



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

• Education for Sustainable Development 2014  
• World Conference, Aichi-Nagoya, 10-12 November  
• Stakeholder Meetings, Okayama, 4-8 November

UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development  
Stakeholder Meeting

# UNESCO ESD YOUTH CONFERENCE

7 November 2014 • Okayama, Japan

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

*A call to youth leaders around the world  
committed to building a better future through education*

- *Are you between 18 and 35 years old?*
- *Are you engaged in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as an educator, trainer, member of a non-governmental organization, private sector professional, policy maker, researcher, or in any other capacity?*
- *Do you want to meet and collaborate with other ESD youth leaders from around the world?*
- *Do you have success stories or innovative initiatives to share, and wish to contribute to the global conversation on ESD?*
- *Do you want to add your voice to youth recommendations to be presented at the World Conference on ESD?*

**If you answer YES to these questions, you may be interested in taking part in the UNESCO ESD Youth Conference in Japan!**

**Please read the information on the following pages and send in your application by 1 June 2014 to join.**

## ***What is ESD?***

To achieve sustainable development, political regulations and financial incentives are not enough. A fundamental change is necessary in the way people think and act. The international community has long recognized that education is crucial for bringing about such change. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) allows learners to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future. ESD means including key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning; for example, climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, and sustainable consumption. It also requires participatory teaching and learning methods that empower learners to take action for sustainable development.

**For more information about ESD, please visit:**

**<http://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development>**

## ***The UNESCO World Conference on ESD***

UNESCO, as lead agency for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014), is coordinating global efforts to address, through education, the social, environmental, economic, and cultural challenges of the 21st century. To mark the end of the Decade, the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development will take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan from 10-12 November 2014, organized by UNESCO and the Government of Japan. The World Conference is preceded by a set of stakeholder meetings, which includes the UNESCO ESD Youth Conference, in Okayama, Japan. The Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD, which is a follow-up to the DESD, will be launched at the World Conference. Empowering and mobilizing youth is one of the five Priority Action Areas of the GAP.

**For details about the UNESCO World Conference on ESD, please visit:**

**<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco-world-conference-on-esd-2014>**

## ***The UNESCO ESD Youth Conference***

In line with UNESCO's Operational Strategy on Youth, the GAP seeks to engage young women and men as meaningful and equal partners and actors for sustainable development.

With this aim in mind, the UNESCO ESD Youth Conference will be held in Okayama City, Japan on 7 November 2014, bringing together 50 young people from around the world who are actively engaged in ESD. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences and discuss ways to further promote the global ESD movement. After the Youth Conference, the participants are invited to actively participate in the World Conference in Aichi-Nagoya to share their views and opinions with decision-makers and experts working on ESD.

## UNESCO ESD Youth Conference Overview

**ORGANIZED BY** UNESCO; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT); Japanese National Commission for UNESCO; City of Okayama; The Goi Peace Foundation.

**PARTICIPANTS**

- 50 young people from all regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean) who are active in ESD.
- 20-30 observers from ESD/youth-related organizations in Okayama and other parts of Japan.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To provide a platform for ESD youth leaders from around the world to engage in dialogue and peer learning to enhance their ESD practices.
- To highlight the contribution of youth to the ESD movement, particularly their innovative approaches.
- To formulate collective input and recommendations to the World Conference on ESD.
- To promote further youth involvement in ESD and a commitment to actions beyond 2014.

**OUTPUT** A collective statement of recommendations and commitment by the youth participants will be developed and presented at the World Conference on ESD. A conference report will also be produced, including a collection of ESD good practices implemented by youth.

**WORKING LANGUAGE** English (with French and Japanese simultaneous interpretation for Plenary Sessions only).

**CONTENTS** The UNESCO ESD Youth Conference will be participatory and interactive, and will include:

- Sharing ideas, experiences and practices in peer learning groups.
- Developing collective recommendations and commitment for ESD actions beyond 2014.
- Networking for possible future collaboration.

