

3. Development of ESD Leaders

ASPUnivNet advances the cultivation of human resources that can promote ESD in future.

- Issue an “ESD planner” license to university students or local people who have taken the credits of certain classes (Hokkaido University of Education Kushiro Campus)
- Set up a program of “Environmental and ESD literacy” and award certificates to people who finish the program (Kanazawa University, etc.)
- Set up Education for sustainable development curriculum-Current issues(sub-major) (Miyagi University of Education)
- Set up an integrated sub-major program in undergraduate and graduate school “Environmental studies” in support of School of Life & Environmental Sciences, School of Engineering, School of Humanities and Social Sciences and School of Economics (Osaka Prefectural University)
- Set up ESD related classes in teacher-training course curricula (Okayama University, Aichi University of Education, Nara University of Education, etc.)
- Promote activities related to environment, energy, disaster defense and life’s diversity, etc., organized mainly by ISO 14000 student committee, UNESCO Associated Schools student committee (Mie University)
- Support University-authorized student organizations, “ESD clubs”(Tamagawa University, Nara University of Education, Mie University, Hiroshima University, etc.)



4. Systematization of ESD Promoting Network

ASPUnivNet links UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan and abroad. We develop a liaison system and coordinate opportunities for schools to communicate and exchange practices.

Moreover, from 2014, universities are creating a consortium with support of UNESCO Associated Schools, promoting ESD activities and spreading ESD for non-members by practicing ESD activities in local communities. We are also participating with a national project that aims to expand the range of developing global human resources with international perspective, through exchange among UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan and abroad. (Miyagi University of Education, Kanazawa University, Mie University, Nara University of Education)



5. Promotion of “Rice Project”

From 2010, ASPUnivNet, with Miyagi University of Education in the central role, advocated and has been promoting a “Rice Project” for promoting exchange among UNESCO Associated Schools in Asia. In 2013, we held a “Rice Project – International exchange among Schools in Asia” as a related event of the UNESCO World Conference on ESD. The presenters from the UNESCO Associated Schools (from five domestic schools in three regions, and three schools in three regions in two Asian countries) reported their Rice project activities and exchanged ideas.



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ASPUnivNet

Interuniversity Network Supporting The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network



ASPUnivNet is a network of universities that supports ESD and activities at the schools participating in the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) as partners.

What is ASPUnivNet?

Today, we are facing serious issues related to sustainability such as environmental problems including global warming. Therefore we need ESD, an education system that contributes to creating a sustainable society for a safe future. Each one of us should be concerned about the issues about finite resources and energy, environmental destruction, poverty, etc. as our own problems.

The people at ASPUnivNet thought that it would be useful to utilize ASPnet, which has about 9,500 school members in the world, in order to work on growing human resources for ESD, and to conduct educational programs from planning to broad promotion. Then, we decided to establish this interuniversity network to support UNESCO Associated Schools to develop educational activities, and to encourage other schools to join ASPnet.

