

Towards 2014, the Final Year of UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development



2010 Project proceedings for the establishment of Asia NGO Network on ESD



Published by

The Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J)

Address: 5-53-67-B2F Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001 Japan

Tel:+81-3-3797-7227 Fax: +81-3-6277-7554

Email: info_e@esd-j.org URL: www.esd-j.org/en

About ESD-J

Civil members of DESD proposal group at Johannesburg Summit established ESD-J in 2003. ESD-J is a civil consortium for ESD promotion, based in Tokyo, Japan, and has been connecting stakeholders related to ESD, including citizens, municipalities, academics and national government, and promoting locally-based ESD/DESD in Japan and Asia.

This report was published with the financial support of Give2Asia.
Printed February 28, 2011, in Tokyo, Japan using environmentally friendly waterless ink, "Butterfly Ink".



The Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J)

Background

Looking at the reality of the local community in Asia and even in Japan, in particular in rural villages, there are numerous and profound day-to-day needs for activities to solve unsustainable issues, such as depopulation of rural communities caused by urbanisation and youth outmigration, rural poverty and loss of biodiversity and indigenous knowledge. NGOs play a key role for finding a culturally, economically and socially appropriate solutions by integrating local, indigenous knowledge and modern, scientific expertise.

Since its establishment in 2003, the Japan Council on the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD-J) has been emphasizing that the locally-based approach and local capacity building (=education) are the key in achieving sustainability, and identifying various NGO activities as ESD. ESD-J has sought to develop a network of Asian NGOs on ESD from the beginning, discussed with Asian NGOs for the possibility of establishing ESD Asia Pacific (ESD-AP). ESD-J and UNDP-GEF-SGP appealed “Ahmedabad Declaration” at the International Conference on Education for Sustainable Future (ESF), in India in January 2005.

ESD-J and NGOs in Asia held discussions on

a possible Asian NGO network on ESD and established the Preparatory Committee for ESD-AP. However, the idea of launching ESD-AP was given up in 2008 since the consensus was not fully reached on its functions and modalities etc. amongst the Preparatory Committee members.

In the meanwhile, ESD-J conducted Asia Good ESD Practice Project (AGEPP)¹ (2006-08), in order to document outreach efforts for local sustainability that have been conducted by NGOs in remote and/or peripheral communities where supports by governments or international organisations do not reach. AGEPP outcomes were not only the documentation of 34 cases and website development, but also the empowerment of AGEPP project member NGOs through discussions on the key elements of ESD and the significant role of NGOs in promoting ESD in Asia.

While ESD activities have been gradually expanding in the Asian and Pacific countries, there is no effective network among civil society organizations/NGOs in this region. NGOs in Asia still need more opportunities to participate in the discussions on ESD promotion at regional and international levels. In general, NGOs in this region lack financial resources and information to participate in the regional

and international meetings on ESD. This has resulted in the lack of opportunities to them to share, exchange the views and opinions about their efforts and discuss the issues, in another word, lack of the opportunity to empower the civil society sector in ESD field. NGOs need to know the similar NGOs that work for ESD in the other countries, and have the relevant discussions within the sector and with multistakeholders, in order to encourage the NGOs and improve their efforts in respective

country.

Through the AGEPP experience, AGEPP members have been convinced that opportunities need to be increased to access relevant information of ESD/DESD and to share good practices and the challenges that they face with others in order to enhance NGOs’ ESD efforts in Asia, - an appropriate form of NGO network structure may be developed.

¹ ESD-J and 6 NGOs from 6 Asian countries worked collaboratively conducted AGEPP (2006-08), in order to visualize ESD efforts by the civil sector in Asia, and to strengthen the network among the AGEPP members through documentation. Members included BINTARI Foundation (Indonesia), Environmental Broadcasting Circle (Philippines), Centre for Environment Education (India), NRC-NFE (Nepal), Friend of Nature (China) and Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea. In the process of AGEPP, three international workshops were held, in Tokyo, Japan (2006 and 2008), and Tongyeong, Korea (2007) to share documentation process and ESD situation in the member countries. 34 cases were submitted under AGEPP. The documents are downloadable from AGEPP website (www.agepp.net/) in English, Japanese, Indonesian, Tagalog, Chinese and Korean.

