

Opening Remarks by Dr Takemoto for

**RCE Global Webinar ‘Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:  
action through learning in a time of global crises’**

*8 June 2021, 4 pm-6 pm (JST)*

***Welcome message***

Good morning/afternoon, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen. I am Akio Takemoto, Head of Programme and Administration of the United Nations University – Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS).

On behalf of the Global RCE Service Centre, I would like to extend our warm welcome to all the participants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> global RCE webinar “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Action through learning in a time of global crises”.

I also wish to thank RCE Scotland for their tremendous efforts in co-hosting this important webinar.

***Global Crisis and Global Goals/Framework for Sustainability***

The world is facing interconnected issues, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve the ambitious and multiple global agenda, such as SDGs, Paris Agreement and Convention of Biodiversity and the Green Recovery policy, it is imperative to address challenges in all dimensions of economic, social and environmental issues simultaneously. This would include, but not limited to, strengthening resilience, protecting human health, addressing climate emergencies, reducing biodiversity loss and eradicating poverty.

For solving interrelated issues, fundamental transformation is required, which in turn requires fundamental changes in our mindset, behaviours and actions. For those positive changes, ESD will play a critical role.

***ESD for 2030 and the critical role of RCE***

About three weeks ago, UNESCO World Conference on ESD was held as a kick-off event of the ESD for 2030 framework, and the Berlin Declaration was adopted. One of the strong messages that the Berlin Declaration conveys is “*The time to learn and act for our planet is now*” and I am convinced that we RCE community are all here today to learn

and act together for our planet. I have no doubt that RCEs will continuously play a critical role in demonstrating exemplary cases of upscaling ESD at local, national, regional and global levels.

### ***New RCE Roadmap***

We are happy to announce today the launch of the "Roadmap for the RCE Community 2021-2030", which sets out the RCE's vision, goals, strategic priority areas, and suggested actions towards 2030. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ubuntu Committee members, Regional Advisors, and, in particular, the RCE members who participated in the consultation process and provided us with valuable comments and inputs. The roadmap will be presented later.

### ***Climate Action of RCEs***

This November, COP 26 on Climate Change will be held in Glasgow, and today's webinar will lead up to the Global RCE Conference to be organized from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Regarding climate action, UNU-IAS published a case study in last May, entitled 'Tackling Climate Action at the Local Level: ESD Projects from the Global RCE Network'. It features outstanding climate education projects from 12 RCEs worldwide conducted during 2015-2019. The publication is available on the RCE portal site for download. Today's webinar will serve as a great Segway from the publication to a wider venue to learn more from RCEs' practices to tackle climate emergency for each of the five Priority Action Areas of ESD for 2030.

### ***Closing***

In closing, I wish to thank RCE Scotland and the participants from around the world again for participating in the webinar. I also extend our special appreciation to the Ministry of the Environment of Japan for their continuous support for promoting RCE initiatives.

I hope it will be an excellent opportunity to stimulate further discussion and actions towards our sustainable future.

Thank you very much for your attention.