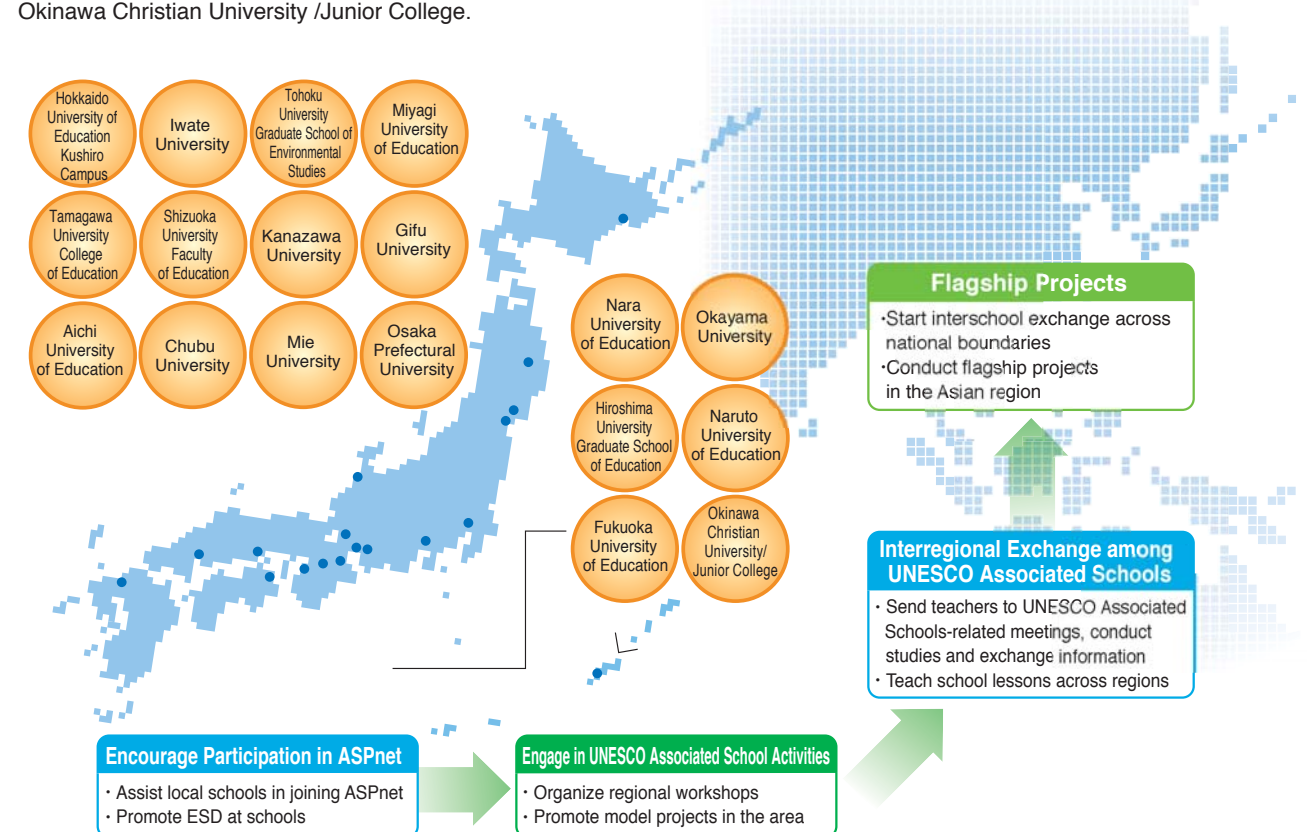
Moreover, we hope to convert academic practice to viable and practical resources for ESD activities. To apply universities' intellectual resources for educational materials, we hope to contribute to strengthening the scientific evidence for ESD activities as well as encouraging higher quality ESD activities.

How was ASPUnivNet established?

The idea of the interuniversity network started at "the Symposium on International Understanding and Education" held in 2007 at Miyagi University of Education in Sendai, which was the birthplace of the world private-sector UNESCO activities. This event triggered a surge in the number of applications to participate in ASPnet in the region, especially in Kesenuma City. In this context, "Gathering of UNESCO Associated Schools" was held in November 2008 at Miyagi University of Education, bringing together representatives of universities considering assisting UNESCO Associated Schools. They set forth the establishment of an interuniversity network. The following month, "The International Forum on ESD Dialogue 2008" under the auspices of MEXT, JNCU and UNESCO took place at the United Nations University in Tokyo. It was there that the inauguration of the Interuniversity Network Supporting the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPUnivNet) was officially announced to the world.