Objectives and Major Activities

In 2010-2011, ESD-J conducted a project, “First Step for the Asia ESD NGO Network by 2014”, with the support of Give2Asia by Caterpillar Foundation. This project aims to develop a solid basis towards establishing the civil society/NGO network in the Asian and Pacific region. Two central issues were addressed through this project: i) to identify major constraints that Asia/Pacific civil society groups are facing, and possible functions of the network to effectively overcome such constraints; and ii) possible contribution that Japanese civil society could provide to develop such a network. These issues were addressed through the discussions at two meetings: Study Tour/On-site Workshop. The workshop was conducted in the interactive way, so that we were able to inspire the proactive discussions. An International Forum was convened in December in Tokyo. It consisted of two parts: a closed meeting session only with limited key experts for intensive strategy discussions and

an open discussion session for wider audience to disseminate the importance of cooperation/collaboration among Asian countries. Approximately 15 key ESD experts mainly from civil society/NGO sector participated at the closed meeting and more than 50 participants at the open discussion session.

This publication is the summary proceedings of the Study Tour/Workshop and the International Forum presenting the process towards the establishment of Asia NGO Network on ESD (ANNE) by 2014. Through presenting our achievements, we would like to call the world ESD stakeholders for joining our movement towards the establishment of ANNE by developing the partnership as well as enhancing collaborations.

The path towards networking NGOs in Asia on ESD has just started.



“Surabaya Workshop on Asia NGO ESD Network”.....

1st to 4th August, 2010

Pusat Pendidikan Lingkungan Hidup (PPLH) Environmental Education Centre
Mojokerto, East Java, Indonesia

In order to discuss the possibility of Asia NGO network on ESD with NGO members of AGEPP, ESD-J and BINTARI Foundation organised a workshop on one of the 34 case study sites under AGEPP. The site was selected, considering its relatively easy access and the scope of the activities: poverty, deforestation, urbanization, gender, local economic sufficiency and loss of indigenous knowledge. 11 representatives from 7 NGOs in 5 Asian countries participated in the workshop, including 4 AGEPP members: BINTARI Foundation (Indonesia), Centre for Environment Education, India, Environmental Broadcasting Circle (Philippines), and ESD-J (Japan), and 3 new members: Indonesia Environmental Education Network, PPLH Environmental Education Center (Indonesia) and from China and Indonesia and Putian Green Sprout Coastal Wetlands Research Center (China).

In October, 2010, the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) was held in Nagoya, Japan. ESD-J took CBD/COP10 as an opportunity for the further promotion of ESD in Asia from civil society organizations (CSO), and set one more agenda for the workshop on ESD contribution to the biodiversity conservation, in particular, from CSOs. Hence, the followings aims were organized for the Surabaya Workshop:

- a. To share the outcomes/lessons of Japanese case studies on ESD and biodiversity especially through review and comments on the case studies from the civil sector viewpoints;
- b. To provide insights on what are realistically required for ESD

implementation at the grass-root/ community level in Asia;

- c. To examine the necessity, significance, purposes, ownership and governance of a possible ESD network among civil society members in Asia; and
To initiate discussions to develop a road map on possible NGO ESD network in Asia, including roles, responsibilities of key stakeholders and key milestones, towards 2014; and,
- d. To develop draft recommendations on how ESD contributes towards the biodiversity conservation, towards the proposal to be appealed by ESD-J at CBD/COP10, to be held in October, 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

The workshop produced the two documents as outcomes: “possible NGO network on ESD in Asia” and “ESD contribution to Biodiversity conservation, and contributed in the empowerment of the NGO participants.



Major Outcomes from the discussion on Asia NGO Network on ESD

The participants shared the ESD challenges on what we are facing in Asia, necessity of NGO network, governance, ownership and possible future plan and participants’ organization’s contribution to the network, based on the preparatory reports and AGEPP case analysis. The participants agreed on the establishment of the Asia NGO Network on ESD (ANNE) by 2014, and that ESD-J is the interim secretariat for this Asia NGO network.

Here are its highlights from the discussion summary paper, “Major Findings on Possible Future ESD Network in Asia”. Full report is downloadable from ESD-J web site: www.esd-j.org/en

Necessity of ESD at the grass root levels

- There are numerous numbers of civil organizations in Asia, which have been making efforts in sustainable(rural) community development at grass-root level. Education is the core of those development efforts.

Significant role of NGOs for ESD and necessity of NGO network on ESD

- The NGOs play a significant role for having expertise on and solving the day-to-day problems such as poverty, sustainable agriculture, gender and so on.
- NGOs are facing lack of opportunities to share the good practices, to access capacity building courses and discussions in order to further improve their efforts.
- A formal NGO network for NGO on ESD is necessary that should have clear focus on its objectives and actions. We can start with an informal network based on the AGEPP network, and develop a formal network, such as the Asia NGO Network on ESD (ANNE) toward 2014, which is the final year of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UNDESD).

