Summary Report

ISAP2021

International Forum for Sustainable
Asia and the Pacific: ISAP

The Decisive Decade:

Towards Integrated Solutions to Climate, Biodiversity and Other Planetary Challenges

2021

24 November — Plenary Sessions * Hybrid event

25 November–3 December — Thematic Tracks * Online event

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

IGES Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Contents

Professional affiliations and titles are correct at the time of the forum.

Event Outline

The International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP) is held annually in Japan bringing together leading experts, international organisations, governments, businesses, and NGOs to discuss various aspects of sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. This year's forum was organised by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), in cooperation with its international network, to promote information sharing and strengthen collaboration among a wide range of stakeholders.

The theme of ISAP2021 was "The Decisive Decade: Towards Integrated Solutions to Climate, Biodiversity and Other Planetary Challenges". Held soon after two major international conferences, the 26th Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC (UNFCCC COP26) on climate change and the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (part one) on biodiversity, discussions focused on ways that world leaders could to address the current global challenges and how the world should proceed over this upcoming decade. The event offered different options for participation, ensuring that a wide range of stakeholders could take part, such as holding the plenary sessions as a hybrid of on-site and online participation, holding the thematic sessions online, and providing recorded videos of the entire event online.

ISAP2021 Plenary Sessions were held on 24 November to discuss what actions are required in the decisive decade from 2021 to 2030, with "biodiversity," "climate change," and "SDGs" as the pillars. Thematic Tracks were held from 25 November to 3 December to discuss the latest global trends and disseminate the results of research carried out by IGES.

Date	24 November–3 December 2021 >**Plenary Sessions (PL):** Half day, 24 November 2021 at Pacifico Yokohama [Hybrid event] >**Thematic Tracks (TT):** 25 November–3 December 2021 [Online event]
Organiser	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
Supporters	Kanagawa Prefectural Government; Ministry of the Environment, Japan; Hyogo Prefectural Government; City of Kitakyushu; National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES); Kawasaki City; City of Yokohama; Japan International Cooperation Agency; Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency (ERCA); Keidanren; ICLEI Japan Office, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability; Global Environmental Action (GEA)
Collaborators	European Union's International Urban and Regional Cooperation Programme; The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS); World Business Council For Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
Special Supporter	Yokohama Convention & Visitors Bureau

Opening

Guest Remarks

YAMAGUCHI Michael Tsuyoshi, Minister of the Environment, stated that the Japanese government recently decided on the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures and the Long-Term Strategy (LTS) under the Paris Agreement as a growth strategy. This decision implements the declaration made by former Prime Minister Suga, who made a commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050 with a 46% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030, and aiming for a higher level of 50%, in order to tackle climate change.

Following the agreement on the Paris Rulebook at UNFCCC COP26, Minister Yamaguchi said that he would ensure domestic reductions and provide support to developing countries in planning and implementing climate actions. Examples include the expansion of JCM in the Indo-Pacific region and the ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0. He also noted the importance of biodiversity conservation in enhancing resilience to climate change, and the need to agree on an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at the upcoming CBD COP15 to achieve the so-called "30 by 30" target to conserve at least 30% of the world's land and sea by 2030. He stressed that the Japanese government will continue to work on a roadmap to achieve this goal. Lastly, Minister Yamaguchi stated that through the Satoyama Initiative, Japan will build up practical examples of how to use the natural environment to contribute to solving social issues including climate change.

KOITABASHI Satoshi, Vice Governor of Kanagawa Prefectural Government, congratulated the organisers of ISAP for holding the event despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, he mentioned the achievements of the "Kanagawa Decarbonisation Vision 2050", which was prepared in collaboration with IGES, in presenting the future vision of a decarbonised society and the options that each and every citizen of the prefecture can take to realise it.

He endorsed the main theme of this year's ISAP, "Integrated Solutions" in particular, and recognised that the two crises of climate change and biodiversity loss need to be addressed simultaneously. Governor Yuji Kuroiwa, who took office in 2011 immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake, has been calling for the expansion of solar power generation and the necessity of renewable energy from the beginning of his term of office. Furthermore, in the prefectural Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures to be revised this fiscal year, the emissions reduction target was raised to 46%, indicating Kanagawa's commitment to take the initiative in reducing emissions. The goal of the prefectural government is "Kanagawa, Vibrant INOCHI," which is in line with the SDGs, but to realise this goal, it is necessary to link various measures such as medical care, food, environment, energy and education. Mr. Koitabashi expressed his intention to contribute to a sustainable society through such efforts.

Welcome Remarks from the Organiser

TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko, President of IGES, began by posing the question of how to take a more integrated approach to the two major global issues of biodiversity and climate change under the comprehensive international goal of achieving the SDGs. He noted that the world had shifted its focus to the 1.5°C target at the recent UNFCCC COP26, and that agreement had been reached on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the transparency framework, and the timeframe for NDCs. At the same time, he noted that it has become clear that there is a large gap between the 1.5°C target and the current emission reduction targets set by each country.

In the second part of CBD COP15, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be adopted. Discussion are currently being held on the "30 by 30" targets, but he pointed out that there is a limit to the expansion of protected areas. He suggested that it would be important to maintain biodiversity through the successful management of nature used by humans, such as Satoyama and Satoumi, and to use these areas as effective spatial conservation measures outside protected areas (so-called OECM). He also mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rethink the relationship between humans and nature, and to focus on integrated approaches. One such approach is Planetary Health, which considers the health of the earth and human health as two sides of the same coin, and the other is One Health, which focuses on the relationship between the environment and zoonotic diseases.

