

3.6. Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project

Kazuo Matsushita

Project Leader

Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project

1. Themes

The Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project aims to study measures to address environmental issues in the twenty-first century through a crosscutting approach with a long-term view to make innovative policy recommendations for policy makers. In order to achieve this, the project will prepare and make public the “Environmental White Paper for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region” (tentative name) on a periodic basis after the third research phase in cooperation with other project teams within IGES and relevant organizations outside. This project will carry out the following studies utilizing the outputs obtained in the process of preparation of this White Paper:

1. Implementation of the ECO ASIA (Environmental Congress for Asia and the Pacific) Long-term Perspective Project, and preparation of “Environmental challenges and concerns of Asia,” a paper to provide input from the Asia-Pacific region into the “Rio + 10” Conference in 2002.
2. Strategic research on environmental innovation in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes supporting studies for the “The Asia-Pacific Eminent Persons on Environment and Development (tentative name)” in the twenty-first century.
3. Research on the “greening” of development assistance.
4. Research on environmental information disclosure systems in corporate activities
5. Information provision in a timely way, when urgently needed such as for international environmental policy processes or in response to requests from policy-makers. Work will involve selection and reformulation of available research results from within and outside of IGES.

(Note: items (3) and (4) are tentative)

[Note: Separate plans for studies on “Information Technology Revolution and Environment” and “Environmental Industries in Developing Countries” have been prepared, but these will be carried out as sub-projects within this Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project.]

2. Background (Research Needs)

In the First Phase, the New Development Patterns project and the Environmental Governance project studied the environmental policymaking systems in countries in the Asia-Pacific region and how they work; and new paths for social and economic development in order to change the present civilization based on mass-production, mass-consumption and mass-disposal respectively.

In the Second Phase, these projects will be integrated as the Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project.

The Asia-Pacific Region is predicted to have a great impact on the global environment in this century due to its expected economic development and population growth. Therefore it is essential to evaluate the environmental status of the region based on accurate and proper data and to provide innovative policy recommendations based on such evaluations. For this reason, the Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project will prepare and make public the “Environmental White Paper for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region” (tentative name) on a periodic basis. In the process of preparation, the environmental information, environmental evaluation, and policy recommendations that are available from organizations such as the Environmental Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO ASIA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will be reviewed. The available analyses from a global perspective, such as those by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the World Resource Institute (WRI) will also be taken into account. The network with other collaborating institutes will also be utilized to collect local information. We expect to put forward innovative policies for the twenty-first century to policy makers in this region. The background of each theme is described below. Activities on these themes will be carried out based on the outputs obtained through preparation of the White Paper.

ECO ASIA 2000 (the Environmental Congress of Asia and the Pacific held each year in Japan) and the ESCAP/MCED (Fourth ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development) were held in September 2000. Participants at the meetings discussed preparations in the Asia-Pacific region towards “Rio + 10” (the tenth anniversary of UNCED, the Earth Summit) and adopted action plans.

In this conference, IGES reported the Second Phase interim outputs of the ECO ASIA Long-term Perspective Project (LTPP) in a paper entitled, “Policy implications in addressing critical environmental and sustainable development issues in the region.” The ministers welcomed the paper as a positive input to their discussion and provided guidance for the future directions of the LTPP Project.

The Second Phase of the ECO ASIA LTPP project is due to finish in FY 2001, and the final report is to be made at ECO ASIA 2001, in the autumn of that year.

Therefore, in the Second Phase of IGES research activities it is important to have a working structure to serve for: (1) follow-up of ECO ASIA 2000 and ESCAP/MCED, (2) preparation of the final report of the ECO ASIA LTPP Second Phase, and (3) supporting studies and analysis of the major issues and consideration of possible outputs towards “Rio + 10.”