Possible network functions, organization and collaboration with others

- Network member NGOs should have ownership on the Network and the sense of ownership could be fostered through

sharing of experiences and knowledge, training, and possibly logo and letterhead use.

- The functions of the Network may include, but not limited to, sharing good practices, dissemination of ESD concept and principles, training and capacity building and policy advocacy.
- The collaboration is important with higher education institutes, governments, international organizations and business companies/enterprises.
- The collaboration with universities is particularly important but the relationship between university and NGOs are very different amongst the participants’ countries.

Possible future activities and responsibility

- The possible actions and outcomes at the initial stage of the network, may include the inventory of existing ESD related materials, good practices and researches, further analysis on the 34 AGEPP cases, development of website/database, learning materials and training programs, and documentation of additional cases.
- Stocktaking of the existing networks and resources should be conducted at regional and sub-regional levels.
- The next step will be development of a project proposal for the above activities.
- The participants agreed that ESD-J is the interim secretariat for this Asia NGO network.

Major Outcomes from the discussion on ESD Contribution to Biodiversity Conservation

The participants shared the interrelatedness between sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and people's empowerment and analysed the key elements of ESD contribution to biodiversity conservation based on the preparatory reports and AGEPP case analysis. Based on the discussion, the message to CBD COP10 was developed, as an outcome. The outcome is very timely, and was effective to appeal the importance of ESD as well as NGO's presence to the biodiversity conservation and obtain due recognition from the international community. Here are the highlights from the message. Full report is downloadable from ESD-J web site: www.esd-j.org/en

Community based approach is the key

- Local community based approach taken in ESD is also important and effective to the biodiversity conservation.

Interrelatedness of sustainable development and biodiversity

- The biodiversity loss has been mainly caused by over-exploitation of natural resources and change in lifestyles;
- Globalization has been giving negative impact on the traditional (indigenous) sustainable livelihoods and local basic needs.
- The biodiversity loss impacts on the climate change. Careful selection on the GMO is needed.

ESD's role in biodiversity

- The interdisciplinary approach in ESD is effective in the biodiversity conservation, such as creating the linkage between biodiversity community with the related stakeholders on, such as health care, gender equality, peace and solidarity, and MDGs.
- The traditional (indigenous) knowledge should be integrated in the modern scientific knowledge.

Role of NGOs

- NGOs and media can play a significant role to bridge the gap between scientists and other stakeholders.
- ESD functions in the consensus building

process and information dissemination is highly important.

- NGOs are important in the local and youth empowerment and policy advocacy through facilitating awareness raising, knowledge dissemination and consensus building.

Factors to promote sustainable development that can enhance biodiversity

- Policy advocacy: The clear statement on ESD integration in the biodiversity policy implementation should be effective.
- Documentation and sharing of good practices on a database or website should be important.

The message to CBD/COP10 was distributed at the venue during the COP10, and also presented at the CBD/COP10 side event, "ESD Meets CEPA - Creating a Synergy between UN Decade for Sustainable Development(UNDES) and UN Decade of Biodiversity (UNDB)" organised by ESD-J.



Study tour on PPLH site and Seloliman village.....

For enriching the workshop discussion by putting ourselves in the real local community settings., study tour was conducted on the 2nd day of the Workshop. The participants visited the community activity sites in-/outside of the PPHL facility.

Background story of PPLH

The Pusat Pendidikan Lingkungan Hidup (PPLH) is one of the cases from AGEPP, and Trawas based NGO near Surabaya City, Indonesia. PPHL has been implementing education/capacity building for village development including environmental education since 1999.

The local residents in Trawas used to cut trees in the local forest illegally, and deforestation caused serious landslides and floods in the area. While multiple factors led to illegal logging, the 1990s currency crisis in Asia caused massive unemployment, making logging an easy way to obtain cash income. The difficulty of finding alternative sources of income led to a feeling of powerlessness amongst the local people, which sometimes drove them to gambling or prostitution, which in turn drove them to cut trees for fast cash.

Observing that the community was in a vicious circle of poverty--environmental destruction--disempowerment, PPLH invited the local residents to come together to identify local issues, and organised working groups for interested residents. These groups were organized around various themes such as forest management, organic farming, renewable energy generation and women's empowerment. Through these group activities, the local villagers started to utilize their traditional knowledge on natural resource management and combined it with "modern" knowledge for more sustainable practices. They created learning opportunities, sometimes inviting experts from outside. Now the villagers can make a living from organic farming, processed food production and the sales of generated electric power to the government. They have also learnt to save money for financing their children's education.



