

RCEs of the Americas Continental Meeting: Minutes
5th International RCE Meeting in Curitiba, Brazil
13:30 – 15:30, Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Please note that Action Items are in Bold.

Purpose of Meeting:

- To discuss how to strengthen and advance the global RCE network and the role of continental networking.
- To allow for mutual learning to take place between RCEs in the Americas and identification of emerging and important issues facing these RCEs.
- To identify and follow up on opportunities for collaboration and action among RCEs in the Americas.

Meeting Outcomes:

- Identification of opportunities, directions, and actions for strengthening and advancing the global RCE network through activities in the Americas.
- Specific action items and those individuals/RCEs taking leadership on these items

1. Election of Chair(s) and Recorder(s) for Meeting (5 minutes)

Chairpersons: Lyle Benko and Roger Petry (RCE Saskatchewan) elected to co-chair meeting.

Recorders for Meeting: Cindi Briscoe (RCE Greather Sudbury), Therese Drapeau (RCE Montreal), Jonathan Yee (RCE Saskatchewan)

Compilation of Meeting Minutes: Roger Petry (RCE Saskatchewan)

2. Welcome and Introductions (20 minutes)

- Zirole Zanotto Malhadas brought greetings from RCE Curitiba-Parana.
- The newest additions to the RCE networks in the Americas were welcomed including RCE British Columbia North Cascades that was in the midst of its celebrations and RCE Sao Paulo that only just received its official acknowledgement at the 5th International RCE Conference.

Each person introduced themselves (their own organizational affiliations/role and the RCE they were a part of). Emerging issues not already on the agenda were identified. The following lists those present at the meeting, RCE, and organizational affiliation (where identified).

Attendees Present in Curitiba, Brazil:

RCE Bogota (Columbia)

- Maria Mercedes Callejas, Universidad Pedagogica Nacional (mmcallejas@gmail.com)

RCE Chaco (Argentina)

- Maria Virginia Appendino, CEGAE- National University of Northeast-UNNE (v.appendino@gmail.com)

RCE Guatemala

- Claudia Donis, The Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences (cydonis@flacso.edu.gt)
- Eugenia Rodas (rodaseugenia@yahoo.com)

RCE Curitiba-Parana (Brazil)

- Marcia Elizabeth Brunetti, Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Parana-PUCPR (marbru@terra.com.br)
- Vitor Afonso Hoeflich, Universidade Federal do Parana-UFPR (vitor.ufpr@gmail.com)
- Ziole Zanotto Malhadas (ziolezm@matrix.com.br)
- Marcos Mueller Schlemm, Federacao das Industrias do Estado do Parana-FIEP (marcos.schlemm@fiepr.org.br)

RCE Saskatchewan (Canada)

- Lyle Benko, L.A.M.B. Consulting (lyle.benko@sasktel.net)
- Roger Petry, Luther College at the University of Regina (roger.petry@uregina.ca)
- Jon Yee, RCE Saskatchewan Youth Committee Coordinator (jonathan_d_yee@yahoo.com)

RCE Sao Paulo (Brazil)

- Daniel Dias, University of Sao Paulo (ddias@usp.br)
- Oswaldo Massambani, University of Sao Paulo (massambani@usp.br)

RCE Western Jalisco (Mexico)

- Salvador Garcia Ruvalcaba Universidad de Guadalajara (sgarcia_60@yahoo.com.mx)

RCE Service Centre

- Yoko Mochizuki (mochizuki@ias.unu.edu)

Participants Via Teleconference:

RCE Greater Sudbury (Canada)

- Cindi Briscoe, City of Greater Sudbury (cindi.briscoe@greatersudbury.ca)

RCE British Columbia-Northern Cascades (Canada)

- Veronica Gaylie, University of British Columbia (veronica.gaylie@ubc.ca)
- Carlos Ormond, Simon Fraser University (cormond@sfu.ca)
- David Zandvliet, Simon Fraser University (dbz@sfu.ca)

RCE Montreal (Canada)

