

UNESCO
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan

World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development calls for renewed commitment by all countries

Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, 12 November: The World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, closed today with a declaration calling for urgent action to mainstream ESD and include ESD in the post-2015 development agenda. The Aichi-Nagoya Declaration calls on all stakeholders to implement the Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP) to move the ESD agenda forward.

“We were able to share successful initiatives from all over the world, to help government representatives and other key stakeholders formulate new goals and objectives. We have shaped these into a Roadmap for ESD that will implement the Global Action Programme,” said Mr Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO.

More than 1,000 participants gathered for the three-day conference under the theme “Learning Today for a Sustainable Future.” Among them were 74 Ministerial level, representatives of UNESCO Member States, NGOs, academia, the private sector and UN agencies, as well as individual experts and youth participants from 148 countries.

“I express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan for hosting the UNESCO World Conference on ESD,” added Mr Tang.

The GAP is a follow up to the UN Decade of ESD, which is ending this year. It will generate and scale up ESD actions in each of five priority areas; 1) Policy support; 2) Whole –institution approaches; 3) Educators; 4) Youth; and 5) Local communities. UNESCO has called on stakeholders to make specific contributions to launch the GAP. Stakeholders from 80 countries have responded with 363 commitments.

The Aichi-Nagoya Declaration was adopted unanimously at the Closing Plenary. It builds on the achievements of the Decade and the deliberations of the Conference and the Stakeholder Meetings which were held last week in Okayama. The Declaration also ensures that the outcomes of the Conference will be taken into account at the World Education Forum 2015 to be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

The Conference on ESD in Aichi-Nagoya was co-organized by UNESCO and the Government of Japan. Representing the host country, Japan’s State Minister of Education,

Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Hideki Niwa said “ESD will not end with the last year of the Decade of ESD. Instead let us recharge our efforts for ESD with even greater commitment, making the most of the experiences we have gained so far.”

Further information: The World Conference on ESD
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco-world-conference-on-esd-2014/>

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