Study Tour Highlights

Community forest re-vegetation area

The area used to have no trees as the result of illegal loggings around the end of 1990s. The villagers together with PPLH have been planting the mahogany trees in the last 10 years. The recovered forest resulted in the water supply increase, which enabled the village to produce electricity by using the micro hydro power plants.



Micro hydro power plants

Two micro hydro power plants alongside the river in the community have been operated by the villagers and the power generated is used by the village. Extra power is sold to PPLH and the government electricity company.



Jayanti House

The participants visited a recycled paper center that is operated by former PPLH employees and saw the processes of paper production using the local waste paper. They also produce paper crafts and notebook using recycled paper.



Kapur, organic farmers group

The participants visited the organic farmers' group, Kapur, and listened the group background, organic farming processes and how they collaborate with PPLH.



Organic farming management organization (MUTOS), and Organic farming certification organization (LETOS)

The participants visited the MUTOS and LETOS and listened how they market the organic products, conduct the quality control, including the product certification processes.



PPLH site

The participants visited the PPLH facilities, and saw how they make effort to minimize the impacts on the surrounding environment. The facilities include, accommodation buildings, restaurants, medical and herbal plant garden, sewage treatment facility, solar panel and equipment for the heated water and so on.



The Significance of the Workshop

This workshop was significant for the following reasons.

Reconfirmation of the step towards Asia NGO Network on ESD

The participants shared the same idea on the Asia NGO network on ESD, the sense of ownership of and commitment to this network, possible governance structure and actions until 2014 through the discussions and field trip

the views and opinions about their efforts and discuss issues of their concerns. In another words, they lack opportunities to empower the civil society sector in ESD field. The workshop was a precious opportunity to the NGOs to get to know similar NGOs in other countries, and to share experiences on ESD to encourage them for improving their efforts in respective countries. Since the workshop was conducted in an interactive way, we were able to inspire proactive discussions.

Development of a timely message to the international community

Preparation of the proposal to CBD COP10 was good agenda. We clarified the relationship between education (people's empowerment), sustainable development and biodiversity and produced a message, as an outcome. The outcome is very timely, and will be effective to appeal the importance of ESD as well as NGO's presence to the biodiversity conservation and obtain due recognition from the international community.

Discussion opportunity based on "hands on learning experience"

PPLH was selected as a venue for the workshop in order to enrich the discussion by putting ourselves in the real local community settings. Meeting the local farmers, women, other community people, seeing their issues and knowing how they overcome their issues provided the important, tangible and intangible information to develop fruitful discussions.

Empowerment of the participating NGOs

NGOs in Asia generally do not have sufficient opportunities to participate in the international discussions on ESD, such as international conferences and workshops by UN and other international organizations. This has resulted in the lack of opportunities to share, exchange

Input to CBD COP10

The message to CBD/COP10 contributed to COP10 discussions by distributing it at the CBD COP10 venue, and by presenting it at the CBD/COP10 side event on ESD and CBD.



“Networking Asian NGOs on ESD by 2014, End of the Decade - expected role of UN, Japanese government and NGOs to realise the functional and proactive NGO network”

12th December 2010, Rikkyo University, Tokyo, Japan

Based on the Surabaya Workshop results, ESD-J organised an International Forum on 12th December, 2010, in Tokyo, Japan. Fifteen organisations that have expertise in ESD participated in the International Forum, from civil society/NGO sector in Japan and Asia, international organisations, and international cooperation agencies. The Forum was consisted of two parts: a closed meeting session in the morning only with limited key experts for intensive strategy discussions and an open discussion session in the afternoon for wider audience to disseminate the importance of cooperation/collaboration among Asian countries. At the Open Session of the Forum, the outcomes from Surabaya Workshop were shared amongst the participants, clarifying the aims and functions of a possible Asia NGO Network on ESD and emphasising an important role of NGOs in the promotion of ESD in Asia. Following the keynote speeches from UNESCO Bangkok and Centre for Environment Education, India, 8 organisations of Japan that have deeply committed in ESD in Asia, such as ministries of Japan, NGOs, and bilateral corporation agencies, presented their efforts in the field of ESD international cooperation in Asia, and obstacles in its implementation. Based on the shared information on ESD initiatives and efforts, discussions were held on the possibility of strengthening cooperation and collaboration with Asia NGO Network on ESD and the existing initiatives and efforts by these respective organisations.