### Schedule & Venues

1 June 2014	Application deadline
15 August 2014	Applicants notified of selection results
August-September 2014	Travel and visa arrangements
September-October 2014	Online consultations with participants
6 November 2014	Arrival in Okayama / Registration, Orientation, Opening Ceremony
7 NOVEMBER 2014	<b>UNESCO ESD YOUTH CONFERENCE (Okayama International Center)</b>
8 November 2014	Excursion hosted by Okayama City
9 November 2014	Transfer from Okayama to Nagoya
10-12 November 2014	UNESCO World Conference on ESD (Nagoya Congress Center)
13 November 2014	Departure from Nagoya
By the end of November	Feedback submitted by participants to the organizers

## Who can apply?

To be eligible for participation in the UNESCO ESD Youth Conference, you must:

- 1) Be between 18-35 years of age as of 1 June 2014.
- 2) Have demonstrated active engagement in the field of Education for Sustainable Development.
- 3) Have a good command of English, and be able to actively participate in conference discussions.
- 4) Be able to attend the full schedule of events in Japan from 6-13 November 2014 (or at least through 11 November), and to take part in the prior online consultations in September-October 2014 to prepare for Youth Conference discussions and input to the World Conference.

## How to apply

Applicants must submit the following documents to be considered:

- 1) **Application form:** Please complete the Application Form in English. The document file must be saved in Microsoft Word format with filename **"LAST NAME\_First Name\_Country Name.docx"** (in this format).  
**Download Application Form at:**  
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/youthconference>
- 2) **Recommendation letter:** A letter from a head or officer of an ESD/youth-related organization or institution stating the applicant's engagement and relevant competency in ESD. The letter must be written in English and include contact information of the signatory (in any format, no longer than one page).

Please submit your application by email to [esd2014@gopeace.or.jp](mailto:esd2014@gopeace.or.jp) with the subject line **"LAST NAME\_First Name\_Country Name.docx"** (in this format).

*Note: Please send only one email with both documents attached. Do not send your application more than once.*

**The application deadline is 1 June 2014**

## Selection criteria

The selection of participants will be made by the UNESCO ESD Youth Conference organizers (UNESCO; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan; The Goi Peace Foundation) according to the following criteria:

- 1) Age: between 18 and 35 years old
- 2) Engagement and expertise in the field of ESD
- 3) Willingness and ability to contribute to the conference discussions and output
- 4) Commitment to take part in the preparatory and follow-up processes to ensure a productive conference
- 5) Outreach to disseminate the results of the conference and act as multipliers
- 6) Commitment to advance ESD after 2014
- 7) Geographic, gender, age, and sector diversity will be considered.

**Selection results will be sent out to all applicants by 15 August 2014.**

## Travel Sponsorship

Successful applicants will receive travel sponsorship. Organizers will provide roundtrip air tickets between the participant's nearest airport and Japan, as well as accommodation, meals and transportation within Japan. Please note that participants are responsible for their domestic transportation (from their home to the nearest airport), visa application, traveler's insurance, and incidental expenses during their stay in Japan.

## Role in the World Conference

All participants in the UNESCO ESD Youth Conference are invited to take part in the World Conference in Aichi-Nagoya as youth representatives among other general participants, and to contribute to the objectives of the World Conference through active participation in plenary and parallel workshops. In addition, a number of youth who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and expertise in ESD will be requested to represent the Youth Conference participants and play a special role in the World Conference. This may include participating in a panel discussion and reporting the results of the Youth Conference and other achievements in the plenary sessions.

An invitation letter to the World Conference will be sent to the participants of the Youth Conference in due course. It is the responsibility of the selected participants to complete the registration for the World Conference.

If you have questions about the application procedure, please contact:  
[esd2014@gopeace.or.jp](mailto:esd2014@gopeace.or.jp)