

Regional Centres of Expertise

on education for sustainable development

RCE BOGOR

The region

With over 25 life science research institutes located in Bogor, the region is considered the centre of science in Indonesia. Bogor city is located 60 km south of Jakarta, the capital of the country. It is famous for its botanical garden which attracts over a million visitors every year. The 87-hectare garden houses thousands of plant species, old trees and rare orchids.

The total area of the Bogor region is 355,922 hectares. The area is considered a buffer for the metropolitan area of Jakarta and has a population of around 3 million. The economy here is based on industrial manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, transport and communication.

Regional challenges

Bogor region faces the problem of poverty, as does the rest of Indonesia. Since the region provides the Jakarta metropolitan area with food, water and manpower, there is an enormous pressure on Bogor's environment. Rapidly increasing population and limited job opportunities are forcing the conversion of forest to agricultural land.

Rapid urbanization and the illegal exploitation of resources are not the only problem. Increasing poverty has led to a lowering of the quality of life, an increase in crime, high rates of school drop-out and low purchasing power. Although poverty alleviation programs are in place, these have limited financial resources. Integrated planning programs by the government, private sector and civil society organizations may be the way to increase job opportunities and ameliorate social problems.

Regional role

Bogor has been known for its research institutes for almost 200 years. The region has some well-known conservation areas, such as the Gunung Gede-Pangrango complex which has been declared a national park and Biosphere Reserve. The Department of Agriculture has established an area on campus for agro-tourism, the Department of Forestry has collection gardens as ex-situ conservation areas, and the Bogor Agricultural University has an arboretum for educational purposes. By linking various institutions, RCE Bogor provides the opportunity to finding a solution to the problem of poverty through education and capacity development.



RCE Bogor's activities will focus on poverty alleviation and the development of ESD. Interconnectivity between programs and activities will be ensured, and these will create opportunities for sustainable regional development.

The mission of RCE Bogor is to support sustainable development in Indonesia and beyond. As the first RCE in Indonesia, RCE Bogor will share experiences with upcoming RCEs in the country.

BOTANICAL GARDEN



Goals of the RCE

The goal of RCE Bogor is to become the centre of expertise for ESD-related activities in Indonesia.

Long-term objectives

- Creating public awareness and understanding of SD and ESD
- Capacity building for the development of ESD programs
- Integrating sustainability issues into the formal, non formal and informal education sectors in the Bogor region
- Enhancing network and collaboration among RCEs

Short-term objectives

- Producing education materials for distribution to schools, libraries and to the public, and
- Scaling up community development programs such as waste management and organic farming activities

Organizations involved

SEAMEO BIOTROP has taken the lead in developing RCE Bogor. Other organizations involved include the Bogor Agricultural University, selected public primary and high schools, a vocational education institution, the botanical gardens of Bogor and Cibodas, the Mount Halimun National Park, Gunung Walat National Park, research centres, NGOs, local media, business enterprises, the Municipality of Bogor, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture.

Decision-making structure

With SEAMEO BIOTROP coordinating RCE Bogor, research centres, business enterprises, public and private universities and local government will be networking partners. Specific program leaders will be appointed according to the competency of the stakeholders. At the district level, the local government will play the key role as program coordinator. Stakeholder representatives will form the RCE Bogor advisory board that will provide suggestions, recommendations and approval to the operational taskforce of RCE Bogor.

Activities

RCE Bogor will integrate research centres, private sector, government and the community to develop products, technologies and services for poverty alleviation.

Transformative education activities will include:

- integrating the concept of sustainable development and ESD in formal, non-formal and informal education, and
- the development of a science centre by using existing science education facilities and programs. The next step will be to develop a model for science and technology education for children and the general public, and to involve society in improving science education for sustainable development.

Other on-going programs include a pilot project for Bogor city waste management and bio-fuel development, and a program for community involvement through vocational training, technology dissemination and through the application of research results to organic farming activities.

For more information

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