Summary of Presentations

Keynote Speech 1

“Role of civil sector organizations in promoting sustainable development/ ESD -based on the experience in India”
 Mr. Ramesh Savalia, Programme Coordinator, CEE, India/AGEPP Network Member



Keynote Speech 2

“Vision and Issues towards second half of DESD in Asia Pacific region”
 Mr. Mikko Cantell, Programme Specialist for ESD, Chief a.i., ESD Unit, UNESCO Bangkok



The role of CSO’s during the DESD has been exceptionally significant as the government has been unable to reach in rural areas. This failure is because ESD not only emphasizes formal education but also focuses on non- and informal education, which the government has been unable to engage in. CSO’s efforts with community are based on the understanding that community is one of key agents of change for ESD. This is based on two phenomena prevalent in India. Firstly, rural communities even today form the largest demographic constituency, which are primarily dependent on the natural resources both for their life and livelihoods. Secondly, although they are dominant in number they remain on the margins of receiving benefits from development. This again, is a product of exploitation of resources they are primarily dependent on, adversely impacting the future opportunities for SD. Thus, CSO’s interventions are based on the understanding that ESD is necessary in the process of bringing visible, viable and sustainable improvement in rural communities’ quality of life and livelihood.

ESD in the Asia-Pacific has been from the outset a little different, - different due to the existence of strong proponents like Japan, and different due to the diversity of countries and contexts. UNESCO has, in consultation with its Member States, arrived at the conclusion that in order to have impact, the delivery of DESD must be focused. Due to the serious challenges that natural disasters pose to the population of the region, disaster risk reduction has been made a priority area. We know from ample evidence that development by any measure can be taken back by several decades when a disaster strikes. We also know from experience and countries like Japan that nations can shield themselves against natural hazards. It makes sense to build up our defences and while doing so, target the most vulnerable groups and communities. Again, communities play a key role in this as they often possess knowledge which constitutes natural coping mechanisms. NGOs are doors to communities, which will bring societal positive values. In coordination with NGOs and private sectors, UNESCO tries to seek a proactive way and work more and more with them.

ESD efforts in international cooperation in Asia by respective organisations

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)

Mr. Takashi Asai
 Director, Office for International Cooperation, Division of International Affairs

“MEXT defines ESD as “Education to create leaders in creating a sustainable society”. We have been committed to the promotion of ESD, especially through UNESCO Associated School System (UNESCO school) as a part of international cooperation in ESD field. Now, 237 schools in Japan became our members and would like to integrate the school activity into the local sustainable community development process”.

Ministry of the Environment (MoE)

Mr. Taku Ohmura
 Office of Odor, Noise and Vibration, Environmental Management Bureau
 Former Director, Environmental Cooperation Office, Global Environment Bureau

MoE has been organizing regional Ministerial meetings on sustainability issues, such as climate change and air and water pollution. We have also been working closely with Japanese NGOs to support them in strengthening communication among different sectors of network the Japanese NGOs that have committed in the international cooperation field in Asia, in particular, local community development field. The NGOs are now developing recommendations to promote such international cooperation efforts to contribute to sustainable development in the communities in Asia. The proposal will be submitted to MoE, and will be considered when the current Basic Environmental Law is reviewed in 2011.

United Nations University

Mr. Shinichi Arai, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Sustainability and Peace
 Ms. Sachiko Yasuda, ESD Section Programme Associate, Institute of Advanced Studies

UNU has been conducting multiple activities in the area of ESD, including University Network for Climate and Ecosystem Change Adaptation Research (CECAR) Network, UNU Postgraduate Courses of Sustainability, Development and Peace, Cooperation with Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S), Activities of Global Environmental Outreach Centre targeting Satoyama Project and research activity for Rio+20, and three-year-project ESD Africa. UNU-IAS has taken Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs). There are 75 acknowledged RCEs as of 2010. RCEs contribute to developing an innovative platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue – a platform that enables diverse groups to interact, learn collaboratively and take collective decisions and actions towards SD.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi, Deputy Director General
 Forestry and Nature Conservation Group, Global Environment Department

JICA has been working for ESD in particular for: (i) capacity development of local residents for natural resource utilization and management, (ii) ecosystem maintenance for biodiversity protection, (iii) sustainable forest resource management, and (iv) climate change mitigation and adaptation. In particular, JICA has been conducting the activities such as

environmental education policy formulation, teaching material development, media advertisement, and partnership with local NGOs. For developing further ESD in the field of international cooperation, it is necessary to develop some kind of indicators for ESD, to make the linkage with existing networks, and to prioritize the targets.

