Okayama Model of Education for Sustainable Development: the Japan Experience

Hiroko Shibakawa

Okayama is known as a world leader in ESD and was one of the first seven cities to join the RCE: Regional Centre of Expertise. In particular, the Okayama ESD Project, based on the 37 social education facilities: Kominkans in the city and promoted by the cooperation of local communities, schools, and its administrative system of the local government that publicly supports the projects consolidating them is highly evaluated. This is called the Okayama Model of ESD. At the 2014 UNESCO World Conference on ESD, the model was made known to many citizens, and further development was expected in the future. This webinar reflected, focused on the cultural, social, and geographical background of Okayama City and Japan, where such a movement was born, as the first step in our critical research. Without this analysis, it isn't easy to examine the possibilities and challenges of Okayama Model of ESD and its applicability to other regions. At present, as SDGs are taking over, some ESD actors are concerned that the efforts to understand and learn the philosophy of sustainability at the dawn of ESD and the question of how to reorient existing activities toward the creation of a sustainable society are fading. Similarly, the author, who has mainly supported school education, is concerned that although ESD has been included in the national teaching guide, there are increasing cases in which it has been concluded by simply indicating which subjects fall under the SDGs. While clear and easy-to-understand batches of SDGs can raise awareness, the original purpose of ESD to reorient education may be gradually lost. Therefore, this talk will provide a frank report on the current situation and issues of ESD in Okayama City, Japan, to be utilized as a theme for joint discussion.

Quintuple Helix Analysis for Okayama Model of ESD: Lesson for Malaysia

Irina Safitri Zen

As education tools that encourage changes towards a sustainable society, the education for sustainable development, ESD project initiated by the Okayama City received UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD in 2016. Known as the world leader in promoting ESD or Okayama Model of ESD has several outstanding characteristics. It captures the active role of the community learning center, CLC or Kominkan, school children interaction with the community nature in ESD projects, multistakeholder involvement and collaboration, and community-based approach of ESD. However, to what extend co-production knowledge for sustainability took place as part of the transformational process towards Okayama Sustainable Society of has not been captured. In this webinar, the author shares the critical success factors that contribute to the development of Okayama society leading to the Okayama Model of ESD. Deploys the Quintuple Helix framework, which captures the interaction among the knowledge sub-system, i.e., as education, economic, political, civil society, and natural environment, it provides an insight for the development of sustainable society in Malaysia. Overall, the study demonstrates how the overall sub-system co-contributes to SDG 4.7 'Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship', SDG 11.3 'Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanization, SDG 11.4 'Protect the World's Natural and Cultural Heritage' and SDG 11. A 'Strong National and Regional Development Planning'. This research funds by the Sumitomo Foundation for the title 'Revisiting Okayama Model of ESD and the lesson for Malaysia'.