24 November 14:00–14:30 (GMT+09:00)

Plenary Session 1

Creating the Conditions to Reduce Biodiversity Loss

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/pl1.html

Speakers

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

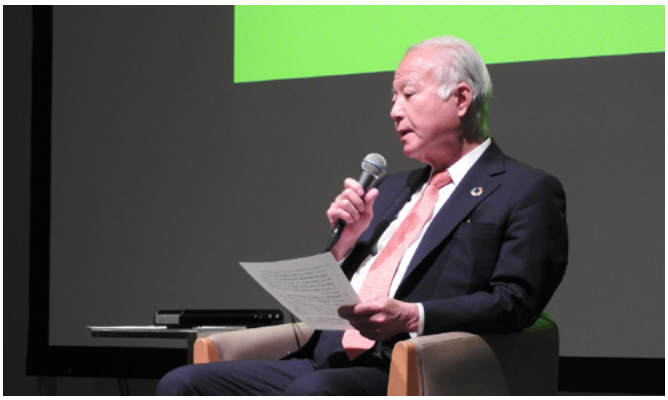
TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko
President, IGES

Moderator

André Mader
Programme Director, Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES

Summary

Decades of efforts towards addressing biodiversity loss have so far been unsuccessful. Plenary Session 1 of ISAP 2021 attempted to answer the question, "How can we change our approach to achieve this goal?" The session began with a video message from Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). She outlined the various efforts that are being planned in support of the upcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The framework is expected to guide national efforts towards addressing ongoing biodiversity loss. TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko, IGES President, then argued for the importance of integrated approaches and localised approaches to dealing with biodiversity loss. He highlighted the regional circulating and ecological sphere (regional CES) as an example that makes use of both of these approaches. The session ended with session moderator, Andre Mader, IGES Programme Director for Biodiversity and Forests, who argued for the importance of innovation, incentives, and incremental change as a means for achieving the transformative change required to address biodiversity loss.



Key Messages

- Global goals toward addressing biodiversity loss have so far been unsuccessful.
- To achieve the goals of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, new approaches may be warranted.
- More attention could be given to integrated approaches, localised approaches, and incentives for innovation.

24 November 14:30–15:00 (GMT+09:00)

Plenary Session 2

Climate Action in Asia in the "Decisive Decade"

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/pl2.html

Speakers

Kejun Jiang
Director, Energy Research Institute (ERI)

TAKAMURA Yukari
Professor at the Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo

Moderator

TAMURA Kentaro
Programme Director, Climate and Energy Area, IGES

Summary

This session began with a framing presentation by TAMURA Kentaro, followed by a discussion with Kejun Jiang and TAKAMURA Yukari on the implications of the 6th Assessment Report (AR6) released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I (WG I), as well as on the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), for China and Japan. The framing presentation emphasised that the 2020s is a decisive decade since action during this decade will determine whether or not we can achieve the Paris Agreement. Many new pledges for reducing 2030 emissions and achieving carbon neutrality were made. However, there remain significant gaps between the pledges and the 1.5°C goals, as well as between the pledges and current policies. To narrow these gaps, the COP26 Presidency requested Parties to revisit and strengthen their 2030 emissions reduction targets by the end of 2022.

The two speakers highlighted that policymakers in both China and Japan are now really paying attention to signals from the scientific community. In China, the findings of the IPCC have informed the country's policies since the release of the IPCC's 3rd Assessment Report (AR3). In Japan, the media has widely reported the key message of AR6, that human influence on climate is unequivocal. In addition, the speakers emphasised the importance of actions that countries take now and in the future. Key policy developments in China include liberalisation of the electricity market, improvement in grid systems, and a cap on energy use. In Japan, while it would be difficult for the government to revise the 2030 target, there are still opportunities to take various measures that enhance ambition. Finally, the speakers stressed the need to reduce emissions as much as possible in the coming decade, and that it is critical to continuously make efforts to increase climate action to enable this.

Key Messages

- The science community is sending a clear signal that human-induced climate change is unequivocal and that the 2020s is a decisive decade, since action during this decade will determine whether we can achieve the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement.
- Although new pledges for reducing 2030 emissions and achieving carbon neutrality are encouraging, gaps remain between the pledges and the 1.5°C goals, as well as between the pledges and current policies.
- While both China and Japan are taking action, it is necessary to continuously make efforts to increase climate action in the 2020s—the decisive decade—in order to contribute to narrowing such gaps.

24 November 15:00–15:30 (GMT+09:00)

Plenary Session 3

Can COVID-19 Revitalise the SDGs and Enhance the Post-2030 Sustainability Agenda?

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/pl3.html

Speakers

Johan Rockstrom
Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam

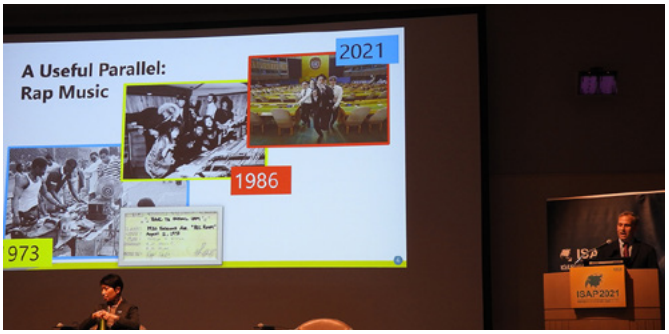
ISHII Naoko
Executive Vice-President, Professor at the Institute for Future Initiative, Director for the Center for Global Commons, The University of Tokyo

Moderator

Eric Zusman
Research Leader, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES

Summary

The purpose of this plenary session was to discuss how policymakers and other stakeholders can turn the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The session also reflected on how lessons from COVID-19 could contribute to an ambitious post-2030 Agenda (as the current SDGs are scheduled to expire in 2030). The session began with a framing presentation underlining that, although COVID-19 has caused tremendous suffering and loss, new opportunities to improve the health of the planet and people have emerged. To capitalise on such opportunities, IGES' Triple R Framework (Response, Recovery, and Redesign) calls for a set of policies that align the immediate Response and medium-term Recovery with longer-term Redesign of socioeconomic systems. The Triple R Framework can help illustrate how cities like Kawasaki, Japan are leveraging changes brought by the pandemic to help transform their industrial structure and promote more sustainable lifestyles. The more that policymakers focus on the Redesign elements of this framework, the more likely the world will restore the health of the planet and make progress on the SDGs. It will also be important to consider Redesign in the structure of post-2030 Development Agenda. This framing presentation was followed by an expert discussion that underlined that the root causes of COVID-19 and unsustainable development are similar: they both stem from living beyond planetary boundaries. The panel discussion also stressed the importance of including social buffers or social protections in environmental policies to limit job losses and other forms of social trade-offs that may arise from ambitious environmental actions such as cutting carbon emissions or conserving biodiversity.



