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Outline of IGES





Mission and Goals

Global Environmental Strategies from the Asia-Pacific Region

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), established by an initiative of the Japanese Government in 1998, is a research institute that conducts pragmatic and innovative strategic policy research to support sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region - a region experiencing rapid population growth and expanding economic activity.

The mission of IGES is to promote the transformation of 20th Century society, characterised by mass production and mass consumption, to a new societal framework founded on sustainability. We must re-examine our value systems and socio-economic activities; change is essential. IGES aims to propose various measures for improved and realistic social and economic systems, which will form a new paradigm for the future.

Strategic policy research for the realisation of sustainable development is a formidable task in the Asia-Pacific region, which has such diverse topography and cultures, and great variance in the level of economic development. IGES collaborates with a broad range of stakeholders, such as national governments, non-governmental organisations, businesses and citizens groups, to carry out this research of such a challenging nature, aiming to ensure that the results are reflected in the policy-making process.

At IGES, we believe that developing and presenting effective strategies for the Asia-Pacific region will play a leading role in global environmental research in the 21st Century, and contribute to the realisation of sustainable society in the world.

Our Approach

Strategic Policy Research on Global Environmental Issues

IGES is a strategic policy research institute that deals with global environmental issues. From a global perspective that transcends national boundaries, IGES proposes policies and institutional frameworks that aim to create a new type of environmentally sound and socially equitable society.

* In April 2003, IGES was granted Special Consultative Status under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN/ECOSOC).

Focus on Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region

IGES research focuses on sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific, a region experiencing rapid growth in industrial activity and population, with serious implications for the future global environment.

Outreach for Policy-Making

IGES is a policy-oriented institute that reaches

beyond pure academic research. It aims to produce outputs that can be reflected in the policy-making processes of international organisations as well as national and local governments, and in the activities of businesses, NGOs and local citizens. To this end, IGES reaches out actively to various stakeholders.





Main Research and Project Activities in FY2003

Research Projects

At IGES, the three-year projects have been completed and strategic research has been carried out whose aim was more practical results. Research activities in FY2003 dealt with projects in the final year of the Second Phase Strategic Research (FY2001 - 2003) and consisted of 6 projects namely, Climate Policy, Urban Environmental Management, Forest Conservation, Environmental Education, Business and the Environment, and Long Term Perspective and Policy Integration. Furthermore, the Freshwater Resources Management Project was formally launched in November 2003, having been prepared under the LTP project.

Outreach Activities

FY 2003 was the final year of the Second Phase strategic research plan. As a culmination, each project compiled a report of the research results thus far, and also announced these results to policy makers and researchers from various countries at international conferences such as the Environmental Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO Asia 2003) and The Ninth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP9).

Capacity Building Programme

The Capacity Building Programme has been carried out since the First Phase (FY1998 - 2000) as a support activity for the realisation of policy decisions based on successive strategic research. In FY 2003, a research

system using eLearning was developed with the cooperation of international organisations such as the UN Environmental Programme.

Intergovernmental Programme

IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme (NGGIP) Technical Support Unit (TSU)

To work as a liaison with intergovernmental programmes concerned with global environmental problems, the IPCC-NGGIP Technical Support Unit (TSU) was set up at IGES in 1999. In FY 2003, a report was made on good practice guidance in Land Use, Land-Use Change and the Forestry Sector (LULUCF), which was formally acknowledged by the IPCC.

Other Activities

Concerning the internationalisation of IGES, and working towards the creation of cooperative ties with various national governments and research organisations, there were two new signatories to the IGES Charter - the Science, Technology and Environment Agency of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos, and the World Watch Institute. In addition, IGES was granted Special Consultative Status by ESOSOC, the UN Economic and Social Council, in recognition of the steady activities since its inauguration. This means that IGES can now take part in UN sponsored environmental meetings. Furthermore, the IGES Bangkok office was established in May 2003, as a focal point for joint research activities in the Asia and the Pacific region.