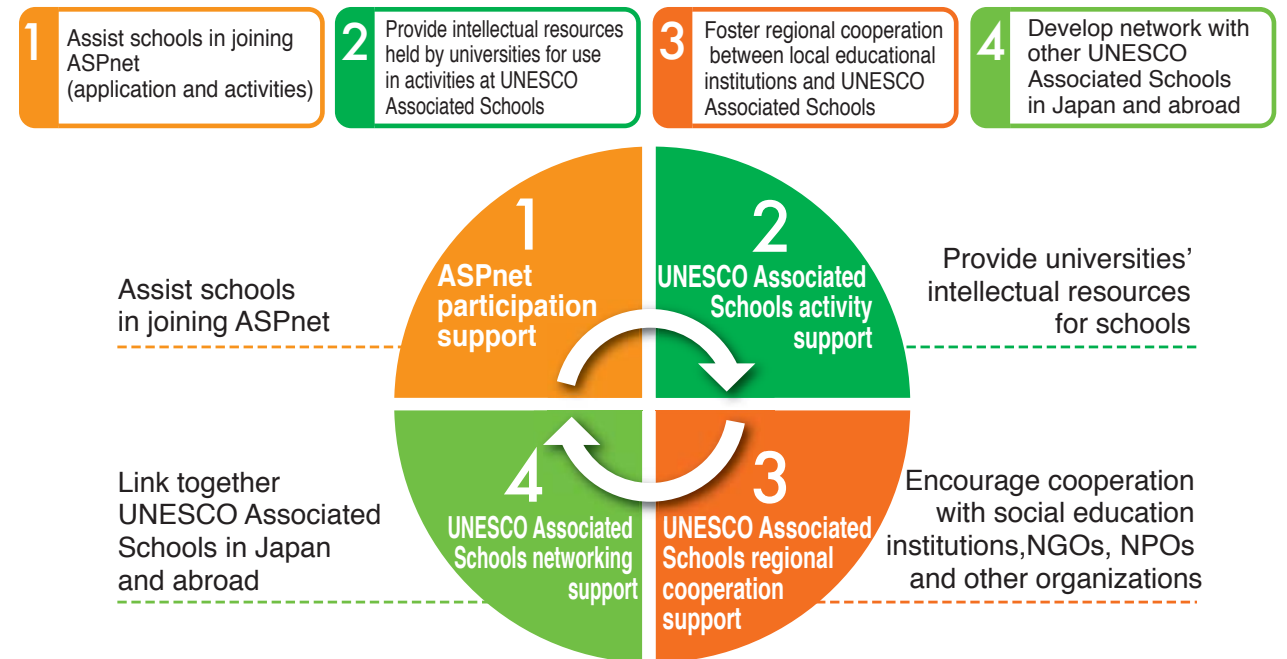
Member Universities

At the moment, 18 universities participate in ASPUnivNet: Hokkaido University of Education Kushiro Campus, Iwate University, Tohoku University Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Miyagi University of Education, Tamagawa University College of Education, Shizuoka University Faculty of Education, Kanazawa University, Gifu University, Aichi University of Education, Chubu University, Mie University, Osaka Prefectural University, Nara University of Education, Okayama University, Hiroshima University Graduate School of Education, Naruto University of Education, Fukuoka University of Education, and Okinawa Christian University /Junior College.



ASPUnivNet doing

ASPUnivNet has conducted four kinds of activities to assist local schools in joining ASPnet and to promote ESD at schools.



What is ASPUnivNet doing?

1. ASPnet Participation Support

ASPUnivNet checks applications and gives advice to the schools that apply for ASPnet. There is a leaflet of how to fill in the application form in cooperation with the UNESCO Associated Schools Support Office in Japan. (http://www.unesco-school.jp/?action=common_download_main&upload_id=5689)

In this leaflet, we demonstrate not only how the application should be filled out, but also what frame of mind the applying school should have: the school should build the curriculum and the system working on ESD as a whole school, and should cooperate with local communities, other schools, government committees, social education institutions and universities.

In addition, we give advice about ESD curricula or evaluation in the application form based on universities' intellectual resources.

2. Training of Teachers for Higher-level ESD Practices

ASPUnivNet holds workshops for teachers to develop their skills to conduct ESD practices.

In these workshops, we introduce educational programs for ESD, good examples of ESD practices in Japan and abroad, educational materials and useful information. We also provide opportunities for the teachers of UNESCO Associated Schools to exchange their ideas with the others.

The Number of UNESCO Associated Schools in Japan