Key Messages

- Although COVID-19 has caused tremendous suffering, new opportunities to improve the health of the planet and people have emerged.
- The Triple R Framework (Response, Recovery, and Redesign) can help take advantage of these opportunities by aligning the immediate Response and medium-term Recovery with longer-term Redesign of socioeconomic systems.
- COVID-19 and many other sustainability crises (climate change, biodiversity loss, etc.) stem from living beyond planetary boundaries.
- Efforts to live within planetary boundaries should also include social protections that limit the adverse effects of environmental and sustainability efforts on people.

24 November 15:45–16:45 (GMT+09:00)

Plenary Session 4

Panel Discussion: "The Decisive Decade: Towards Integrated Solutions to Climate, Biodiversity and Other Planetary Challenges"

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/pl4.html

Speakers

Vibha Dhawan
Director General, TERI

ISHII Naoko
Executive Vice-President, Professor at the Institute for Future Initiative, Director for the Center for Global Commons, The University of Tokyo

KATO Hiroshi
Executive Director, Environment Department, Environment and Agriculture Bureau, Kanagawa Prefectural Government

FUJITA Kaori
Senior Deputy Editor, Nikkei ESG / Professor, Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University

TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko
President, IGES

Summary

Based on content from the previous three plenary panels, this session tackled the main theme of ISAP2021: "The Decisive Decade: Towards Integrated Solutions to Climate, Biodiversity and Other Planetary Challenges".

To frame the session, representatives from local governments, businesses in Japan and The Energy Resource Institute (TERI) in India reported on their various initiatives. The Kanagawa Prefectural Government shared how they developed the "Kanagawa Decarbonised Vision 2050" and took various actions, including deploying renewable energy, promoting climate change adaptation via its adaptation centre, and facilitating SDGs-related actions under the slogan of "Vibrant 'INOCHI' (meaning "life" in Japanese)". The business sector representative explained how some companies have taken actions to simultaneously address climate change, biodiversity and human rights. The representative from TERI mentioned that while India has set an "ambitious" climate target, it is more than this and must be accomplished by accelerating actions by all relevant actors. In addition, she stressed that the issue of poverty must not be forgotten, while striving to make progress towards its alleviation.

The panelists then discussed the overarching theme of integrated solutions, stressing necessary actions and transformations as part of "the decisive decade". The panelists pointed out that despite historical treatment as independent issues, climate change and biodiversity have the same roots, necessitating an integrated response. They also highlighted the need to focus on food systems, in addition to energy and decarbonisation. The potential for scientific approaches, such as predicting transition pathways through the use of quantitative analytical tools, was also raised. At a more personal level, the panelists stressed how individuals can contribute to the transition through "voting" via decisions in their daily lives, since collectively they can be powerful enough to influence value chains from the demand side.

In summary, the panel Moderator concluded the session by pointing out the need to establish a system for evaluating multiple challenges in an integrated way, as well as leveraging climate change and biodiversity measures to build more sustainable and prosperous societies aligned with the SDGs.

Key Messages

- Climate change and biodiversity have historically been treated as independent, separate issues. However, because they share the same root cause, integrated approaches are necessary in the decisive decade.
- Measures addressing climate change and biodiversity loss should not be socially repressive. By leveraging such measures, we must promote more sustainable and prosperous societies fully aligned with the SDGs.
- Integrated solutions may vary from region to region. It is important to consider the local context both at present and in the future. Integrated solutions in each region should generate prosperity at the local level.

24 November 16:45–17:15 (GMT+09:00)

Plenary Session 5

How Can Business Lead the Transformation that the World Needs?

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/pl5.html

Speakers

FUTAMIYA Masaya
Chair, Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion, Keidanren
Director - Chairman, Sompo Japan Insurance Inc.

Peter Bakker
President/CEO, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko
President, IGES

Moderator

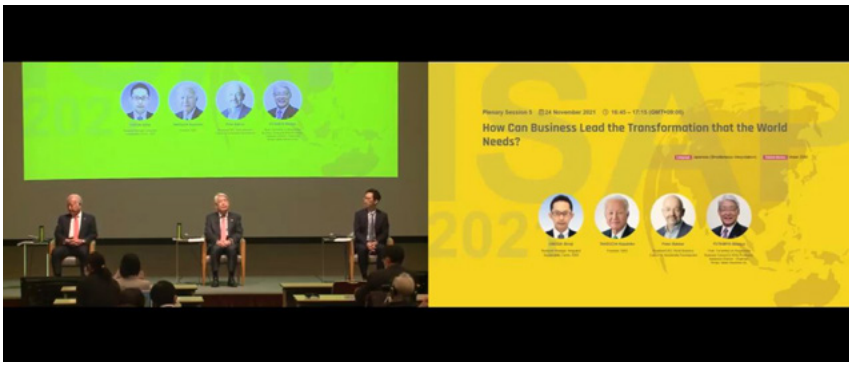
ONODA Shinji
Research Manager, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES

