Side Event, Expert Conference on Development of Island's Sustainable Societies (June 30) : ESD initiatives

Initiatives and Possibilities for a University that is a Center of Community (COC) for the Promotion of ESD

Developing people in Okinawa to take on challenges in Japan, Asia, and the world. The University of Ryukyus, The 5 attractions of the **Univeristy of the Ryukyus**

Junko OSHIMA

(University of the Ryukyus, The Faculty of Tourism Sciences and Industrial Management, ESD-J Director)

The five keywords that express the appeal of the University of the Ryukyus

A university that looks out over Okinawa, Japan, Asia, and the world

As an environmental university based upon

the state universities in the United States.

since the time of its founding it has had a

global environment and through the students

building a bridge from Okinawa to Japan, to

daily lives on the campus, they are able to

acquire an expansive perspective that is

Asia, and to the world.

"Diversity" from the gathering of people from all over the world and throughout Japan

University of the Ryukyus, where students

gather from both Japan and overseas, is a

students can participate in a variety of

cultural exchanges on campus. This

stimulating environment becomes the

engine that drives students' increased

individuality and personal growth.

university overflowing with diversity where

Learning unique to the University that makes full use of Okinawa's nature

University of the Ryukyus is located in a

sub-tropical environment and it makes full

of the abundance of nature both inside and

various other types of learning. Students can

outside of the campus for fieldwork and

learning at the University of the Ryukyus.

only enjoy these experiential types of

A comprehensive university where each day, the students are trained to be a powerful human resource

unique to Okinawa, which helps the

human resources required by society.

University to train the students to be the

University of the Ryukyus is Okinawa Prefecture's only national university and is a comprehensive educational institution with a total of seven faculties in the humanities and sciences. But many of the courses incorporate learning that transcend the frameworks of faculties and entail a type of shared education

In order for students to think for themselves and to grasp the essence of learning, they are required to engage in strict self training. Founded on the intellect and individuality this builds, one of the attractions of University of the Ryukyus is that students come think in the flexible way that is characteristic of Okinawa.

Flexible thinking cultivated through

self training

Training people on the URGCC to become the bridge between the region and the world (University of the Ryukyus Global Citizen Curriculum)

[URGCC's seven learning and educational targets] Autonomy, sociality, regionalism and internationalism, communication skills, information literacy, problem-solving abilities, and specialism

University of the Ryukyus' Initiatives

■Phase 1 (2000 to 2005)

Raising awareness and building consensus within the University about carrying out environmentally considerate activities as a university that is a member of its regional society

■ Phase 2 (2006 to 2009)

Realizing and making substantial various activities through the introduction of an envrionmental management system (EA21)

■Phase 3 (2010 to the present)

Promoting and expanding environmental education and regional collaborative activities - toward ESD

■ Phase 1 (2000 to 2005)

Raising awareness and building consensus



- Inauguration of the University of the Ryukyus Ecological Campus Promotion Committee
- June 2001, University of the Ryukyus Ecological Campus Community Charter Enactment of the Environmental Charter and the Environmental Action Plan and the creation of an implementation organization
- A proposal to create PDCA cycles for the five fields in the Environmental Action Plan
 - 1. Preparing a curriculum centered on environmental education
 - 2. Promoting interdisciplinary research on the ecosystems of islands and subtropical regions and on human activities
 - 3. Activating communication with the environment as the point-of-entry
 - 4. Creating a beautiful campus environment with an abundance of green spaces
 - 5. Constructing an environmental management system

Phase 2(2006 to 2009)

Introducing an environmental management system (EA21)

- From June 2007, the University sequentially expanded the scope of the initiative, starting from the head office secretariat & library, and in 2009 introduced it organization-wide.
- Refuse is thoroughly separated and recycled.
- The amount of refuse produced by the University Festival has decreased sharply.

 $2002\!:\!205~kg~\rightarrow~2008\!:\!43~kg$

The University established an "integrated environmental studies sub-major" in 2008.





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■Phase 3 (2010 to the present)

Promoting and expanding environmental education and regional collaborative activities

- Start of an investigation toward the launch of ESD Start-up of the ESD Promotion WG in August 2011
- Promotion of ESD through the activities of the Ecological Campus Student Committee
- Establishment of a scholarship to train environment professionals
- Adoption of the Center of Community (COC) program, which is a MEXT subsidized program for universities

Holding of the ESD Leadership Seminar

December 8th & 9th, 2012

Education @ Kunigami Village Environmental Education Center-Yanbaru Discovery Forest

[Host] University of the Ryukyus Student Section

[Venue] Northern area of Okinawa (Yanbaru)

[Objectives]

- To deepen the students' understanding of ESD
- For the students to consider in an interdisciplinarly manner the methods of realizing a sustainable society from the viewpoint of effectively using the forests, biodiversity, and resources of Yanbaru, and also utilizing their own specialist fields in their university