- Andre Champoux, Environment Canada (Andre.Champoux@ec.gc.ca)
- Therese Drapeau, Environment Canada (Therese.Drapeau@ec.gc.ca)
- Carole Marcoux, Commission Scolaire de MontrÉal (marcouxc@csgm.qc.ca)
- Kathleen NG, McGill University (kathleen.ng@mcgill.ca)

Additional Participants:

- Alessandra Bagatin, student, Brazil (alex_camile_kk@yahoo.com.br)
- Mariana Felix, student, Curitiba, Brazil (eumaryeu@gmail.com)
- Rafael Huk, student, Curitiba, Brazil (rafaelhuk@gmail.com)
- Gabriela Myakana, student, Curitiba, Brazil (gabi_tieme@hotmail.com)
- Carlos Mortizen, student, Curitiba, Brazil (carlos_moritzen@hotmail.com)
- Libia Patricia Peralta, Brazil (pperalta.design@gmail.com)
- mazheushara@gmail.com, student
- Reinaldo Tockus, Senai, Brazil (reinaldo.tockus@pr.senai.br)

3. Discussion of Role of Continental Networking in Advancing Global RCE Capacity (30 minutes)

Participants addressed the following discussion topic areas:

- ***RCE Development in the Americas:*** How can we advance strategic development of RCEs in our region, especially in areas where they are lacking (e.g., countries, language groups, rural/small urban areas, bioregions)? How can this be done while respecting the spontaneous emergence of RCEs based on local interest? Are there existing ESD networks in the Americas we can identify that have the organizational strength and interest to assist in establishing new RCEs where they are absent, support emerging RCEs, and/or help with continental coordination?
- ***Role of Continental RCE Platforms:*** What evolving roles do we see for continental RCE platforms relative to the global RCE networking, especially as the numbers of RCEs increase? What factors influence the efficiency and effectiveness of collaborative work at these two levels? How can each level intentionally advance bridging opportunities between RCEs to take advantage of the wide-ranging diversity the RCEs provide?
- ***Advancing RCE Profile and Policy Influence:*** How can RCEs in the Americas help develop an RCE profile to attract the attention of policy makers in the Americas and/or assist the UNU-IAS in doing so globally, to shape policy formation and attract funding and other resources?

RCE Montreal noted that to strengthen the RCE network we have to have more than one teleconference a year in the Americas. Toronto may have faded because of a lack of communication. It was noted that European RCEs meet annually (in December) and Asia-Pacific RCEs also have annual meetings. A conference call every 6 weeks was suggested of a continental steering group along with periodic larger gatherings were suggested..

Action item: Following the meeting RCE Sao Paulo (Oswaldo Massambani) agreed to assist in arranging some continental meetings. The UN University it is hoped would assist with these meetings along with those identified with the Continental Coordinating Group (see item 6 below).

RCE British Columbia as a new RCE noted the value of mentorship from more established RCEs. There was a need identified to clarify what our own RCEs mean to us at our local level (reflecting our own vision, mission, values) along with the need to develop a continental action plan for RCEs in the Americas.

Action item: Each RCE agreed to develop a vision statement answering the question “what does the RCE means for us” to be used, in part, as a basis for the development of key messages about RCEs in the Americas.

RCE Sao Paulo (Oswaldo Massambani) indicated the University of Sao Paulo faculty are committed to sustainability with strong ties to local government (City Hall) to promote sustainability in the larger community in addition to education of small children all the way to university-level courses. RCE Sao Paulo is looking for projects of common interest to partner with other RCEs for research and development. Discussion ensued about the value of developing a continental Americas map of ESD projects so that these partnering opportunities could be identified and facilitated. In addition, a focus on specific theme areas would allow RCEs to invite the relevant individuals from their RCEs to work on common projects. RCE Saskatchewan noted it had developed a mapping tool for ESD projects in its

region (see <http://www.saskrce.ca/maps/sask-esd-projects>).

Yoko Mochizuki (Global RCE Service Centre) noted the UNU is currently working on an online portal, RCEs were requested to complete an online questionnaire recently. This portal can map RCE projects, and should allow searches within it.

