is also going to distribute the proposal leaflet to other related stakeholders, including governments, municipal bodies, and civil organizations.

Prof. Abe, Chair of ESD-J, stresses as the key message of the proposal, “The establishment of the comprehensive educational mechanism will be key for achieving sustainable future. This approach will be as significant as the respective effort tackling the issue such as climate change and development”.

The ESD-J’s proposal was prepared through the international meeting hosted by ESD-J in Tokyo at the beginning of May. The delegates of ESD-J Asian NGO partners² from India, Indonesia, Philippines, China, Taiwan and Korea, and other key stakeholders, such as the UN and international NGOs participated in this meeting. The participants shared 30 cases about Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) from local communities in Asia, and discussed issues following two questions: What is needed for achieving sustainable societies? and: What kind of efforts should be made by the international community, like G8, for realizing sustainable societies?

During the meeting, AGEPP participants commented such as, “Traditional rice farming has contributed to the ecological and cultural sustainability in Asia. The High Yield Variety (HYV) rice was introduced under the name of “Aid” and it often requires so much chemical fertilizers and water. The HYV rice has overwhelmed the native rice species as well as indigenous farming”, “The modern education leads the people to the Americanized wealthy society and people are educated in a way where they do not care much about the sustainable development of the local community.” They concluded that globalizing economic activities and educational systems supporting such economies have impeded the efforts for a sustainable future.

For the further information about ESD-J or the proposal to G8, please see our website: www.esd-j.org/en, or contact to ESD-J Secretariat, email: g8forum@esd-j.org or ph: 81-3-3797-7227

¹ ESD-J is a networking NGO in Japan that has promoted Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) both in and outside of Japan, under the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) initiative by United Nations (2005-2014).

² ESD-J has been undertaking the project, Asia Good ESD Practice Research Project (AGEPP), with NGOs from Asian countries for the past three years. AGEPP aims to promote locally based ESD initiatives throughout Asian communities.