

<p>22. Planning Survey for International Research Gatherings regarding Education for the Sustainable Development of the Asia-Pacific Region Leader: NAGATA Yoshiyuki, Senior Researcher, Department for International Research and Co-operation</p>

(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

The Japanese government's proposal for a "Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (DESD) was tabled at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, and adopted at the 2002 UN General Assembly for the ten-year period of 2005 to 2014. In the context of this international movement, there are great expectations from within Japan concerning efforts in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), particularly in the field of education. Starting in 2005, the first year of ESD, international institutes, NPOs, schools, and diverse organizations held various events encompassing ESD themes.

In March 2005, NIER, in coordination with MEXT, held an international symposium, "Sustainable Development and Education for the 21st Century." With ESD being a flagship UN-authorized program, related projects are being carried out in both the public and private sector. The purpose of this planning survey was to prepare for the research aspect of this program.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- Organized concepts of sustainable development
- Collected and analyzed domestic and international examples of "interdependence" as a key concept of sustainability.
- Confirmed the importance of a time-line, taking into account UNESCO's perspective of ESD.
- Confirmed the comprehensive aspects of interdependence that encompass the fields of both society and education.