Learnings from Sejahtera Forest & Sejahtera Centre for RCEs in Asia Pacific

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Introduction

1. RCE TONGYEONG & SEJAHTERA FOREST
Location of Tongyeong city

[Tongyeong City]
- Area: 237.1 km²
- Population: 140,000 appx
Tongyeong City

- **Nature**
  - Moderate Climate
  - Scenic landscape
  - 250 Islands
  - Fresh Sea Food

- **History**
  - Battle of Hansan
  - 300 Years Tongjeyoung
  - ‘Naval Headquarters’

- **Art&Culture**
  - Tongyeong International Music Festival
  - Birthplace of famous artists
### Local Changes & Challenges

#### 1. Economic Decline
- Decline in Fisheries Industry due to depletion of overall fish stock and conventions with neighboring countries
- Impact of climate change in question

#### 2. Aging Population
- Population over 65: 14,636 (11%)
- Elderly Living alone: 2,828 (20% of elderly)
- Increase in Grandparents-Grandchild families

#### 3. Urbanization and related issues
- Decline of Traditional Craft Industry and loss of heritage
- Role of Women in urbanized society
- "Education Migration" and decreasing youth population

#### 4. Population decrease island area
- Economic depression due to aging population in island
- As population decrease, school in island are closed (9 of 23 schools have closed in the past 5 years)
- As lack of youth employment, youth population decline

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**Sustainable Development and Role of Education**
• **2005~2014 (UNDESD)**

UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
Adopted by UN General Assembly in Dec 2002

• **Global Action Programme on ESD**

  ✓ follow up to the UN Decade of ESD (2005-2014)

  ✓ endorsed by UNESCO’s General Conference & acknowledged by the UN General Assembly

  ✓ UN General Assembly invited UNESCO, as lead agency for ESD, to coordinate GAP implementation (A/RES/69/211)
RCE Tongyeong

- **RCE**: A *network* of formal, non-formal and informal education and learning-related institutions who are mobilized to promote ESD at regional (sub-national) and local levels.

**Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development**

153 acknowledged RCEs worldwide
49 RCEs in Asia-Pacific
**The Vision**

: An environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable city which cultivates pride in its citizens.

**The Mission of RCE Tongyeong**

: Promotion of sustainable development of Tongyeong through education.
RCE Tongyeong

**VISION**
Learning & Sharing for Sustainable Future

**OBJECTIVE**
Nurturing Talents for Sustainable Future
Supporting Happy Life-long Learning
Promoting Edu-tourism industry
Promoting Asia Pacific path towards sustainability

**Steering Committee**

- **Informal Education Committee**
  - Rich Sea
  - From local to global
  - Culture of Sharing
  - Edu-tourism Infrastructure
  - Grassroot Wisdom
  - R&D
  - Global ESD network

- **Formal Education Committee**

**Policy Research Committee**

- Shining Pearl
  - Individual growth & sharing
  - Career Aptitude Development
  - Equal Opportunity Scholarship program
  - Special Talent Development
  - Life-long learning
  - Training for teachers

- Healthy pearl shell
  - Growth of education institutes
  - Informal Education Network
  - school ESD Network
RCE Tongyeong

- October 2005: Acknowledged as 8th RCE, UNU-IAS
- July 2007: Designated as Lifelong Learning City, MoEducation
- October 2008: 1st Asia Pacific RCEs Conference in Tongyeong
- December 2010: Preparatory Meeting for RCE Tongyeong Foundation
- January 2011: Establishment of Secretariat of RCE Foundation
- April 2011: Establishment of RCE Tongyeong Foundation
  - Independent public foundation registered under Ministry of Education ROK
  - Based on appx. 10 million USD Tongyeong Fund for Education
- September 2011: Ground-breaking of Sejahtra Centre & RCE Eco-Park
  - Municipal Rule on Organizing and Supporting RCE Tongyeong
- September 2012: 7th Global RCE Conference 2012
- September 2013: 2013 Korea Environmental Award
- May 2015: Opening of Sejahtera Forest / Sejahtera Centre for RCEs in Asia Pacific
Education Programs

