

## Environmental education for children

Based on Japan's proposal at the 2002 Johannesburg Summit, the ten years from 2005 were designated as the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Education for sustainable development (ESD) encompasses more than just the environment, incorporating a range of issues such as poverty and human rights.

### Kasugai City

Some regions have worked with children, collaborating with a variety of parties such as administrative agencies, NPOs, and schools by way of utilizing local resources to resolve issues to promote environmental conservation initiatives.

Kasugai City in Aichi prefecture holds new residential areas extensively. The elementary school teaching staff collaborate with universities, NPOs, companies, and welfare facilities to provide the children with field workshops where they can learn about living in harmony with nature. These hands-on experiences are integrated into the curriculum and linked with classroom learning, supported by university students at the time of implementation of the program.

### Minakami Town

Minakami Town in Gunma prefecture is engaged in promotion of eco-tourism with the aim of sustainable use of Mt. Tanigawadake, designated as a national park. The visitors can enjoy nature and culture without adversely affecting the ecosystems. It is intended not only for children but also for adults to foster a renewed awareness of the blessing of nature from the three aspects; regional regeneration, development of tourism, and conservation of the environment.

In Japan, the new educational guidelines as revised in 2008 and 2009 (coming into force in April 2011) were designed to enhance more comprehensive environmental education, including the idea of how to approach sustainable development, and stipulating clearly to conduct environmental education in the various courses.

### Children taking part in fieldwork



Photo: Kasugai Kizuna Project

### Ichinokurasawa, Mt. Tanigawadake



Photo: Ryohotokokai Cimbing Club