

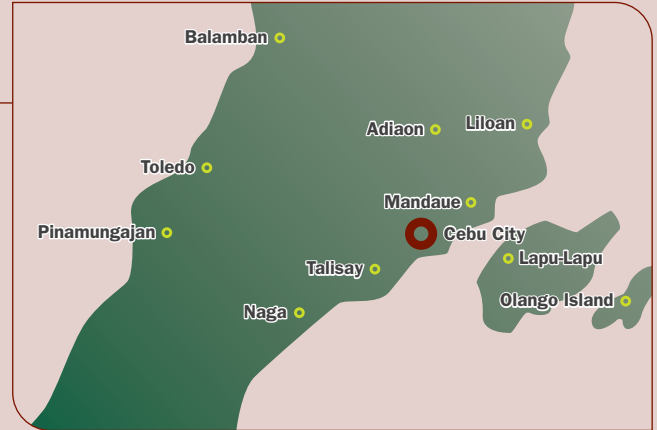
Regional Centres of Expertise

on education for sustainable development

RCE CEBU

Geography

Cebu is an island province located in the Central Philippine region called Visayas, which comprises 167 islands. The 5000 sq. km. island province includes Cebu city, the oldest city in the country, and is home to over 3 million people. The 300 km long and 40 km wide island has long been known for its coastal beauty and central location.



Regional challenges

Efforts to promote sustainable development in the region have been advocated by various stakeholders. However, for prompt and decisive resolution, issues related to gender, governance, poverty, resource management and conservation, among others, require creative and continuing commitment and collaboration. Cebu Province, in particular, has to urgently confront issues of management of water and other resources that it faces.

RCE Cebu's perceived role in the region

Current efforts of various partners to meet the challenges confronting the region include organising the next ASEAN summit in Cebu city, containing the 200,000 litre oil spill in the Guimaras area of the Western Visayas, and the mobilisation and organisation of a collaborative multisectoral network. With this in mind, RCE-CEBU proposes to create an active, stable, regional resource and communication centre and network to document, to disseminate, and to share the urgent need for, as well as the best practices and responses related to ESD on poverty alleviation, responsive governance, environment and gender issues, among others.

Goals of the RCE

The main goal of RCE Cebu is to contribute towards the achievement of the goals of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The RCE is designed to translate the ESD agenda from a global perspective into actionable terms at the regional and local levels.

RCE Cebu seeks to utilise the expertise of regional and local institutions while complementing their respective activities, both to promote a greater understanding of the role of ESD as well as to initiate projects that specifically address such issues. The ultimate beneficiaries of RCE Cebu's activities shall be all sectors of society in the Visayas that are or will be affected by or that have an effect upon the sustainable development of the region. The direct target beneficiaries of the RCE Cebu will be potential agents of change in the region – school teachers at elementary and secondary schools, university professors, researchers, technical experts from museums, local government officials, NGOs, community-based organisations, representatives of local enterprises, media practitioners and others.

Cebu



Organisations involved

With the Cebu College at the University of the Philippines in the Visayas as central node and secretariat, RCE Cebu will be a multisectoral network of partners and stakeholders from academe, civil society, youth, differentially abled, local government units and agencies, business and media among others. Membership of RCE Cebu shall be open to organisations that are, by virtue of their mandate, actively involved in activities related to sustainable development and to ESD in particular. While network membership shall be voluntary, flexible and inclusive, RCE Cebu shall give preference to institutions that possess experience and knowledge in the area of sustainable development. Thus, RCE Cebu shall develop specific membership criteria, based on conditions in the Visayas and commensurate with local norms and practices.

Decision-making structure

RCE Cebu will be governed by a Steering Committee comprising of representatives of RCE Cebu's core members, one from each member organisation.

The Steering Committee shall elect, from among its members, a Chair for a period of three years, with the possibility of re-election. The Steering Committee shall carry out the following duties and responsibilities:

- formulate and oversee the implementation of work plans of the RCE Cebu,
- organise working groups, either of the project-based type or of the standing committee type, to plan, formulate and implement projects,
- facilitate information exchange among partners and other RCEs, and,
- formulate, and see to the compliance with rules and regulations as required to ensure the smooth operation of the network. Affiliate Members shall take part in the activities of RCE Cebu and may be members of working groups in the formulation of plans and the implementation of projects.

Although the network is not a juridical entity, RCE Cebu is acknowledged by UNU, through UNU-IAS. The designated representative of UNU-IAS shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Steering Committee. Since RCEs worldwide, together, constitute the Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development (GLSSD), the linkage between RCE-Cebu and UNU-IAS shall be on two levels.

One at the operational level through the designated UNU-IAS representative acting in an ex-officio member of the RCE Steering Committee, and the other at the global level where UNU-IAS serves as the Global RCE Service Centre that unites RCEs globally into an overarching umbrella for the promotion of education for sustainable development.

The Steering Committee will establish an Advisory Panel composed of experts to provide professional and technical advice to both the Steering Committee and the various working groups when needed.

Activities

RCE Cebu will mainly work on three focal projects in the next three years, in addition to its function as a platform for dialogue and collaboration among relevant ESD stakeholders in the region.

- I-WARM-CEBU (Integrated Water and Resource Management) is a project to catch and harvest rain water in response to the current and future water shortage problem. The project envisages each individual and all sectors and stakeholders to work together and sustainably manage water and resources today and for all tomorrows. A rain catchment in every home, town and city, throughout the whole province of Cebu is the vision for the project.
- REPORMA (Regional Resource, Poverty, and Poverty Response Mapping) is a project to inventory all available resources in the region starting with Cebu. The project will also identify and define poverty in the region, inventory resource utilisation and management as well as poverty responses. The outputs of this research will guide both policy and practice.
- The third project is the construction of an ESD resource centre which would include a multimedia library, training and ICE (Information, Communication and Education) material production.

Achievements

Although RCE Cebu is one of the newest in the global RCE network, it has already catalogued a few achievements. Various sectoral consultations have been held and focal projects identified for the RCE. Training exchanges in ESD have been organised and exploratory consultations with potential ESD partners in Metro Manila have been held. ICE materials for ESD and collaborative projects have also been identified.

For more information

Dr. Ma. Rosario Piquero Ballescas
Coordinator
+63-32-233-4708
cballescas@yahoo.com

Dr. Robert R. Roxas
OIC-Coordinator
+63-32-233-8203
robert_roxas@yahoo.com

RCE-Cebu
c/o University of the Philippines Visayas
Cebu College
Lahug, Cebu City 6000
PHILIPPINES