The Japan Foundation

Ms. Hisae Shiwa, JENESYS Program Coordinator

In the field of ESD, the Japan Foundation has been conducting, “Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths East Asia Future leaders Programme (JENESYS)”, since 2007. JENESYS targets NGOs, researchers, government officials, media and business from ASEAN countries and 6 others and conduct case studies, debates and exchange opinions based on ESD related topics such as Minamata and depopulation and urbanisation. JENESYS participants have learned alternative sustainability model society based on slow growth and affluence that cannot be measured

with GDP.

Asian Community Center 21 (ACC21)

Mr. Michio Ito, Representative of ACC21, Professor, Asian Institute for Intellectual Collaboration, Rikkyo University

ACC 21 is an NGO that has been working on ESD field under the vision of Asian people living together, supporting each other, a just society and has four missions to seek 4 kinds of “flows” and human development, that is, flow of funds, flow of people, flow of knowledge and information, and flow of policy/institutional reform. In order to promote the natural farming methods and poverty alleviation, we developed collaboration with the Korean Natural Farming Research Center, and have been working on material development, leader training, local community networking, and public advocacy, through the Center. For developing our project further, we need to secure funding as well the network to bridge the multistakeholders such as NGOs, Universities, farmers’ associations and so on.



OISCA Japan

Ms. Emi Osaki, International Cooperation Division

OISCA (Organization Industrial Spiritual Cultural Advancement) is a Japan based NGO, that was established in 1961. OISCA has been working for the building of “Furusato (hometown)” in creating a sustainable society suitable for the environment of each region, over 28 countries and areas. In order to break the vicious circle of environmental damage and poverty in developing countries, OISCA has been conducting activities that can bring the long term benefits to the natural environment as well as people’s livelihoods, and develop the pride in the local people about the local culture and nature, by developing a cycle of sustainable production, capacity building and environmental conservation activities.

Ehime Global Network

Ms. Yoshiko Takeuchi, Representative / ESD-J Board member

Ehime Global Network (EGN) is a Japan based NGO that was established in 1998. In order to build a sustainable future, EGN set the motto, “think globally, act locally, change yourself” and has been working on the projects that promote i) Education (promotion of ESD), ii)Action (practicinternational cooperation/environmental conservation, iii)Connection (construction of networks/partnerships).In particular, we are connecting the activities supporting the building of peace in Mozambique toactivities/education aimed at solving the problem of illegally-parked bicycles in Matsuyama City, EhimePrefecture and presenting this as a practical example of ESD

Major Findings

In the open discussion with the floor, the following points were emphasised:

- Network should consolidate and analyse NGO’s efforts, practices and specialised knowledge and skills under the ESD umbrella. The network should develop the frameworks and plans of actions based on the expertised knowledge.
- NGOs often play a role of focal points in the local communities. In order to avoid duplication of initiatives and efforts amongst related governments, bilateral cooperation organisations, other NGOs and UN organisations, it will be important to develop partnership with local NGOs. The network will enhance solid partnership among multistakeholders.
- Stocktaking the existing efforts by NGOs will be important to avoid duplication and enhance effective collaborations for ESD in Asia.



The Significance of the International Forum

Shared recognition on the Asia NGO Network on ESD

Through keynote speeches and other presentations, it was emphasized and reconfirmed that civil society plays the significant role in achieving sustainable development in the Asian local communities, by tackling socio-economic issues, peace and human rights issues closely linked with people’s life. While there are a lot of good ESD practices by the Japanese Government or government funded organizations as well as individual ESD efforts by civil society organizations, many of them are not labeled as ESD. Many actors who are substantially committed to do ESD activities are not included in the ESD community in Asia and therefore often miss the chances for exchanging their views and experiences with others. The importance of networking Asian

NGOs on ESD and possible steps towards Asian NGO Networks were shared among the participants of the Forum.

First opportunity for ESD stakeholders in Japan to share respective effort for the promotion of ESD/DESD in Asia Pacific region.

Ten organizations from the United Nations, Japanese government, bilateral aid agency, UNESCO associated organizations, NGOs got together for this event. This was the first time for them to share each organization’s vision and effort in the field of regional cooperation for ESD. The Forum was very effective to clarify the overlaps of the activities and to promote possible collaboration not only with Asia NGO Network on ESD but also amongst all stakeholders.