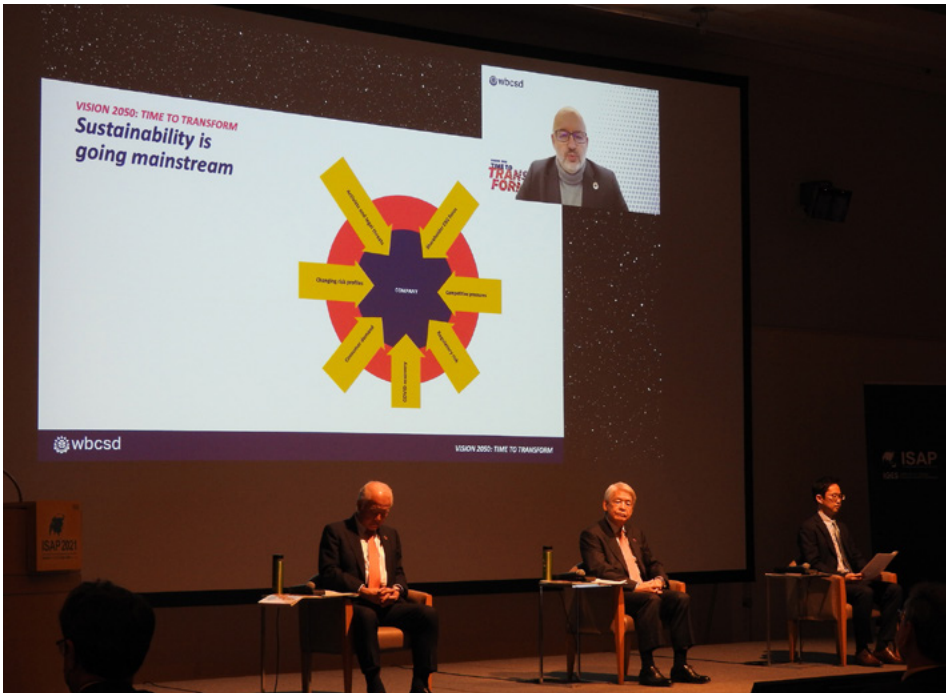
Summary

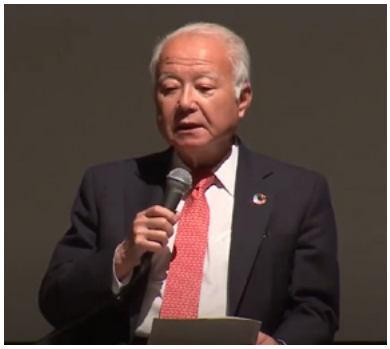
The session opened with an introduction to "Vision 2050: Time to Transform" (hereafter "Vision 2050"), followed by a discussion on the role of the private sector in leading the world's systems transformation. Vision 2050 helps companies understand what it will take to thrive in the transition to a sustainable economy and how to make that transition happen. There is a need for companies around the world to accelerate consistent action towards a net-zero, nature-positive and equitable society.

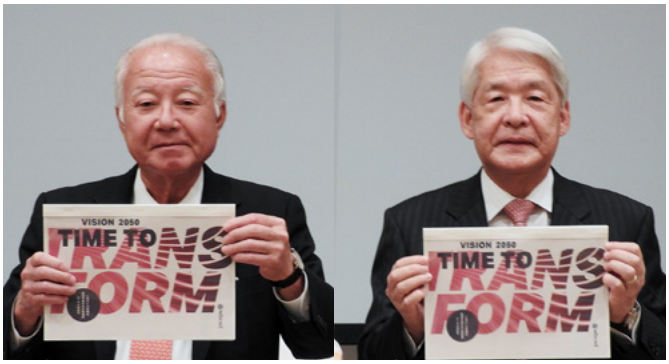
It was pointed out that Vision 2050 is the culmination of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)'s many years of experience as a leader in sustainability, highlighting its significance as a vision developed by companies themselves, based on dialogue in various regions of the world and the views of IGES and other external reviewers. It was emphasised that there is a need to reinvent capitalism, in line with the Keidanren's "New Growth Strategy".

TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko, IGES President, pointed out that the fact that a business federation such as WBCSD has incorporated planetary boundaries into their goal is significant. He stressed that the concept of planetary boundaries has been further extended by international goals, academia, and the role of companies and other stakeholders that are putting this concept into practice. As such, we are entering a decisive decade for transformation. He also mentioned that, while the humanities had not been considered scientific in Japan, it has gained recognition through the 6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan, and is now considered to be of great importance. He concluded the session by stating that it had become clear that global issues cannot be solved unless we tackle them using multidisciplinary knowledge.



