

### (Environmental education)

- MOE (The Ministry of the Environment) and other relevant ministries are providing opportunities for life-long, high-quality environmental education at home, school, in offices, in local communities and other all places. This policy is based on the “Act on Promoting Environmental Conservation Activities through Environmental Education” and the “Basic Policy on Enhancing Environmental Conservation Activities and Motivation on Environmental Conservation and Promoting Environmental Education and Collaborative Efforts (Cabinet decision in June 2012).”<sup>8</sup>
- MOE encourages environmental education to foster people who will be responsible for a sustainable society through the development and demonstration of environmental education programs that reflect the viewpoint of Education for Sustainable Development, ESD.
- MEXT encourages environmental education at school and in society so that children can deepen their understanding of and interest in the preservation of the environment through various opportunities according to their developmental stage.

### (Experiencing nature)

- MEXT is conducting publicity work so that families and corporations understand the significance of outdoor activities.
- The National Institution for Youth Education is providing opportunities and places for outdoor activities by taking advantage of the locations and features of national youth education facilities.
- In collaboration with MEXT, the Forestry Agency is promoting the “Project to Promote Forest Kids Club Activities<sup>9</sup>,” which offers children opportunities for various hands-on activities in the forest. It is also working to set up “Yu-Yu no Mori” in the national forests, providing places for hands-on activities for school children<sup>10</sup> (Figure 2).

**Figure 2** Examples of “Yu-Yu no Mori” in use



Building a secret base



Climbing trees



Putting up a bird house



Experiencing forestry



Class in the forest

Source: Website of the Forestry Agency: [http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/kokuyu\\_rinya/kokumin\\_mori/katuyo/kokumin\\_sanka/kyouteiseido/kyoteiseido.html](http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/kokuyu_rinya/kokumin_mori/katuyo/kokumin_sanka/kyouteiseido/kyoteiseido.html)

8 [http://www.env.go.jp/policy/suishin\\_ho/](http://www.env.go.jp/policy/suishin_ho/)

9 Website of the Children Forest Museum of the Forestry Agency: <http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/kids/top.html>

10 [http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/kokuyu\\_rinya/kokumin\\_mori/katuyo/kokumin\\_sanka/kyouteiseido/kyoteiseido.html#yu-yu](http://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/kokuyu_rinya/kokumin_mori/katuyo/kokumin_sanka/kyouteiseido/kyoteiseido.html#yu-yu)

- MOE provides opportunities for children to have contact with nature during “Green Month” (April 15 – May 14), the “Commune-with-nature Campaign” (July 21 – August 20), and “Month for Hiking Nature Trails across the Country” (October).

**(Places for social volunteer activities and sports activities provided by the police)**

- The police promote the securing of opportunities for various activities for young people and the creation of places for them to stay. These include socially participatory activities, such as social volunteer activities, activities where one can experience the manufacturing process and sports activities, such as judo and kendo classes for youths, using training halls belonging to police stations.

**(Encouraging cultural activities)**

- MEXT is promoting activities for children to experience culture and art, for example, by providing an opportunity to have contact with the performing arts.

**(Promoting “flower education”)**

- Collaborating with MEXT and MLIT, the MAFF is promoting “flower education,” which provides children with opportunities to have contact with plants and flowers so that they can develop feelings of kindness and beauty.

**(Promoting coexistence of cities and villages and exchanges between them)**

- MAFF, MEXT and MIC are providing support for activities which provide children with opportunities to stay in farming, mountain and fishing villages.

**(4) Approaches to lifelong learning**

**(Efforts to enhance learning opportunities at institutions of higher education)**

- Japan Student Services Organization, JASSO, will start flexible operation of the scholarship system (ease re-loaning restrictions for the same degree level (e.g. undergraduate → undergraduate)) in FY 2014 in order to support young people who start to study again.

**(Appropriate evaluation of learning outcomes)**

- MEXT is working to ensure and improve the quality of certification examinations that are administered by private companies in the education industry.

**(Women’s lifelong learning)**

- MEXT is providing information on its support for women’s life planning.