In order to further the activities of ECO ASIA, IGES is expected to take up the following two tasks: (1): to act as the secretariat, including the research aspects, to the “The Asia-Pacific Eminent Persons Forum on Environment and Development (tentative name)” that was put forward by Ms. Kawaguchi, the Director General of the Environment Agency at ESCAP/MCED; and (2) to work for “Innovation Strategy in the Asia Pacific Region for the Twenty-First Century” to be implemented from the year 2001 under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment (Government of Japan). In the latter, IGES is expected to work on environmental strategies, policy analyses and recommendations.

It is also necessary to establish a system in order to carry out studies on (1) the “greening” of development assistance, (2) environmental information disclosure in corporate activities under collaboration with the Business and Environment Project, (3) studies on environmental industries in developing countries and (4) other collaborative projects with and/or commissioned work/research by institutions such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), ADB, UNEP, and ESCAP. It is also important to have a system to respond to urgent needs and requests for information from policy-makers during the processes of international environmental policy-making by selecting and reformulating the available research outputs within and outside of IGES in a timely way. Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration Project will be in charge of facilitating the planning and implementation of research on these issues under collaboration with other IGES projects and researchers outside.

3. Objectives (Policy Relevance and Applications)

The Long-Term Perspective Project aims to carry out research for solving environmental problems in the twenty-first century and to make innovative policy recommendations through long-term and crosscutting approaches under collaboration with other projects within IGES. The specific contents are described below.

- (1) The “Environmental White Paper for Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific Region” (tentative name) aims to collect new information, to evaluate the environmental status of the region, and to give innovative policy recommendations for environmental conservation in the twenty-first century through networking with other research institutions in collaboration. The existing data and environmental reports will be considered as a starting point. The report is planned to be made on a periodic basis after the third research phase. We will give support to the “The Asia-Pacific Eminent Persons Forum on Environment and Development (tentative name)” based on the outcome obtained in the preparation process of this Paper.

- (2) The ECO ASIA Long-term Perspective Project (LTPP) is a study project under the ECO ASIA congress, which is a policy consultation forum for environment ministers and senior officials in the Asia-Pacific region. The LTPP aims to provide the ECO ASIA congress with information on regional perspectives and policy options relating to the environment and development, based on scientific data. Since 1999, IGES was assigned to implement work on the LTPP, which is highly relevant for policy applications. The aim and the content of this research has very much in common with that in (1) above.
- (3) The “Innovation Strategy in the Asia Pacific Region for the Twenty-First Century” aims to provide perspectives based on the latest regional environmental monitoring techniques and computer models (to be handled at National Institute for Environmental Studies), and to study environmental conservation strategies and regional environmental co-operation to provide policy analysis and recommendations for the twenty-first century (to be conducted by IGES). Outputs from this study is expected to give contribution to the “The Asia-Pacific Eminent Persons on Environment and Development (tentative name)” and ECO ASIA. It is also expected that the recommendations will be directly reflected in specific aid projects; hence the project has both policy and practical aspects.
- (4) The study on the “greening” of development assistance seeks to encourage a shift—toward sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries—of development assistance from governments, international organizations and the private sector, and to propose less environmentally damaging ways and means to achieve this. In this study, aid organizations and experts (within and outside Japan) in the field will be asked to participate, under the initiative of this project, in order to share their experience and identify key issues, so that they will be reflected in actual aid programs.
- (5) The study on environmental information disclosure in corporate activities aims to study the means of environmental information disclosure in corporations and systems that are advantageous from the perspective of society. While building a framework to integrate measures such as environmental reporting and environmental labeling, the study aims to develop a measure to overcome limitations encountered in practice, in order to bring higher standards into the environmental information disclosure system in corporations.
This study will be conducted in collaboration with IGES Kansai Research Center. How the role should be shared will be decided after consulting with the Kansai Research Center.
- (6) In the process of implementing proposed Long-term Perspective and Policy Integration project described in (1) to (5) above, the possibility of collaborative work and commissioned research will be actively considered. Possibilities of project formulation and implementation, especially under GEF (Global Environment Facility) – which is managed collaboratively by the IBRD, UNEP and UNDP – will be considered in co-operation with governments of developing countries and related institutions.
- (7) In addition to the above, it will be a function of this project to identify discussion points and to make policy recommendations on important and urgent issues among the key topics leading up to “Rio + 10,” in response to requests by policy-makers. Therefore, practical roles and a strong relationship with policies are expected. Studies on Information Technology Revolution and

Environment and on Environmental Industries in Developing Countries will also be given consideration to be carried out as sub-projects.