Civil Society
- Networking
- ESD Program Development

Schools
- Curriculum Development
- ESD Model schools
- ESD Model

Training
- Training for Government Officers
- CSR
- Sustainability

Youth
- Bridge to the World
- ESD English Camp
Sejahtera Forest

Sejahtera Centre for RCEs in Asia Pacific
Sejahtera Project

- ‘Sejahtera’: *Well-being, sustainability* in Malay
- Sejahtera Project

A joint initiative of Asia Pacific RCE network to find the alternative path towards sustainability, acknowledged by the members as existent within the unique traditional culture of Asia Pacific region with emphasis on the coexistence.

⇒ As a part of the Sejahtera Project, it was proposed by RCE Tongyeong that it would dedicate the establishment of Sejahtera Centre, a three-story education centre with an eco-park, to serve the RCEs network in Asia-Pacific as the hub.

2014. Jan. RCE Tongyeong send invitation letter to all AP RCEs, Asia-Pacific Committee for Sejahtera Centre is proposed

2014. Nov. 15 countries, 23 cities of Asia Pacific RCEs has joined the Sejahtera initiative
RCE Tongyeong Sejahtera Forest

Human, facilities, and programs are organically integrated
Education and training, research and development, network and collaboration
Education facilities that can be performed effectively

Vision
Coexistence between human beings, man and nature, present and future generations

Education Philosophy
Education for Sustainable Society

“Learning Sustainable Life philosophy by Integration, and Practice”
- Total area: 74,778m²
- Building: 872m²
- Ground space: 1,464m²
- Space
  - Sejahtera Centre: 3 stories
    - 3 education space / Agora
    - Multi purpose hall / Cafeteria
    - ESD resource library / Dormitory
    - Secretariat office
  - Eco-dormitory
    - 10m²: 5 unit
    - 30m²: 1 block
  - Aquatic Centre
  - Visitor Centre
  - Wetland
  - Rice Paddy: 150m²
  - Vegetable Garden: 20,000m²
• Video clip on Sejahtera Forest
2. STRATEGIES OF SEJAHTERA FOREST
Strategies for effective establishment/operation of RCE Tongyeong Sejahtera Forest

- Need-based Design Process
- Building on existing networks
- Common platform for partnership
a. Need-based Design Process

• 25 stakeholder meetings 2009-2010 during the architectural design process
  – In-depth discussion on spatial function
  – Architect, RCE members, public servants, consulting experts

• RCE secretariat staff involved in decision-making throughout design/construction process
  – Countless staff meetings for interior designing and spatial programming
b. Building on existing networks

- School ESD network
  - School related programs (school field trips, camps, teacher trainings etc.) immediately in place after the opening of the centre

- Non-formal ESD network
  - Sejahtera Centre as Local Education Hub
  - Links to local education groups and their programs offered for visitors of Sejahtera Centre
c. Common Platform for Partnership

- Added-value created via the existence of physical platform ‘Sejahtera Centre’
  - Synergy among programs
    - E.g.) Yonsei Univ. SDGs Seminar + RCE Greater Western Sydney Univ. of Western Sydney Research Program + Gyeongsang Univ. student field work
  - International collaboration
    - E.g.) Hunger Banquet & Hari Raya Haji among youth from Tongyeong and Penang, Malaysia
    - E.g.) Joint research project
  - Opportunity for strengthening internal membership via ESD training workshop @ Sejahtera Forest
    - E.g.) RCE Kitakyushu annual citizens ESD tour of Tongyeong
Suggestions for a way forward

3. LEARNINGS FROM SEJAHTERA FOREST
Learnings from Sejahtera Centre

• Strategize to Co-exist with local education groups, existing networks
  – “Blackhole” Vs. “Platform for new opportunities”

• Synergize based on existing resources

• Focus on the vision
  – Overcome distractions, hurdles, temptations to keep to the track
Learning and Sharing for Sustainable Future

Thank you for your attention.