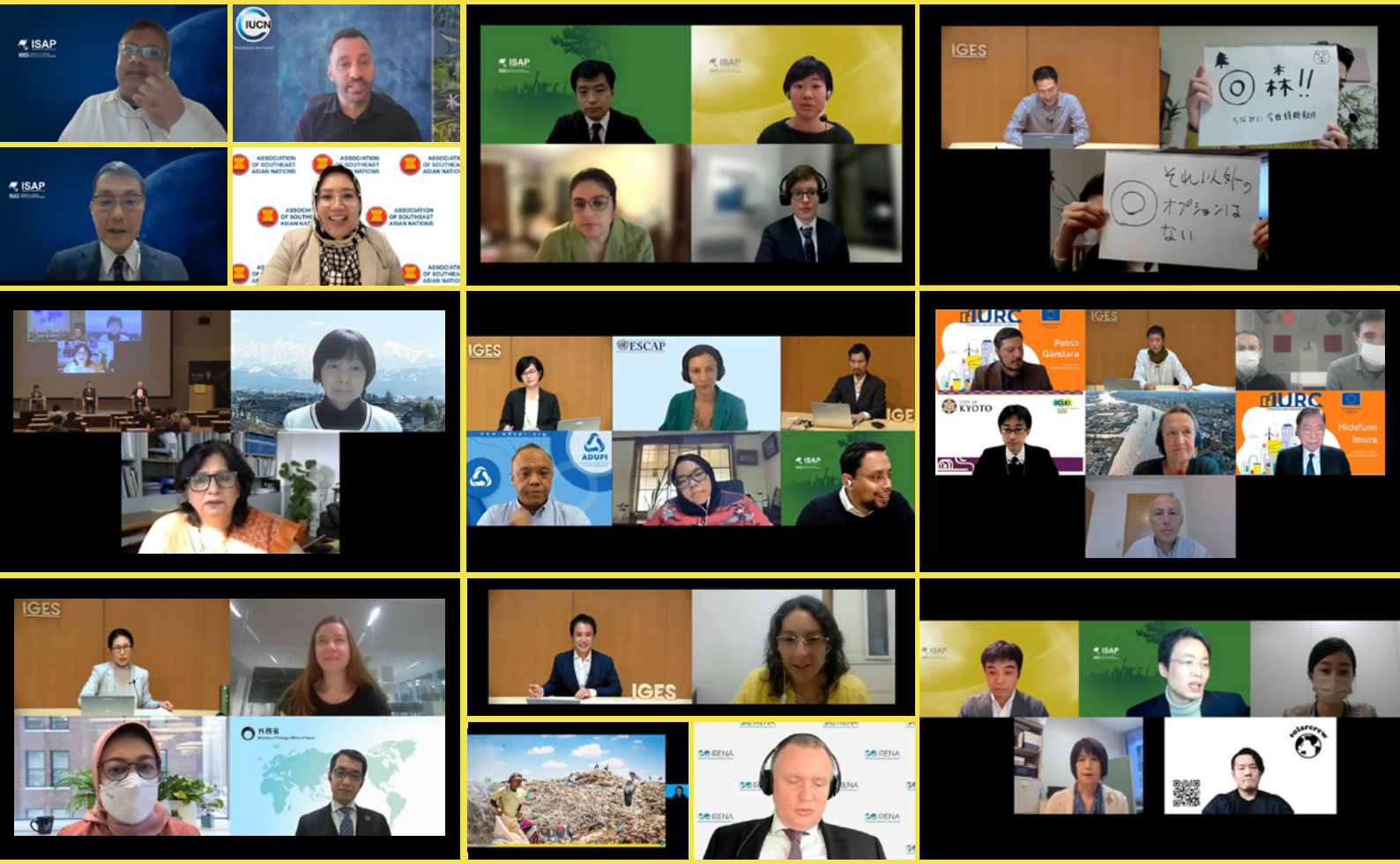






Key Messages

- The urgency of climate change, the degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity, and widening inequality all remain critical issues, and systemic solutions and cooperation are urgently needed at the global level.
- Companies can only achieve sustainable growth by co-creating value through dialogue with multiple stakeholders. There is a need to reinvent capitalism through the concept of inclusive wealth, which consists of natural capital, human capital and wellbeing.
- Governments, researchers, businesses and other stakeholders need to work together to address global challenges through multidisciplinary knowledge.



ISAP2021

› Thematic Tracks

25 November 15:00–16:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 1

Nature-based Solutions for Accelerating Climate Change Adaptation–Challenges and Possibilities for the Asia-Pacific

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t1.html

Speakers

Damasa M. Macandog
Professor of Plant Ecology, Institute of Biological Sciences, University of the Philippines, Los Baños College

Raphael Glemet
IUCN Asia, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands

Rajarshi Dasgupta
Senior Policy Researcher, Integrated Sustainability Centre / Adaptation and Water Area (Specialist in Landscape Ecology and Planning), IGES

Summary

This session discussed the future prospects of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) from policy and research perspectives. The first speaker reviewed discussions at the 7th APAN Forum and summarised the issues necessary to maximise the potential of NbS in the Asia-Pacific region. The IUCN Global Standard was introduced as a tool to enhance the appropriate usage of NbS. Next, a typical case of NbS was presented relating to research on mangroves, discussing how scenarios and models are useful in mangrove conservation and decision-making. Particular emphasis was put on understanding that the drivers of mangrove loss can contribute to corrective policies at a local scale. The final presentation was on research on mangrove forests in the Philippines, noting that they have the potential to contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. It was emphasised that there is a need for continuous monitoring and support for the growth of mangroves. Finally, in the Q&A session, monitoring and certification of NbS implementation, disaster prevention and mitigation functions of mangrove forests, and measures to avoid greenwashing through NbS were discussed.

Key Messages

- The IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is a tool to ensure that NbS are used appropriately to solve societal issues.
- Research is underway on mangrove forests as a typical example of NbS, and through methodologies such as scenario analysis and case studies, the possibility of policy interventions tailored to each region is being clarified.
- The discussion on NbS at COP26 was not as active as expected, but several commitments called for greater attention in the future.

26 November 15:00–16:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 2

Result of Article 6 of Paris Agreement and Future Perspectives on the Carbon Market

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t2.html

Speakers

URAGUCHI Aya
Technical Director,
Conservation International – Japan

TAKAHASHI Kentaro
Deputy Director,
Climate and Energy Area, IGES

TAGUCHI Toru
Programme Manager,
Climate and Energy Area, IGES

Summary

This session discussed the future prospects of carbon markets and measures to mitigate climate change through forestry in the light of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement negotiated at UNFCCC COP26. IGES presented an overview of the basic rules regarding international carbon credits agreed under Article 6.2 and 6.4 of the Paris Agreement. It was emphasised that, while a diverse demand for credits in carbon markets is expected going forward, the quality of credits based on environmental integrity will be important. Conservation International Japan indicated that properly administered offsets in accordance with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement are effective as climate change mitigation measures in the forestry sector and will incentivise funding from the private sector. Additionally, it was exemplified that a wide range of contributions could be made by the forestry sector for climate change mitigation other than offsetting, such as forest conservation and contributions to biodiversity and communities. Finally, the presenters answered questions from the audience on a variety of topics including the implications of the decision on Article 6 Rulebook for the Joint Credit Mechanism (JCM) and the voluntary carbon market.