Experiencing and learning about nature through internships

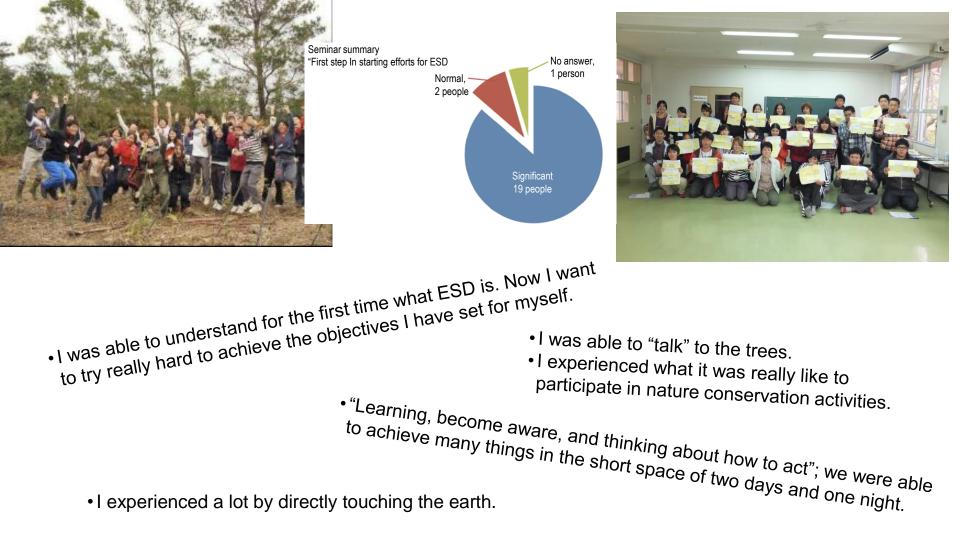
Workshops for students to understand their own connection to Yanbaru

Learning and sharing information about forest management Touching the soil in practical afforestation programs





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- ESD is a very broad field and I became aware of the importance of viewing things from a variety of perspectives. In addition, I realized we can also learn about many things from a single perspective.
 - This was my first experience of learning about ESD and it was exciting to take part in discussions with everybody.

Quotes: from a participant questionnaire

Supporting the Activities of the Ecological Campus Student Committee



Supporting the Activities of the Ecological Campus Student Committee



Visiting a disaster area and seeing, feeling, and understanding the actual situation

February 2014

Training at Minami Soma City, which became a disaster area following the Great East Japan Earthquake

It was implemented with the goal of having the students visit the local area and learn and think about the actual conditions in Minami Soma City and about the damage from the nuclear accident following the earthquake and tsunami and also for them to think about what they themselves living in Okinawa could do to prevent and mitigate natural disasters and for energy use, and to give them the opportunity to act.



■ Supporting the Activities of the Ecological Campus Student Committee





By the students and for the students, providing a campus ECO tour that aims to teach the participants about the University's environmentally considerate activities.

Adoption and implementation of the MEXT subsidized project for universities, "The Center of Community (COC) Program"



Toward being a university that strives to strengthen its function of having a key presence in its regional community that is tackling the various issues facing it.

Improving learning

University resources (education, research, social contribution)

Class subjects, educational programs, educational methods and teaching materials, research findings, etc.

Collaboration with Okinawa Prefecture (establishing a round table)

• Key initiative, the "Abilities-Strengthening Program

- The joint development and implementation of the "Abilities-Strengthening Program" in order to regenerate and activate the region -

Developing and implementing a program to strengthen the five abilities of policy formation, regional coordination, business management, understanding of regional and international affairs, and managing foreign languages

Program to enhance and strengthen

Enhancing and strengthening the re-learning

Providing a variety of programs utilizing satellites and e-learning

The University of the Ryukyus satellites (academic year 2013) Naha City, Miyakojima city, and Ishigakishi City

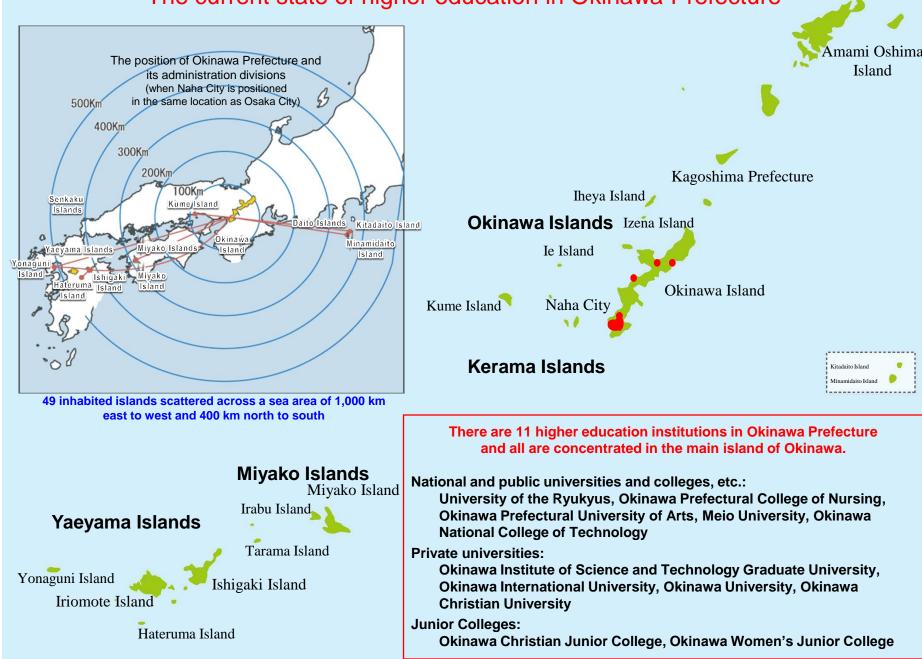
Lectures and classes open to the public, lectures given outside of the University, etc.

