

Research Concept and Scope of  
Traditional and Emerging  
Values and Practices to anchor  
Sustainable and Low Carbon  
Development

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# 1. Scope of the Session

- To understand whether and to what extent traditional values and practices have anchored sustainable livelihoods in Asia.
- Societies, cultures and communities in Asia maintain values and practices that foster sustainable livelihood.
  - *e.g. Mottainai (Japan), Sufficiency (Thai), Gotong Royong (Indonesia)*
  - *e.g. Labor exchange, community forest / pond / irrigation*
- Threats:
  - *Economic development, globalisation, etc.*
- Need for reviewing, documenting and sharing the lessons learnt for their application to **anchor sustainable and low carbon development**

## 2. Study directions

- Traditional and emerging values and practices
  - those related to maintenance of Human-Nature or Human-Human relationship.
  - those different from ‘maximization’ (*economic efficiency, energy efficiency, material efficiency*)
  - (examples to be put here)
- Not simply ‘appreciating good old days’
  - Understanding the essences/implications in the context of sustainable / low carbon development.

# 3. Provisional research focuses

## (a) Essences of sustainability

- Human-Nature or Human–Human relationship
  - Ways and rules to evaluate / extract / produce / exchange / allocate / utilize /etc.
- Enabling environment
  - geographical boundary, timeframe, and membership of community
- Balance of cooperation and competition
  - Allocation of cost and benefit
  - Arrangements in ordinal and eventual occasions

# 3. Provisional research focuses

## (b) Dynamics / Interaction

- Impact of economic development and globalization
  - on ‘sustainability’ of natural resources
  - on ‘sustainability’ of society and culture (including social security and safety nets)
  - on ‘sustainability’ of local economy and local markets
- Other keywords
  - Material flow
  - Labor distribution
  - etc.

### 3. Provisional research focuses

#### (c) Interpretation / Application

- Sustainability maintained and sustainability emerging
- Possible interpretation and application into development
  - How can the key essences of sustainability found in traditional values and practices applied to maintain, ensuring, and enhancing the sustainability in the current development context?
  - implications to daily lives?

# Envisaged achievement of VP-SLCD research project

1. Analysis of key value and practices fostering sustainable livelihood in traditional and modern contexts
2. Documenting and sharing the findings with wide range of stakeholders for sustainable and low-carbon development
3. Provision of proposals:
  - Sustainable and low carbon lifestyle
  - Sustainable and low carbon business models
  - Regional, national and local policy to promote the above

# Questions for Discussion Session

- How have recent trends in material use, social and community reform, and globalisation affected sustainable, low-carbon development in Asia?
- How can we ensure the essence of sustainability remains intact the traditional practices when confronted with the above trends?
- What are key lessons learnt from research on traditional (and emerging) values and practices?
- How can we translate these key findings into messages that will help citizens, business people, and policy-makers realise sustainable, low-carbon development?
- What are the appropriate research methods to extract, record, disseminate and scale-up lessons learnt?