

Regional Centres of Expertise

on education for sustainable development

RCE YOKOHAMA

Geography

Located some 30 km southwest of Tokyo, Yokohama with its population of about 3.58 million is the second largest city in Japan. Well-known landmarks include its international port, the Chinatown area and the Yokohama Foreign Cemetery. The city is to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the port in 2009.



Regional challenges

To overcome the critical situation created by problems such as the progress of global warming, and to establish a sustainable society, it is important for individuals to consider changing lifestyles, social and economic systems and ways of city development, address regional/local challenges and take action in collaboration with regional/local stakeholders.

RCE Yokohama plans to bring together the vigour and knowledge of its citizens, give full play to the attractions and creativity of the Yokohama area, make efforts in the local community to preserve the environment, and continuously take actions to create a higher-quality environment, while incorporating such efforts into the city's basic plan. The RCE intends to thus play its role in the global community as the Environmental Action City.

Of the environmental issues that need to be addressed urgently, Yokohama City has picked out G30 Actions to Reduce Waste, and Action by 3.6 Million People to Prevent Global Warming, both familiar themes that can be addressed by everyone. Potential RCE stakeholders have made particular efforts to promote such activities. In 2005, citizens, Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and NGOs, universities, the business sector, and the city administration have collaboratively developed its basic policies to promote environmental education.

RCE Yokohama's perceived role in the region

The Yokohama RCE network is a framework to strengthen collaboration in environmental education, which in the past has been conducted independently by citizens, NGOs, NPOs, universities, the business sector and the city administration. It also has the function of promoting environmental education, ESD and related actions wherein people engaged in such activities can interact, communicate, and collaborate with each other.

More specifically the network will,

- encourage participants to exchange information on their activities and share information on their experiences,
- promote collaboration among all levels of formal, non-formal and informal education and other organisations,
- establish knowledge/information base for human resources,
- develop and implement ESD curriculum,
- enhance teacher's training.

Organisations involved

The organisers of the Yokohama RCE network include the Yokohama City, NGOs, NPOs, universities in the city, organisations in Yokohama who work internationally including United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Regional Network of Local Authorities for Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), schools and individuals.

The Minatomirai district



Goal of the RCE

The network aims to create a flexible and cooperative framework among relevant organisations and institutions and to promote activities according to their characteristics and abilities. The RCE also aims to contribute to the creation of a sustainable society mainly through environmental education and the promotion of international understanding.

Long-term objectives

- To promote ESD in accordance with the characteristics of the Yokohama area by strengthening collaboration among organisations and groups engaged in such education and studies, as well as to improve their activities.
- To expand the network of organisations and people that voluntarily strive for the creation of a sustainable society in the region, and to provide all the people who live and take an active part in the development of the Yokohama area with a better understanding of and more knowledge on sustainable development.
- To contribute to the realisation of a sustainable society by promoting environmental education and learning across the international community, while encouraging communications and cooperation with people engaged in environmental education outside the Yokohama area.

Short-term objectives

In order to strengthen collaboration among individuals and organisations, the Yokohama RCE network will establish a Promotion Commission which will offer opportunities for exchanging human resources, information, skills, and knowledge.

The activities of the Yokohama RCE network will include,

- providing information on ESD activities, supporting such activities, and sharing the outcomes,
- improving human resources, and
- preparing ESD learning programmes and materials.

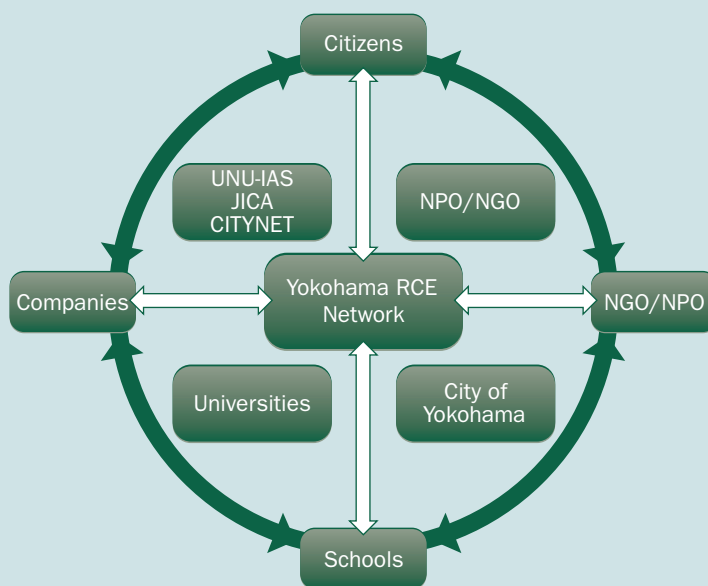
Activities

- Enhancing the functions of the network, developing the structure of the knowledge/information base,
- implementing ESD activities,
- developing materials and curricula for teacher's training,
- providing information about local and international ESD activities, and
- introducing good practices in the region.

Decision-making structure

Organisations in charge of the following functions will be established under the Yokohama RCE Network Promotion Commission:

- an Executive Committee to formulate the basic plan and to implement programmes,
- a Project Committee to facilitate information exchange, research and studies on environmental education/ESD,
- an Evaluation Committee to evaluate activities, and
- a Secretariat to coordinate communications and information exchange among organisations.



Opportunities for exchanging human resources, information, skills, and knowledge.

Achievements

- Established the Yokohama RCE Network Promotion Commission in March 2006, and promoted education for sustainable development through integrated studies, environmental education and activities.
- Enhanced awareness on sustainable development in the region by organising various workshops and seminars on ESD/environmental education.

For more information

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