Key Messages

- At COP26, the Rulebook of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement was agreed, which provides basic rules for the international carbon market.
- Although various types of credits may be created in future carbon markets, it is important to ensure their quality and environmental integrity.
- While offsetting is an effective approach for climate change mitigation in the forestry sector, there are other mitigation measures that are not suitable for offsets. Therefore, there are various ways in which participants, depending on their objectives, can contribute to initiatives in the forestry sector.

26 November 18:00–19:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 3

Proud to be a "Change Agent"–Implications from award-winners of FY2020 IGES President's Award

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t3.html

Speakers

TAKAHASHI Yasuo
Executive Director, IGES

Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage
Director, IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET)

HOTTA Yasuhiko
Programme Director, Sustainable Consumption and Production Area, IGES / Vice President, Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Sivapuram Venkata Rama Krishna Prabhakar
Principal Policy Researcher, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

Pimvadee Keaokiriya
Programme Manager, Regional Centre in Bangkok, IGES

Riyanti Djalante
Assistant Director / Head of Division Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division ASEAN Secretariat

Summary

Aiming to facilitate the transition toward sustainable societies, IGES puts impact generation at the core of its activities. The IGES President's Awards initiative was established in FY2018, with the purpose of promoting and sharing outstanding impactful cases and research. In this session, the two award-winning cases for FY2020 were introduced.

The Most Outstanding Impact Case was awarded to "Enhancing the capacities of ASEAN governments to develop and implement climate change adaptation policies and projects". The project aims to develop a set of methodologies based on the implementation of a risk assessment pilot project, future climate change projections and scenarios, and vulnerability and capacity assessments in Lao PDR and Myanmar. The project was designed to be sustainable by involving all key ministries and institutions throughout the entire project cycle - from the planning to implementation. The final output contributes to the regional and global efforts on disaster risk reduction, including two guidelines endorsed by 10 ASEAN countries, as well as the UNDRR's Global Assessment Report 2022.

The award for the best publication went to an IGES policy report entitled "Waste Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic: From Response to Recovery". The report provides practical information, suggestions, and guidelines on Healthcare Waste Management (HCWM) and Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) in light of the restrictions and limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This report builds on existing and ad hoc information rapidly extracted from existing documents as well as responses to a national questionnaire survey. Focusing on developing countries, the report introduces various practices, including options that are best for immediate consideration as well as those useful for sustainable healthcare waste management in the future.

During the discussion session with speakers and panelists, the success of the two cases was attributed to their timeliness, high level of expertise, and stability and flexibility in budgets. In addition, the winning teams shared that, thanks to existing networks and long-term commitments, they could manage their respective projects swiftly and flexibly, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Messages

- The success of the two winning cases could be attributed to their timeliness, high level of expertise, and stability and flexibility in budgets. In addition, existing network and long-term commitments allowed the teams to manage their respective projects swiftly and flexibly, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The importance of long-term engagement with the theme/topic: While maintaining global perspectives, it is important to build relationships with relevant stakeholders and seek to understand the specific needs of and obstacles faced by those on-site.
- It is necessary to design the project so that implementation can continue autonomously, even after project completion. Promoting local capacity development and increasing a sense of ownership is also vital.

29 November 15:00–16:20 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 4

Young Researchers' Innovative and Original Approaches to Solve the Problems of Climate Change and the SDGs

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t4.html

Speakers

KAWAKAMI Tsuyoshi
Executive Director at Environment Restoration and Conservation Agency

YASUOKA Yoshifumi
Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo

FUJIMORI Shinichiro
Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering, Kyoto University

KAWAKUBO Shun
Professor, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and Design, Hosei University

OGAWA Takaya
Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Energy Science/Hakubi Center, Kyoto University

Summary

This session focused on three studies conducted by young researchers (40 years old or younger) with the aim of contributing to climate solutions and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These studies received funding from the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund.

The Fund, allocated by the Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency (ERCA), supports environmental research conducted by universities, research institutes, and other institutions. ERCA promotes research and development in almost all environmental fields, with the aim to respond to climate change, realise a sound material-cycle society, and coexist with nature. Recognising the importance of supporting ideas and motivations of youth (who represent future generations) in realising the future they envision, ERCA has been focusing on encouraging young researchers to address the climate crisis in particular – the biggest problem facing humankind.

The first study showcased was on climate change mitigation and its SDG implications, which used the Asia-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM) and stressed the importance of building synergies between mitigation measures and the SDGs. Following this, a study on the next-generation energy source of ammonia was introduced, highlighting an innovative process (the Water-Electricity-Ammonia (WEA) scheme) that simultaneously performs seawater desalination, power generation, and ammonia (fertiliser / energy carrier) synthesis using solar energy in deserts below sea level. There was then a presentation on an online platform that helps local governments develop their "Local SDGs" and visualise their actions.

The panel discussion featured lively exchanges on the challenges to promoting research, as well as on how to build relationships with the public, promote implementation, and share research findings with international communities.

Key Messages

- The Environment Research and Technology Development Fund is now in its second phase, which has two pillars – implementation of societal research and global deployment. The Fund promotes research that generates impacts on society and the economy.
- Recognising the importance of supporting ideas and motivations of youth (who represent future generations) in realising the future they envision, ERCA has been focusing on encouraging young researchers to address the climate crisis in particular – the biggest problem facing humankind. However, young researchers still struggle with connecting with other communities and international networks. For scaling up their research, access to these opportunities must be further promoted.
- For research focusing on societal issues, it can be difficult to balance responding to urgent societal challenges and generating and publishing new scientific knowledge for academia. Delivering or communicating research findings to relevant stakeholders remains a challenge.