Action item: Each RCE to complete a listing of its flagship projects and other significant projects as part of the RCE Project Database (Form 3) of the RCE Reporting Portal (<http://rce-esd.uni-graz.at/>). RCE Saskatchewan (Roger Petry) to assist the UN University (Yoko Mochizuki) to develop a global RCE project mapping feature.

RCE Montreal (Therese Drapeau) noted their RCE did not receive the annual request to fill in this questionnaire while RCE Greater Sudbury only had just received the reminder message.

Action Item: Yoko to follow up with Montréal regarding the online questionnaire.

RCE Montreal suggested the possibility of using/reviewing the thematic matrix originally distributed by the Global RCE Service Center (UNU) as a start to identifying strengths and trends.

Action Item: Yoko Mochizuki from UNU requested to circulate the most recent version to RCEs.

RCE Western Jalisco noted the need to share a common language about what is an RCE. There is a need to identify the best way to produce low cost materials and put these materials into a website database for easy access.. These need to be attractive materials using different vehicles (e.g. soap operas, puppet shows, telephone, local radio) to address a variety of different audiences as well as involving ordinary people and listening to their voices.

Action Item: RCE Western Jalisco (Salvador Garcia Ruvalcaba) to compile a public participation strategy for use with RCEs drawing upon current methods used for public education and public participation within RCEs in the Americas.

4. Follow-up on Opportunities for Collaboration Identified in Montreal (30 minutes)

A) Collaborative RCE training programs and exchanges in the Americas

From 2009 Minutes: RCEs will work together on training programs and exchanges on ESD within the Americas, possibly exchanging professors, students, information, best practices, etc.; the goal is to find ways to integrate RCEs through joint activity. (Leading RCE: Salvador, RCE Western Jalisco (Mexico); Supporting RCEs: Maria, (RCE Columbia Candidate), Ziolo (RCE Curitiba), Patrica and Andrea (RCE Montreal), Lyle (RCE Saskatchewan)

RCE Western Jalisco noted the need to create training programs/exchanges for those with diplomas/masters degrees. These should involve teachers, municipalities, and the media. We need to find and facilitate participation of the best people in the Americas offering sustainability education. Salvador would like to create a Ph.D. program in Mexico.

RCE Bogota (Maria Mercedes Callejas) mentioned her RCE is doing interdisciplinary environmental action-research projects with teachers in training involving indigenous Colombians. The RCE is also

training teachers to deal with situations of poverty and violence.

RCE Montreal (Andre Champoux) noted challenges it faces based on the need to report to Environment Canada, and therefore programs must be nationally directed and cost effective. The BioKits project allows people to learn about biodiversity (whether through generic biokits or urban biokits designed for specific cities such as Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatchewan and Vancouver). A second project reaches youth in their high-school classes using two in-house professional TV studios to talk about eco consumption, water, biodiversity, etc; this has been done successfully for the past 3 years. There is a need to better understand results requiring follow-up studies on these students to see if this has led to changes in their behaviors. The first forum is to be held June 2, 2010, to engage their partners and identify projects.

Therese Drapeau (RCE Montreal) also distributed 3 DVDs from last year's 4th International RCE Conference; these should still be available from the Global RCE Service Centre and are a good start for a common understanding of the RCE initiative.

RCE Saskatchewan (Roger Petry) noted Garth Pickard from RCE Saskatchewan was currently participating in the Paris UNESCO conference under way concerning reorienting teachers to Education for Sustainability, chaired by Chuck Hopkins. Lyle Benko (RCE Saskatchewan) noted his work with climate change education for Saskatchewan teachers, to questions how they are personally engaging themselves and transforming their ways of living.

RCE Greater Sudbury (Cindi Briscoe) noted teleconferencing with other Canadian RCEs during the past year including identifying RCE work on the International Year of Biodiversity. RCE Greater Sudbury noted it has different speakers coming in, an open house for community groups that creates an opportunity for them to raise their profiles in the community (similar to Club Nights) at Fraser auditorium at Laurentian University. It has also developed a "Shaping Schools, Shaping Tomorrow" white paper, a partnership with Learning for a Sustainable Future, Xstrata Nickel and its four School Boards. Teachers attended a workshop geared to the Grades 3-4 curriculum and received a grant to complete a project regarding sustainability within their respective classrooms.