4. Target groups

Main targets are the policy planners of governments and administrative bodies in the Asia-Pacific region. Institutions in development assistance such as IBRD, ADB, JICA, JBIC, international institutions related to environment and development such as UNEP and UNDP, as well as non-governmental organizations, and industry are also expected targets.

5. Expected Policy Results

Refer to Section 3 Objectives (Policy Relevance and Applications).

6. Methodologies/Schedule

6.1 Publication of “Environmental White Paper for Sustainable Development in the Asia Pacific Region”

Year 1 (FY 2001): Analysis of the existing environmental reports and implementation of field surveys.

- Organize a study group composed of researchers inside and outside IGES in order to examine existing reports for their aims, selected topics, facts reported, the data providing the basis, the methods used for data analysis, logical structures and policy recommendations.
- Networking and field study

To facilitate collecting information/data, collaborative work and for seeking advice in the process of preparing the White Paper, the Asia-Pacific region will be divided into blocks. The major contact points will be identified to ask for research collaboration. More specifically, the data (and the result of the analysis) on present environment status and the ways to deal with them will be summarized for each country or for each issue. Visits to each contact point will be made for surveys and [discussion](#) for one to two weeks.

- The outcome from this study will be reported at ECO ASIA and Eminent Persons Forum as appropriate.

Year 2 (FY 2002): Considering the preparation method and the contents of the IGES White Paper.

- Based on the outcome of Year 1, the preparation method and the content of the White Paper will be considered. A prototype will be prepared under collaboration with international organizations and experts, which will be presented at the Eminent Persons' Forum and “Rio + 10” meeting.

Year 3 (FY 2003): Preparation of the first volume of the White Paper and its presentation.

6.2 ECO ASIA LTPP Project

ECO ASIA Long-Term Perspective Project will be in the final summing-up process in FY 2001, and thereafter it will utilize the output from the Innovation Strategy Research (refer to the following section for details) as an input to ECO ASIA.

Year 1 (FY 2001)

- Preparation of the final report of the Second Phase of the LTPP project (policy paper), based on the interim report submitted to ECO ASIA 2000, keeping in mind the opportunities of the “Rio + 10” conference. This work will take into account forecasts made by the Asia-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) outcomes from the eco-consciousness project report, and work in co-operation with other IGES projects.
- Submission of the final report to ECO ASIA 2001 (Autumn 2001).
- Organizing LTPP International Workshop.
- Preparation for drafting the follow-up plan.

Year 2 (FY 2002)

- Follow discussions in the preparatory processes and in the “Rio + 10” conference. Based on the outcomes, the principal themes and the priority research topics will be identified.
- “Rio +10” conference (Spring 2002)
- ECO ASIA 2002 (Autumn 2002)

Year 3 (FY 2003)

- ECO ASIA 2003 (Autumn 2003)

6.3 The Asia-Pacific Eminent Persons Forum on Environment and Development and Environmental Innovation Strategy

So far in the Asia-Pacific region, understanding of the environmental status, study, examination, and planning on environmental strategies, and specific environmental co-operations have tended to be implemented separately and fragmentary. The Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) is aiming to couple each factor in an inter-related manner, so that they can be synthesized into a one-bodied strategic package and can be implemented in a wide area under collaboration with countries in the Asia Pacific region. For this, the MOEJ and IGES will take the lead in organizing the Eminent Persons Forum and in presenting a new framework for environmental conservation in the twenty-first century in this region. An integrated monitoring and evaluating system (“Asia Watch”) will also be built by the MOEJ and the National Institute for Environmental Studies applying satellite information and modeling techniques. Based on this system, IGES will present innovative options for possible strategies. This study on innovation strategies will be reported to ECO ASIA as an extended form of the ECO ASIA Long-term Perspective Project.