29 November 18:00–19:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 5

EU-IURC Joint Session: The Role of Municipalities in Promoting the Renovation Wave

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t5.html

Speakers

Paolo Bertoldi
Senior Expert, European Commission

Jon Gastañares Lizarriturri
Head of the Energy Efficiency Division of the City Council of Donostia / San Sebastian

Iker Mardaras Larrañaga
Architect, Energy Efficiency Division of the City Council of Donostia / San Sebastian

FUJITA Masayuki
Kyoto City Environmental Policy Department Global Warming Countermeasure Office

Brigitte Koehnlein
Deputy Head of the Department for Federal, European and International Affairs, Hamburg Ministry for Environment

Pablo Gandara
Team Leader, IURC Asia-Australasia

IMURA Hidefumi
Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University / Advisor to the President of Yokohama City University / Senior Fellow, IGES

Moderator

NAKANO Ryoko
Research Manager, City Taskforce, IGES

Summary

Due to the growing urgency to achieve more sustainable development, both the European Union (EU) and Japan have committed to becoming zero-carbon societies by 2050. However, to meet this ambitious goal it will be critical to consider both existing and new buildings. This session discussed the role of local governments in addressing the challenges posed by the built environment in lowering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It brought together European (San Sebastian, Spain; and Hamburg, Germany) and Japanese (Kyoto) cities, which are working together under the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) programme funded by the EU.

The session focused on energy efficiency in existing and new buildings. Examples from EU cities highlighted recent efforts to improve the energy efficiency levels of existing buildings, which have gained prominence with the European Green Deal. Retrofitting buildings brings important co-benefits such as reducing energy poverty, revaluing properties, improving indoor air quality, and boosting the local economy by generating new jobs. Kyoto is promoting the installation of renewable energy generators in new construction, extensions and retrofits.

Although there are barriers hindering progress—including lack of qualified workforce or adequate financing for renovations—the good practices highlighted in this session stress the important role of municipalities in promoting carbon neutrality.

Key Messages

- To achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, it will be crucial to decarbonise the built environment by promoting greater energy efficiency in existing and new buildings. Local governments will play a key role in this endeavour.
- There are important co-benefits that can be achieved through more energy efficient buildings, including reducing energy poverty, improved indoor air quality, and boosting the local economy.
- Initiatives such as the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) support cities' peer-to-peer learning and the sharing of good practices, ultimately accelerating sustainable transitions.

30 November 18:00–19:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 7

A Hydrogen-based Society: Can Japan Promote Green Hydrogen Production in Asia?

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t7.html

Speakers

SADAMORI Keisuke
Director, Energy Markets and Security, International Energy Agency (IEA)

OHIRA Eiji
Director General, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)

Dolf Gielen
Director for Innovation and Technology, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

TAMURA Kentaro
Programme Director, Climate and Energy Area, IGES

MORI Hideyuki
Special Policy Advisor, IGES

Moderator

Nandakumar Janardhanan
Research Manager / Leader for Co-Innovation Technology Transfer, Climate and Energy Area, IGES

Summary

Hydrogen has disruptive potential as a clean fuel and Japan can play a key role in developing Asia's hydrogen-based society. Thematic Track 7's panelists discussed the prospects and challenges of this transition, highlighting hydrogen's potential role in achieving net-zero targets. It was pointed out that creating market demand for hydrogen will be essential. Japan's role was introduced in promoting hydrogen technology through research and development, and investments, and emphasis was also put on enhancing electrolyser capacity to meet the growing demand for green hydrogen. Further explanation was given on how carbon neutrality in Japan is based on several pillars, including the promotion of hydrogen.

The panelists noted that, to develop a hydrogen economy, Japan should expedite the establishment of a global hydrogen / ammonia supply chain.

The session was concluded by underscoring the need for co-innovation of clean energy technology for the development of hydrogen in order to accelerate decarbonisation.

Key Messages

- National roadmaps reflecting each country's specific conditions are essential for a hydrogen society in Asia.
- Japan should take the lead in the formulation of a hydrogen roadmap and transfer hydrogen technology to Asia.
- The current challenge of green hydrogen is its high cost. With cost reduction of electrolysers and renewable energy, grey and blue hydrogen can be eventually replaced by green hydrogen.

1 December 15:00–16:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 8

1.5°C Lifestyles–Co-creation of Decarbonised Society through Collaboration among Citizens, Business and Government

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t8.html

Speakers

MURAKAMI Chisato
Chairperson of Committee on Environment, Nippon Association of Consumer Specialists

KAWAHARA Yuki
CEO, Taiyo Jyuken Co., Ltd.

NIWA Yumiko
Staff at the SDGs Future City Promotion Division, Climate Change Policy Headquarters, City of Yokohama

WATABE Atsushi
Programme Director, Sustainable Consumption and Production Area, IGES

ASAKAWA Kenji
Programme Manager, City Taskforce, IGES

Summary

The necessity to achieve the 1.5°C target originated in the Paris Agreement, has be enclearly reiterated at COP26. However, the pathway to 1.5°C is not yet clear. The 1.5°C Lifestyles project led by IGES, in collaboration with global partners, focuses on the "lifestyles carbon footprint" – the amount of GHG emissions along the supply chain of goods and services needed to support our daily living. To achieve the 1.5°C target, people in Japan should reduce their lifestyles' carbon footprints by 90% by 2050. We will need drastic changes in our current ways of living, including private car use and food consumption. To this end, it is desirable for citizens and local communities to take a leading role in exploring their desirable future lifestyles as well as the pathways to achieve the transitions, and act in collaboration with key stakeholders such as local stakeholders and businesses.

IGES and its partners have conducted workshops and household experiments to discuss options for decarbonised lifestyles from various aspects of living, targeting six cities located in four countries. Furthermore, the project is now planning to have dialogues among citizens, businesses and local governments to identify collaborative opportunities for co-creating 1.5°C lifestyles.