Virginia Appendino (RCE Chaco) and Vitor Afonso Hoeflich (RCE Curitiba-Parana) indicated an interest in being part of the working group focusing on exchange programs.

Action Item (based on 2009 commitment with additional participation): RCEs will work together on training programs and exchanges on ESD within the Americas, possibly exchanging professors, students, information, best practices, etc.; the goal is to find ways to integrate RCEs through joint activity. (Leading RCE: Salvador, RCE Western Jalisco (Mexico); Supporting RCEs: Maria, (RCE Columbia), Ziole (RCE Curitiba), Vitor (RCE Curitiba), Patrica and Andrea (RCE Montreal), Lyle (RCE Saskatchewan), Virginia (RCE Chaco).

B) Continental Working Group to Advance Biodiversity Theme

From 2009 Minutes: This working group to explore possible contributions of the Americas for the IYB. (Participating RCEs: Andre and Patricia (RCE Montreal), Susan Kingsbury (Environment Canada), Catherine (RCE Great Sudbury), RCE Biobio Candidate)

RCE Greater Sudbury (Cindy Briscoe) noted it has a local biodiversity plan in place to recognize the UN's International Year of Biodiversity. The following is the link to the document:

http://www.greatersudbury.ca/content/biodiversity/documents/Revised%20Biodiversity_Print_final_Dec09.pdf

C) Working on Community of Practice/Social Learning and Sustainability

From 2009 Minutes: Harold Glasser (RCE Grand Rapids, USA) and Patricia Garcia (RCE Montreal) indicated interest in advancing this topic.

It was noted that Patricia was supposed to work on Spanish workshop. She was not present at the meeting to speak to this item. Vitor Afonso Hoeflich (RCE Curitiba-Parana) indicated an interest in participating in this group.

D) Youth Involvement in the RCEs in the Americas

From 2009 Minutes: Karen McIver (RCE Saskatchewan) indicated a willingness to work on collaboration around the theme of youth.

Vitor Afonso Hoeflich (RCE Curitiba Parana) introduced students at the meeting who were involved in a range of natural resource management and other sustainability focused programs in higher education organizations in Parana.

RCE Saskatchewan (Jon Yee) spoke to youth action projects occurring in Saskatchewan including a Youth Action Forum in early fall. It brought in a high schools engaged in policy work, climate change, and an understanding of their carbon footprint. Presenters included youth leaders, policymakers, professors, etc. Every high school in Regina will have their own environmental club to work on sustainable development. Saskatoon is doing something similar.

RCE Curitiba-Parana (Marcos Mueller Schlemm) of the Federacao das Industrias do Estado do Parana-FIEP is working with the Federal University of Parana to create specific opportunities for experiential learning for students (including afternoon workshops as part of the conference). 2 student researchers spoke regarding their specific research projects including one working with local companies to incorporate more sustainable processes.

RCE Greater Sudbury (Cindi Briscoe) noted leaders of its “Natural Environment” pillar, EarthCare Sudbury, is trying to establish a youth group with students from secondary schools and student trustees from the 4 school boards in Greater Sudbury.

Action Item: Jon Yee (RCE Saskatchewan) to gather youth names from each RCE in the Americas to advance youth ESD projects in the Americas.

E) Funding and In-kind resources for RCEs

From 2009 Minutes: RCEs in Americas to identify potential funding and in-kind resources in the Americas to: (1) advance translation of curriculum and other ESD materials, and (2) to support continental meeting of Americas. Ziolo (RCE Curitiba Parana) indicated she would plan a follow-up meeting to discuss funding sources.

A question was raised whether any of the RCEs had yet jointly applied for funding as a network of RCEs and whether or not RCEs qualified as “development organizations” to access official

development assistance of OECD countries.

