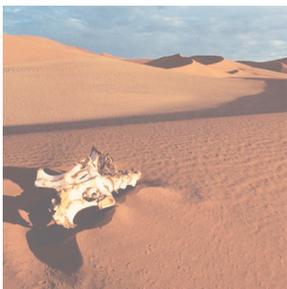




Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Annual Report FY2003



Foreword



Akio Morishima

Chair of the Board of Directors, and
President of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

IGES, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, is an international research institute which aims to establish and put in place, comprehensive policies for the realisation of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, through practical and innovative policy research. IGES was established in April 1998 with the support of the Japanese government and Kanagawa Prefecture and now 6 years have passed since it started its research activities. IGES carries out strategic research in a project-based system with each research phase lasting three years. FY 2003 was the final year of the Second Phase.

The reason each IGES research phase lasts 3 years is to set a goal for practical and strategic policy research which offers policy proposals in response to changes in outside circumstances. Furthermore, with a project-based system, all the members of the project team work together and have joint awareness of the problems that come with project research issues. As well as specifying actual research issues which should be achieved within one phase, it is hoped that the team can divide the work according to each member's speciality and conduct effective joint research.

We started with the First Phase Research based on systems and ways of thinking that had virtually never been seen before in Japan. It was not exactly trial and error, but research progressed due to the determined efforts of all the researchers and office staff. Members of each project conducted field surveys, participated in international conferences, and held workshops abroad as well as announcing the research results of their work. Due to this dedication, IGES gradually began to be

recognised, both home and abroad, as a research institute of international stature. During this time, the Technical Support Unit (TSU) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Programme (IPCC- NGGIP) began its activities at IGES and in 2000 IGES established its Kita-Kyushu office with the support of Kita-Kyushu City.

The Second Phase followed on from the First Phase, beginning in 2001 and consisted of 6 projects : Climate Policy, Urban Environmental Management, Forest Conservation, Environmental Education, Business and the Environment and the Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Projects, as well as the Capacity Building Programme. In 2001, the research activities of the Business and the Environment project were conducted in the newly established Kansai Research Centre with the support of Hyogo Prefecture. In June 2002, with comprehensive support from Kanagawa Prefecture, IGES headquarters moved into a brand-new research building with an area of 7100 sq. meters, two floors above ground and one below, completed on the Shonan Village site just across from the former research offices. Furthermore, in June 2003, the first overseas office was set up in Bangkok, Thailand, while the Urban Environmental Management project was relocated to our Kita-Kyushu office around the same time. In addition, in November of the same year, the Freshwater Resources Management project was launched after a period of sustained preparation.

With the implementation of the Second Phase research projects, and constantly keeping in mind what strategic research is meant to be, we set about develop-

ing various ways to better put our research results to practical use. That is to say, based on our experience in the First Phase, we tried to disseminate research results and have an understanding, in order to strategically meet the needs of targeted stakeholders. In addition, we made links with international organisations and initiatives and created mechanisms to reflect the policies in a more effective way. In concrete terms, by working as the secretariat for the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), we strengthened our ties with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). We made a contribution to UNESCAP through the Kita-Kyushu Initiative among other things, and gained affiliation to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) in December 2003. We also became affiliated with the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) in April 2004, as well as enhancing cooperation with the UN University (UNU). In particular, we were awarded Special Consultative status by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in April 2004, and the fact that we can now participate on the international stage with NGO status is a particularly striking development in my view.

As a result of these efforts, IGES has gradually come to be recognised by these activities as a research institute carrying out practical strategic research and it can be said that it has made the first real step as an international policy research institute through the Second Phase.

In the Second Phase, it must be asked whether IGES, having built up a foundation as a research institute in the First Phase, has brought about research results on an international level. A summary of the

results were announced in March 2004 at a forum held in Tokyo on the "Report on IGES Second Phase Strategic Research". However, the results of each current project are being evaluated in detail by an outside research advisory committee and outside evaluation committee and therefore the final report on the results of IGES Second Phase Strategic Research will be announced at the latest by the end of March 2005.

At IGES, we have used the Second Phase as an opportunity to introduce outside evaluation, as research activities began in earnest. Standards of evaluation have been set regarding the establishment of project goals, appropriateness of practical methods and level of research results. Strict outside evaluation is essential to keep IGES research on the highest international levels.

From April 2004, we began the Third Phase projects. In order to show the results of our research in policy-making and in corporate and community activities, diverse outreach activities have been carried out. In particular, new outreach programmes have been set up to further expand and strengthen these functions and we have revised and updated the various vehicles for information dissemination.

In conclusion, I believe that all IGES researchers and staff members have a shared awareness of the issues surrounding the global environment and through the continued development of joint activities, we can move ahead with ever-higher levels of strategic research.

I would like to ask for your continued understanding of and cooperation with IGES research activities in the future.



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