What is needed for successful Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)?

Group 2 members:
Yuka Furuyama, Yuri Kawai, Erika Kobayashi, Sasiporn Kohkaew, Makiko Nagasaki, Miho Sato, Yu Tategasawa (Alphabetical order)

Group Adviser:
Seiji Mitsuishi (Prof.)

Introduction
Through the series of lectures, we have learnt many about Education for sustainable development (ESD). It started with an overview of global trend of ESD and how it has been processed by today. The more we discussed, the more we got confused. The main question we have faced was ‘How we could contribute and what can be resulted in successful ESD’. However, we could also hear local level of activities as a case study, which processed in Japan. Those case studies of ‘local activities’ led us to another idea; it is “possible” for us to contribute.

In order to understand ESD today, we decided to discuss about purpose and goal of ESD. The simple question, why and how do we need ESD? Considering different aspects and needs of ESD, we reached one answer; for our happiness. That brought further question; how can we define happiness?

‘What do we need the most for our happiness?’ It is a life long question of all the people. Money, love, glory….If we could make a complete list of ‘what you want for happiness’, it can reach the moon or it might be simply a word. In other words, it all depends on how you define happiness. As far as Sustainable Development is concerned, it is an ideal form of the future in 21st century. Therefore this idea may also apply to sustainable future. Goal can be different from how one view the future and what one need to obtain.

Five possible elements of ESD from out point of view
Through our discussion (which lasted till 5o’clock in the morning), we reached five possible elements, which might lead successful ESD.
1. Concentrate on an issue and understanding of ESD
   ‘If one doesn’t know, one cannot react’
   From lectures, we have learnt that it is important to focus on an issue and
   make an effort to solve the issue rather than think globally and make no
   contribution.

2. Take action
   ‘There’s no smoke without fire.’
   We believe this is the hardest and most necessary point.

3. Cooperation
   ‘Not only your problem, but also our problem.’
   As we discussed, we need to approach an issue from different aspects. Take
   advantage of each strength.

4. Balance
   ‘Everything is needed.’
   All the elements should be equally emphasized. That means there is nothing
   unnecessary.

5. Critical thinking
   ‘What, How, Why’
   When one take action, always keep in mind;
   what you aiming at, how you will achieve, and why you are taking action.
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**Recommendations**

“What you think,
What you say
And what you do are in harmony”
- Mahatama Gandhi

After all these discussions, we realized that important thing is not only discuss
and dither about what we can do or discouraged how small we can do to lead
social change but also take actual step.
We believe that quote from Gandhi explains the idea of “think globally, act
locally”. Although taking action is the most difficult part, we now all understood that we need to take actual action. What we can do might be only “small”. However, even we cannot do much, we can be a “Tipping point” of expected bigger activity. To sum up, we came up with what we can do from tomorrow.

**Plan of Action**

1. Spread the word (Yuka)
2. Drive ecologically (Yuri)
3. Tell the family about the ESD (Miho)
4. Use electricity (Erika)
5. Use bicycle (Makiko)
6. Less drive (Sasiporn)
7. Buy domestic products (Yu)

All of us know what we should do. All we need to do it TAKE ACTION!