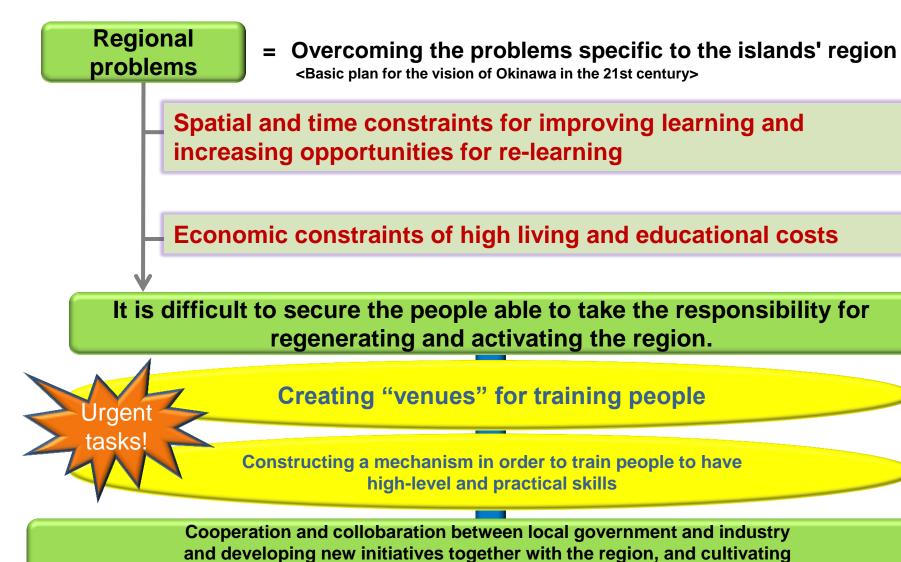
○ "To cultivate people newly able to take responsibility for regenerating and activating the region," which is a problem specific to the islands

• Targets •

- Promoting reforms in the University through reforming its educational curriculum and strengthening its educational, research, and social-contribution functions
- Forming a learning community in the region

The current state of higher education in Okinawa Prefecture

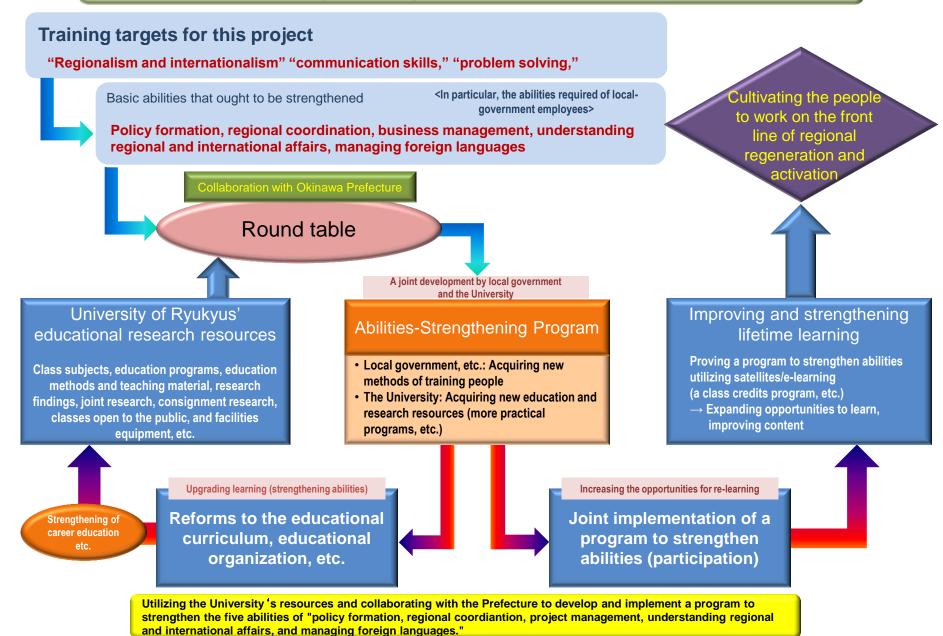




"people newly able to take the responsibility for regenerating and activating the region"

A bridge of knowledge to create the future of Churashima Deployment of the University of Ryukyus Community Campus (RCC) Project

Summary of the "Ability-Strengthening Project" for Regional Regeneration and Activation



As of June 2014 The Satellite Campus Concept Established at three locations (within Naha City, Miyakojima City, and Ishigakishi City)

