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## Re: Invitation to the 5th International RCE Conference 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

The United Nations University (UNU) has been implementing the programme on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD programme) through its Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) since 2003 to promote the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014). UNU proposed to develop Regional Centres of Expertise on education for sustainable development (RCEs) as one of the major thrusts of its ESD programme, and has been promoting the establishment of RCEs around the world together with relevant organisations such as UNESCO and UNEP. The first seven RCEs were acknowledged at the International Conference on Globalisation and ESD in June 2005 in Nagoya, Japan. As of January 2010, seventy-four RCEs have been acknowledged by UNU.

Following the progress in RCE development, UNU-IAS will organise the 5th International RCE Conference 2010 on 18-20 May 2010 in Curitiba, Brazil to be hosted by RCE Curitiba at the FIEP Convention Centre back to back with the ESD International Conference (18-19 May 2010). Building on the accomplishments of the previous conferences, this conference aims to enable a diverse RCE community to develop a common action for the second half of DESD.

We are delighted to invite you and/or representatives of your RCE to the 5th International RCE Conference 2010. We strongly encourage participation of at least one representative from each RCE, as well as those candidate RCEs, in particular those who are planning on submitting an application by 15 June 2010. Attached please find a preliminary programme for the Conference.

We encourage all RCEs and candidate RCEs to seek funding to finance their travel and accommodation. The RCE Service Centre has a limited amount of funding to help with travel and accommodation costs for those RCEs who are unable to find financing. According to standard procedure, preference will be given to participants from least developed countries. Not all requests for financial support can be accepted in full and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

UNU-IAS has a limited number of pre-reserved accommodations for which information is provided in the conference registration form. Early registration is recommended, especially if you wish to stay at a pre-reserved accommodation; please submit the conference registration form and hotel reservation form by Friday, 12 March 2010 in order for us to handle the accommodation booking smoothly. For those who are requesting financial support from UNU-IAS, please submit the request form for financial assistance before Friday, 12 March 2010. The final date for registration for the Conference is Friday, 2 April 2010, for those who do not need a pre-reserved accommodation or financial assistance.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could kindly send the attached registration form and the pre-conference survey form to [rceconference2010@ias.unu.edu](mailto:rceconference2010@ias.unu.edu) at your earliest convenience. All information on the 5th International RCE Conference is available on the UNU-IAS website at <http://www.ias.unu.edu/efsd/rceconference2010>. I look forward to receiving a positive response from you.

Sincerely yours,

Govindan Parayil  
Director