

Regional Centres of Expertise

on education for sustainable development

RCE ANJI

The region

Anji, renowned for its million bamboo groves, lies in the heart of Changjiang's coastal area in China. The town is 220 kilometres from Shanghai and 65 kilometres from Hangzhou and has a population of 450,000. Bamboo production is a major activity here and Anji has the capacity of producing 20 million bamboo plants for commercial use. Seven hundred types of bamboo have been developed here so far. Anji's quality of air and water has been ranked best in the country.



Regional challenges

Although Anji is a prominent county in China with rapid economic development, ESD activities, professional teachers and targeted education materials are in short supply. In addition, in view of pressing environmental issues, environment education and training need to be improved. People's attention also needs to be brought to these issues.

Regional role

Anji's 1999 movement to conserve the Huangpu river has given it a reputation of a town that is environmentally active. High school and university students from Shanghai now come to Anji for environmental education practice. RCE Anji plans to build on this reputation and put in place a regional sustainable development education centre, which together with similar institutions in Shanghai will act as an example of coastal regional co-operation. The centre is expected to coordinate and manage Shanghai's environment education practice base in the region. RCE Anji will also explore available environment education resources within the county and integrate them in the design of a system of practical ecological training.

BAMBOO FORESTS



Goals of the RCE

The long-term goal of the RCE is to build a sustainable development education centre in the region. This centre is to help citizens grasp the basics of environmental protection and to promote awareness of sustainable development. A national environment education database is also expected to be developed by 2010.

In the short term, the RCE aims to start developing the centre with a focus on regional character, compile teaching materials, find teachers, publicize and market the program, and work on building the environmental education database.

Activities

- Providing students practical environmental experiences, particularly in sustainable energy management, model ecological areas, biodiversity and disaster-preparedness
- Improving ESD knowledge of the citizens
- Creating a network to promote information exchange
- Training trainers on ESD theories
- Acting as a centre for research and development

Organizations involved

The RCE will act in co-operation with environment-friendly regional and local entrepreneurs such as the Zhejiang UE Chairs company, the Anji science bio-product company, Anji Yafeng bamboo-product company, and the Huzhou Jiasheng Tea Company. Universities such as Zhejiang University, Shanghai Tongji University, Shanghai Normal University, and schools such as the Anji high school and Changshuo high school are involved, along with non-governmental organizations including the Beijing Green Cross, and the Zhejiang Lvzhiyuan Association that specialize in research. Co-operation between travel agencies and agricultural organizations is also foreseen.

Decision-making structure

The Anji County Ecological Education Coordinating Commission, responsible for guiding ecological education systems for primary and middle school students inside and outside the county, and coordination and macro-management of the Shanghai environment education practice centre, has been established. The Commission includes the Coordination Centre which is responsible for coordinating the ESD work of enterprises, schools, the Communist Youth League, environmental volunteer organizations and other non-governmental organizations.

For more information

Mr. Yaliang Xu
Director, Anji Environmental Protection Bureau
Anji County, Zhejiang Province, China
+86-572-5123661
xyl-818@263.net

Prof. Dahe Jiang
Director, UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development (IESD)
Tongji University
1239 Siping Road Shanghai, 200092, China
+86-21-6598 5059
jiangdh@mail.tongji.edu.cn

For more information on Education for Sustainable Development and the RCE Initiative, contact the Global RCE Service Centre at rceservicecentre@ias.unu.edu or visit www.ias.unu.edu/efsd.