Action Item: Following the meeting RCE Sao Paulo (Oswaldo Massambani) having previously worked with the Canadian International Development Agency indicated he would explore whether there were any specific CIDA funds that could potentially be applied for to advance North/South RCE projects in the Americas.

F) Encouraging RCE Candidates

From 2009 Minutes: RCEs can highlight specific activities they have been engaged in to foster new RCEs and specific needs they might have in this regard. Personal contact people were established for those interested in developing RCE Candidates in the Americas: Charles Hopkins, Ziolo (RCE Curitiba), Salvador (RCE Western Jalisco), Hanne (RCE Biobio (once acknowledged), Rachel (Trinidad).

It was noted that a clinic for candidate RCEs was being held on May 20, 2010, under the leadership of Jos Hermans.

G) Reporting and Evaluation

From 2009 Minutes: UNU-IAS facilitating RCE evaluation; interested RCEs in Americas included Harold (RCE Grand Rapids) and Cindi (RCE Greater Sudbury); Harold Glasser indicated he would develop questions related to reporting and evaluation for this year's continental meeting.

RCE Greater Sudbury's "Research & Evaluation Sub-committee" has spent the past year developing baseline indicators that are related to the 11 sustainable development challenges within the Healthy Community Strategy of the RCE Greater Sudbury document.

H) Requests of UNU-IAS

From 2009 Minutes: Previous request of UNU-IAS from the Continental Meeting of the Americas in Montreal

- *Creation of an electronic map of RCEs globally*
- *Online information of RCEs willing to mentor other RCEs relative to their strengths including willingness to provide background in various languages.*
- *RCE logo translation and materials translation by UNU-IAS*

Action Item: A request was made of the UNU-IAS to seek to coordinate the date of the next International RCE Meeting to avoid conflicts (where possible) with other significant global ESD meetings or RCE events to avoid missed opportunities. The need for an electronic map of RCEs globally was re-affirmed.

I) RCEs of the Americas Coordinating Group

From 2009 Minutes: This group established in Montreal to help facilitate follow-up and advancement of the action items identified at continental meetings and further opportunities for collaboration at a continental scale. Members identified in Montreal were: Catherine (RCE Greater Sudbury), Charles Hopkins, Andre (RCE Montreal), Salvador (RCE Western Jalisco), Ziolo (RCE Curitiba-Parana), Roger (RCE Saskatchewan)

Vitor Afonso Hoeflich (RCE Curitiba-Parana) indicated an interest in being added to this coordinating group and was added. There was an interest in developing a continental meeting of the Americas via teleconference for the fall of 2010.

Action Item: A request was made of UNU-IAS to facilitate a timely skype meeting of members of the Americas Coordinating Group (see list above with addition of Vitor and preferably one person from each RCE). This should occur within 2-3 months of the meeting in Curitiba.

5. Emerging Issues since Last Meeting of the Americas (15 minutes)

- These action items were included as part of the discussion in item #3 (above).

6. Next RCE Meeting of the Americas (10 minutes)

Action Item: Oswaldo (RCE Sao Paulo) indicated (following the meeting) his willingness to assist coordination of a video conference for RCEs in the Americas (for fall 2010?) as well as a specific meeting for RCEs in Ibero America (Spanish and Portuguese RCEs in the Americas) leading into this more general meeting.

7. Other issues needing to be addressed by continental meeting of RCEs in the Americas (5 minutes)

- RCE Western Jalisco (Salvador) affirmed the need to focus on specific transformative projects between regions that incorporate values and ethics.
- It was noted that the lack of documents and information in other languages than English was making it difficult to maintain partners' interest in RCEs. RCE Montreal (Therese) indicated the need to work on the language issue to enable further recruitment and motivation of French speaking RCEs and to be fully inclusive of French partners. She also indicated that RCE Montreal was very happy to join in on the meeting in Curitiba via video-conference (as did RCE British Columbia North Cascades, and RCE Greater Sudbury).

8. Continental Meeting Report Back to Main Conference (5 minutes)

Roger Petry and Lyle Benko (RCE Saskatchewan) agreed to report back to the main conference.

9. Adjournment