

エコシステム

Ecosystem
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ESD

持続可能な社会をつくる
未来のための教育

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ESDは、持続可能な社会をつくるために行動する人を育てる教育です。この教育を定着させるためには、ESDの教科化、多様な主体が連携できるしくみづくりが欠かせません。

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is education to nurture people, who can take actions that create a sustainable society. In order to establish this in the education system, we must adopt ESD as a major subject at school and also have a system in which a diverse group of interested people can freely participate to establish an ESD program.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

An Education Program to Create a Sustainable Society

Our daily lives are supported by utilizing natural resources based on healthy natural ecosystems. But we have been destroying these precious ecosystems causing various environmental problems. Moreover, we use so many natural resources so fast that they cannot recover themselves, thus we overconsume and degrade these resources that should be left for future generation. We must build a sustainable society not just for ourselves but also for future generations.

The purpose of ESD is to raise citizens who can carry on a sustainable society. But the problem about ESD is that it is too abstract and hard to understand. In the present Japanese educational system, ESD is not clearly incorporated in the national strategy. There is no curriculum to comprehensively and systematically teach the basic principle that a sustainable society is based on healthy natural ecosystems and that we have damaged natural ecosystems throughout Japan, changing our society into an unsustainable one, and that we must urgently change our way of living to make our society sustainable. As a result, students cannot understand the goal of ESD, a sustainable society and its active citizens. Nor can they understand the problems and challenges they face and find practical solutions for them. Also, there is no clear image of these new citizens who can build a new sustainable society and no clear teaching method for the Japanese ESD. If ESD is to be promoted, we must have clear images of a sustainable society and citizens who can achieve the goal of ESD.

What is a sustainable society? First of all, it is a society in which citizens sufficiently understand the value of nature in every aspect of economy, politics and education and therefore they do their best not to harm natural

ecosystems and try to protect and restore nature. These sustainable citizens will build a sustainable society utilizing and yet conserving the many gifts and benefits from nature.

In the State of Wisconsin of the United States where environmental education has been earnestly promoted for many decades, educators established and presented an image of ideal 'persons who can act to change their society' even before the idea of ESD was proposed in the United Nations. 'The Actions' are classified into five areas of activities including : 1) Observe and comply with environmental laws and propose new environmental laws and regulations if necessary; 2) Participate in activities to protect local nature; 3) Choose only environmentally friendly goods and services and try not to buy unnecessary goods; 4) Propose and present new ideas and policies for building and improving their sustainable communities to mayors, politicians and administrators and 5) Express and disseminate publicly their activities, experiences and what they have learned.

Ten years have passed since the introduction of ESD and yet in Japan it is hardly known and understood among the nation. In order to promote ESD in Japan, we must clearly present ESD's goal of sustainable society and its citizens but also establish the following three programs.

A) Make ESD one of the major subjects in school and establish systematic curricula according to developmental stages of students in order to implement ESD among all children and to secure high qualification for teachers.

B) Establish a system in which all the stake-holders including citizens, businesses, NGOs, politicians and administrations can participate so that

they can collaborate to promote ESD.

C) Start ESD early: to offer opportunities to experience nature through their family lives, nurseries and kindergartens.

By establishing ESD through these programs, each generation can share the same value of nature, thus protecting natural ecosystems and restoring nature. Then our whole society will be able to transform itself into a sustainable society.



ESD is an educational system that creates new citizens who take daily actions by considering environment and their future impacts.



A wetland restoration example along the coastline of Charleston, South Carolina, U.S.A. First of all, it is necessary to understand an ideal image of a sustainable society.



In order to establish ESD, schools must adopt it as a major subject and various stakeholders should participate and work collaboratively and continuously.

禁無断転載 海外との情報交流促進のため、要約を英文で掲載しています