Year 1 (FY 2001):

- Examination of the overall framework of the innovation strategy

- Preparation of the Eminent Persons Forum; organizing a preparatory meeting; and organizing the first session of the Eminent Persons Forum
- (- Starting an integrated monitoring of the Asia Pacific region using satellite data by NIES)
- (- Starting developing an integrated economic-environmental model and designing basic strategic database by NIES)

Year 2 (FY 2002):

- Start to develop environmental innovation strategies.
- Organizing the second session of the Eminent Persons Forum and presenting the outcome to the “Rio + 10” conference and ECO ASIA 2002.
- (- Start analyses on present status and future projection through analyzing the monitoring data by NIES)
- (- Building a strategic database based on the integrated monitoring data by NIES)

Note: the Eminent Persons Forum may prepare a final report in FY 2004, which will be reported to ECO ASIA and other international fora.

6.4 Study on the “greening” of development assistance

In this study, the following methodologies and schedule are to be followed. The study aims to direct development assistance/co-operation by governments, international institutions and the private sector towards sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries and to make these projects more in balance with the environment. The issue relates closely with topics such as assistance to developing countries in climate policies, multilateral fund mechanisms and provision of infrastructure in urban environment management. Therefore this study will be carried out through work sharing with other IGES projects in concern.

Year 1 (FY 2001)

Collect and analyze information on the present state of environmental co-operation/aid by Japanese aid institutions and multilateral aid institutions such as the IBRD and ADB.

Year 2 (FY 2002)

Based on the analysis in year 1, issues and problems in future environmental co-operation will be extracted. Model cases will be picked up from each field, and case studies will be carried out.

Year 3 (FY 2003)

The above studies in the first two years will be integrated to prepare a booklet on “cases with good practice in environmental co-operation” and to make policy recommendations on the “greening” of development assistance.

6.5 Study on Environmental Information Disclosure in Corporate Activities

Year 1 (FY 2001)

Information collection to grasp the current situation in environmental reporting outside Japan. Cases where environmental reporting is legislated, incorporated into EMS standard or based on private standard will be studied. The trends in GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) – which has released global standards for environmental reporting – will also be followed.

Year 2 (FY 2002)

Based on the current situation, potential model cases will be selected for studying possible guideline standards for environmental reporting by the corporations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Year 3 (FY 2003)

The above studies in the first two years will be integrated, and comparative studies will be made for guideline standards of environmental reporting and GRI guidelines to identify what would be the most suitable form of environmental reporting.

7. Personnel / Collaboration with Other Institutions

(Note: This is a draft and requires further discussion.)

Within IGES:

Project Leader (Long-Term Perspective and Policy Integration project)

Sub Leader: In charge of Eminent Persons Forum

Project Manager (Senior Research Fellow)

Research Fellows (two persons)

Research Associates (five persons)

Visiting Research Fellow from research institute, for example, from Europe or the United States (two persons, of which one will be a sub-leader for the study on environmental information disclosure systems in corporate activities)

Outside IGES:

Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC), Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment, ADB, IBRD, ESCAP etc.

For the studies on Information Technology Revolution and Environment and Environmental Industries in Developing Countries, refer to the respective project plans submitted separately.

8. Co-ordination with International Programs

- Co-ordination with ECO ASIA and Rio + 10
- Project formulation and application to Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
- Co-ordination with ADB, IBRD, ESCAP, UNEP, OECD (mid-term project)
- Co-ordination with GRI

9. Expected External Funding:

- Commissioned work for ECO ASIA LTPP project (MOEJ)
- Commissioned work for environmental innovation in the Asia-Pacific in the twenty-first century (MOEJ)
- Commissioned work from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JICA, JBIC, etc.
- GEF project funds
- Collaborative project with ADB, etc.