



## Education for Sustainable Development Task Force Report

### *Task Force Mission*

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Review and explore the following:

- Bilateral Teacher Exchange Program
- Dispatch of business leaders
- Youth Dialog via TV conference
- Enhance international education (including language)
- Enhance network of Japanese language teachers
- Create 'flagship' program of CULCON
- Civics education (safe & drug free schools)

### *Task Force Members*

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Mr. Isao Kiso  
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### *Activities Since CULCON XXIII*

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#### **1. Education for Sustainable Development Task Force Meeting, June, 2009**

*A record of the meeting is attached.*

#### **2. Bilateral Teacher Exchange Initiative**

Fulbright Japan organized a "Best Practices in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)" Conference in Portland, Oregon, November 1-5, 2009. Fifteen teachers were selected from both Japan and the United States in a competitive process and presented their experiences

incorporating ESD in the curriculum of their schools. Keynote speakers, representatives from Fulbright Japan and both governments also attended and the gathered delegates visited schools around the Portland area to see how ESD is being incorporated in the education system there. This conference marks the formal opening of the new teacher exchange program taken up in the CULCON Education group.

Following the “Best Practices in ESD” Conference in Portland, Fulbright Japan has launched the new teacher exchange program for year 2010. The new program consists of two main events: a program in the US for Japanese teachers, including a Joint Meeting with US teachers, and a program in Japan for US teachers, including a Joint Meeting with Japanese teachers. Forty-eight teachers were selected from both Japan and the United States. The program for Japanese teachers took place from April 24, beginning with the two-day orientation in Washington DC. Following the stay in Washington DC, the teachers were divided into three groups and traveled to New Haven, CT, Minneapolis, MN, and Portland, OR, and visited regional schools and ESD sites. After a four-day program in each region, both Japanese and US teachers gathered at San Francisco for a three-day Joint Meeting. During the meeting, teachers from both countries actively participated in workshops on ESD curriculum development and heard lectures on ESD from experts. The program in Japan for US teachers is planned to take place in late June.

This program is operated with matching funds from MEXT and the US Department of State.

### **3. Fulbright grants for Japanese business leaders**

Fulbright Japan has started a new grant program for future Japanese business leaders seeking professional degrees in US universities. Ten candidates were selected as grantees for 2010/2011.

This program is designed to enhance human development of Japanese business leaders who contribute to strengthening the Japan-US relationship in the next generation. This program is funded by MEXT.

### **4. “Japan-US Student Science Education Dialogue” International Education Week Program**

As part of International Education Week 2009, the US Embassy in Tokyo coordinated with MEXT and the US Department of Education to host a “Japan-US Student Science Education Dialogue” digital video conference (DVC) at 8:00 a.m. on November 20 in the Embassy auditorium. This DVC program brought together over two hundred high school students in Tokyo, Fukuoka, Osaka, Naha, and Washington, DC, to discuss the importance of science education in the 21st century. Four schools with strong science-based curriculum, Tsukuba University’s Komaba High School and Tokyo Metropolitan Toyama High School (both MEXT-designated Super Science High Schools), along with Thomas Jefferson High School and Blair High School in the Washington, DC,

area, made presentations on their best practices to stimulate discussion. The program was opened by senior representatives of both governments, and an expert on science education moderated the discussion.

## **5. Japan-US (MEXT-ED) Science Education Meeting**

This is being planned for May 6-8, 2010 and will include five to six participants from Japan and the United States each.

## **6. CULCON Forum on ESD**

This is planned for May 25, 2010.

## ***Recommendations***

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### **1. Activities that would improve the field in general and should be acknowledged by CULCON**

- A. Bilateral teacher exchange initiatives.
- B. Fulbright grants for Japanese business leaders.
- C. Japan-US Student science education dialogue DVC conference.

### **2. Concrete projects for CULCON to undertake**

We would like to put forward following projects for full-blown implementation by CULCON, that is, as a CULCON flagship program.

- A. Bilateral teacher exchange initiatives.
  - B. Fulbright grants for Japanese business leaders.
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## **Attachment**

1. Education for Sustainable Development Task Force Meeting (June 2009)