

I 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 FY2004

Research Projects

With the completion of three-year projects, IGES has carried out strategic research with the aim of achieving more practical results. Research activities in FY2004 dealt with projects in the first year of the Third Phase Strategic Research (FY2004 - 2006) and consisted of 6 projects: Climate Policy; Forest Conservation; Urban Environmental Management; Freshwater Resources Management; Business for Sustainable Society, and the Long-term Perspective and Policy Integration, as well as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) programme.

Outreach Activities

Aiming to have research results reflected in the activities of policy makers, businesses and local citizens, IGES made use of various international forums such as the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), for which IGES serves as secretariat, the UNFCCC 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10) and the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED 2005), to make progress in working towards the diffusion and practical implementation of research outcomes.

From FY2004, IGES set up new information dissemination and outreach programme, and carries out wide-range, constructive information dissemination so that research outcomes can be reflected in activities of policy-makers, businesses and local citizens. In November 2004, the IGES EnviroScope was launched as an environmental information database to provide global, up-to-date information on-line about environmental and sustainable development, policy measures from countries and regions and research outputs from IGES and other institutions.

Inter-Governmental Programme and Network

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

To work as a liaison with intergovernmental programmes concerned with global environmental issues, the Technical Support Unit (TSU) for the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme implemented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC-NGGIP) was set up at IGES in 1999. Progress was made to prepare new inventory guidelines and six authors meetings were held in FY2004.

Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

The APN (with 21 member countries) was established to promote global change research in the Asia-Pacific region, encourage developing countries to participate in this research and strengthen interactions between the science community and policy-makers. In April 2004, the APN secretariat moved to IGES.

Other Activities

In October 2004, the Centre for Sustainability (CfS) was established at the IGES Tokyo Office. The Centre aims to study, develop and implement ways to support sustainable industry and consumption. It gives support to company activities and products for industry or consumption that are environmentally-friendly, by implementing the "EcoAction21" certification and registration system.

Furthermore, regarding IGES' internationalisation, we strive to establish cooperative relations with international governments and research institutes and to this end, two more signatories were added to the Charter for the Establishments of IGES: the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). (Total number of signatory organisations is 47)

