

## **Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD – Community Based Human Development for Sustainable Society – (Okayama City, Japan, 9-12 October 2014)**

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### **General Information**

As of 11 July 2014

“UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)” will be held on the occasion of the final of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (UN-DESD) in 2014 in Japan. In conjunction with the conference, Okayama City, Executive Committee for Kominkan-CLC Conference and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Japan will organize “Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD”.

#### **1. Background**

The importance of education to solve multiple and complex issues in modern society such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, poverty and conflicts, and to create a sustainable society was recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Summit) in 1992. After 10 years of the conference, promotion of education and learning for realization of a sustainable society was proposed. Thus, the UN-DESD was launched in 2005.

Okayama City has promoted ESD in cooperation with multiple stakeholders such as citizens, universities, government and non-government organizations since the beginning of the UN-DESD. Kominkan<sup>1</sup> have been active in Okayama City and they function as the basis of ESD promotion in the communities. Kominkan have promoted ESD through working on local issues from different perspectives such as environment and international understanding, to realize a sustainable society where people enjoy living with nature, respect mutually, and live together.

CLCs (Community Learning Centres) have been promoted in many countries of Asia as the basis for learning especially literacy and skill training and also community development and networking with participation and initiatives of local people.

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<sup>1</sup>Kominkan is a community based learning centre in Japan, established since late 1940s.

“Kominkan Summit in Okayama – Community Development and Promoting Education for Sustainable Development”<sup>2</sup> was held in 2007, with “Okayama Declaration” as the main outcome document. Since then the mutual learning between CLCs in Asia and Kominkan in Okayama has been promoted. Kominkan and CLCs have shared experiences and understood commonalities and differences. The common understanding has been developed as follows:

- In order to realise sustainable society, community development through self-directed, self-motivated learning is essential;
- Kominkan-CLC is a space and centre for community development, and offers a space for various stakeholders to gather, meet, and has a role to play to connect and coordinate their activities;
- Kominkan-CLC has a great potential role to play in promoting ESD, but it has not yet been fully recognised and put into practice; and,
- Through sharing visions of ESD, significance and purpose of the existing activities can be re-organised more effectively and re-vitalised.

## **2. Objectives**

- Recognize the role of Kominkan and CLC for ESD promotion.
- Share good practices of ESD implementation based on Kominkan and CLC, and discuss its achievements and challenges.
- Discuss visions of Kominkan and CLC to realize a sustainable society, and develop future strategies.

## **3. Expected Outcomes**

- Understanding of current situations, commonalities and differences between Kominkan-CLC will be promoted, and the role of Kominkan and CLC for ESD promotion will be recognized.
- Networks among Kominkan and CLCs beyond national boundaries will be developed.
- Kominkan and CLC activities will be vitalized in particular ESD promotion for realizing a sustainable society.

## **4. Date**

9 (Thu) –12 (Sun) October 2014, including Excursion

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<sup>2</sup> Organizers: UNESCO Chair at Okayama University, Conference of Okayama International NGO Network (COINN), Co-organizers: UNESCO Bangkok, Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

## 5. Venue

Okayama Convention Center

14-1, Ekimotomachi, Kitaku, Okayama 700-0024, Japan

Website: <http://www.mamakari.net/english/index.html>

Different Kominkan (Community Learning Centres) in Okayama City  
(for Breakout Sessions on DAY2)

## 6. Organizers

### Organized by

Okayama City

Executive Committee for Kominkan-CLC Conference

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

### Co-Organized by

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education (UNESCO Bangkok)

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Science (UNESCO Jakarta)

UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)

National Kominkan Association

### In Co-operation with

Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, United Nations University  
(UNU-IAS)

Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU)

The Japan Society for the Study of Kominkan

The Japan Society for the Study of Adult and Community Education

## 7. Participants

Expected participants are as follows:

Kominkan-CLC personnel, supporters, and learners.

Practitioners of ESD, and those interested in ESD.

## 8. Language

Official language of the Conference will be English and Japanese.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided between English and Japanese.

## 9. Tentative Programme Outline<sup>※1</sup>

9 October: Plenary Session (Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speeches<sup>※2</sup> and Panel Discussion, Welcome Reception)<sup>※3</sup>

10 October: 7 Breakout Sessions, Plenary Session

11 October: Plenary Session (Drafting Outcome Documents and Adaptation), Side Events, Farewell Party

12 October: Excursion<sup>※4</sup>

※1: Please refer “Annex 1: Tentative Programme” for the detail.

※2: Please refer “Annex 2: Keynote Speaker Profiles” for the detail.

※3: Special Session (afternoon of 9 October and whole day of 10 October)

MEXT Japan, has been promoting, since 2013, a programme called “Support Programme for Activation of Social Education centering on such institutions as Kominkan,” which has been much anticipated as a new mean to promote revitalization of Kominkan. Special Sessions during the Conference will serve as reporting sessions on the achievements by the Programme. A few good practices will be presented during the thematic breakout sessions. The Special Session will be conducted only in Japanese.

※4: Programme for ESD Excursion is being prepared in order for the Conference participants to enjoy the activities related to ESD and sustainability in some localities in the prefecture of Okayama and in Seto Inlands Sea. The details will be announced separately on late date.

## 10. Registration Fee

The registration fee of the conference is free.

## 11. Registration

Registration will start in the middle of June 2014. Please register on the Official Website of “Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD”.

The deadline of registration will be 31 July (Thu.).

URL: <http://kominkan-clc.jp>

## 12. Contact

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