

## **Celebrating ten years of Learning for Sustainability Scotland**

### **Speech by Professor Sir Peter Mathieson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, The University of Edinburgh**

Welcome to the University of Edinburgh.

It is my pleasure to host this celebration of Scotland's "United Nations University Recognised Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development". As will be obvious, a title like this benefits from abbreviation, and as I am sure most of you know, in alignment with Scottish Government Policy, it is commonly known as "Learning for Sustainability Scotland".

The University has a strong and longstanding commitment to sustainability through its degree programmes, its research, outreach activities such as MOOCs and its governance and estate policies; and my predecessor Sir Tim O'Shea was here in the Playfair Library to launch the Centre just over 10 years ago.

However, it is important to note that it is not a University of Edinburgh centre but a Centre for Scotland. United Nations University RCEs have to be based in a university, and when the application was made, it received support from all Scotland's universities. For a range of practical reasons, but also because of the expertise at University of Edinburgh, the Centre has its home here in Moray House School of Education and Sport, and we are delighted to host and support it.

It is one of only five RCEs that have a national remit, and as most of you know, it is a member of the broader global network of about 190 or so RCEs acknowledged by the UN University, which form part of the UNESCO effort to support knowledge, skills and competencies for a sustainable future.

Please enjoy this evening and join me in celebrating the remarkable contributions the Centre has made to formal and informal learning for sustainability both in Scotland and internationally in its first 10 years. I look forward to seeing progress over the next 10!