The session started with participants introducing a proposal for collaborative actions toward achieving 1.5°C lifestyle by 2030. Then three panelists from a local government, a civil society organisation and a business introduced their initiatives to co-create decarbonised societies together with citizens. Finally, the panelists discussed some approaches and practical challenges to enable citizens to work proactively toward a 1.5°C lifestyles, including fun and enjoyable aspects to encourage citizens to take action, encourage them to make friends which is effective in facing difficulties, and careful schemes to support these.

Key Messages

- In order to support citizens in taking-up decarbonised lifestyles, it is essential that they intuitively feel the "fun" in alternative behaviours. Collaborative actions, rather than discussions, are more effective to encourage fun and enjoyment.
- Careful schemes that engage with citizens in collaborative actions can nurture productive connections among them, which further facilitates more proactive actions and stronger partnerships.
- Local governments could also play a vital role in facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration through, for example, supporting match-making between citizens' groups and local businesses to try alternative business models that promote decarbonised lifestyles.

1 December 18:00–19:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 9

How Can Countries Strengthen Planning and Action on the SDGs?

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t9.html

Speakers

Vivi Yulaswati
Senior Advisor to the Minister of National Development Planning, Indonesia

Sara Krüger Falk
Executive Director, Global Compact Network Denmark

MORITA Atsushi
Deputy Director, Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

Moderator

AMANUMA Nobue
Deputy Director at Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES

Summary

In this session, speakers were invited from Japan, Indonesia and Denmark, all countries which published their second Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) this year. They shared information on SDGs planning, action and review, focusing on three key aspects: integrated approach, indicator development, and stakeholder engagement.

First, Indonesia pointed out the importance of aligning the SDGs with national policies and plans both in local government and in the private sector. Japan expressed the view that stakeholder engagement has boosted momentum to advance the SDG implementation in Japan. Denmark stated that multistakeholder involvement has contributed to identifying mutual blind spots and obtaining holistic and integrated perspectives. Regarding indicator development, Japan showed its intention to develop national SDG indicators. Indonesia introduced the idea of applying data from private organisations, and Denmark shared the bottom-up consultation process to develop its own indicators. With regard to stakeholder engagement, Denmark presented a case where stakeholders with different opinions compromised to come up with constructive solutions and made concrete proposals to politicians. The session concluded by noting the importance of continuing to share experiences among various countries and stakeholders to achieve the SDGs.

Key Messages

- Multistakeholder engagement in the process of planning, implementing and reviewing can help integrate the three dimensions of the SDGs (environmental, economic, and social) and accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs.
- In order to accelerate SDGs implementation, it is necessary to develop country-specific SDG indicators tailored to respective counties' situations and then monitor the progress.
- The key to successful stakeholder engagement is to share among stakeholders the principles for engagement such as mutual trust, compromise, and solution-based dialogue.

2 December 11:00–12:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 10

Landscape Approaches for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Co-benefits

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t10.html

Speakers

Sacha Amaruzaman
PhD Candidate, Centre for Global Food and Resources (GFAR), University of Adelaide

Verónica Rojo
Researcher, VICAM / Assistant Professor, the University of Luján

OKUDA Naohisa
Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan

Himangana Gupta
Visiting Research Fellow, UNU-IAS / Consultant, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko
President, IGES

Moderator

TAKAHASHI Yasuo
Research Manager, Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES

Summary

The inseparable link between biodiversity and climate was highlighted in a recent joint IPBES-IPCC workshop report on biodiversity and climate change. Bearing this link in mind, the report called for actions to generate biodiversity and climate co-benefits, including "multi-actor and multi-scale governance of multifunctional 'scapes'" and restoring biodiversity- and carbon-rich ecosystems. The Satoyama Initiative has been promoting the restoration and sustainable management of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS - landscapes and seascapes managed by local communities that provide diverse ecosystem services including commodity production and climate resilience) since its establishment in 2010. This sessionfeatured a keynote speech, two case presentations and a panel discussion, bringing together hands-on experiences from SEPLS across the world and exploring transformative actions for biodiversity, climate and sustainable development co-benefits that focus on "the decisive decade for sustainability". The session argued that SEPLS, such as the Indonesian traditional coffee agroforest and the Andean indigenous pastoral system, exhibit the characteristics of nature-based solutions (NbS) and the "'scapes approach". It further discussed how, in order to put the NbS and 'scapes concepts into practice, efforts are required to ensure equity in product value chains and in landscape governance.

Key Messages

- The 'scapes approach and nature-based solutions (NbS) can generate biodiversity and climate co-benefits.
- Socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS) that maintain rich biodiversity and climate resilience in local production systems have inherent traits of the 'scapes approach and NbS.
- Equity among multiple actors throughout product value chains and in landscape governance is vital to implement the 'scapes approach and NbS for long-term sustainability outcomes.

2 December 15:00–16:20 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 11

Riverine Microplastics Pollution in ASEAN Countries–Current State of Knowledg

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t11.html

Speakers

Emilie Strady
Researcher, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) / Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO) / Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT)

Emenda Sembiring
Head of Environmental Engineering Post Graduate Study, Insitut Teknologi Bandung

Chris Ruf
Frederick Bartman Collegiate Professor of Climate and Space Science, University of Michigan

Janet Salem
Economic Affairs Officer, Circular Economy Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Justin Wiganda
Vice-Chairman of Indonesian Plastic Recycling Association

Pham Ngoc Bao
Deputy Director, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

Amila Abenayaka
Policy Researcher, IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET), Sustainable Consumption and Production Area, IGES

Moderator

INAMURA Yukako
Policy Researcher, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

Summary

Considering that microplastics (MPs) are emerging water pollutants, this Thematic Track session was a timely event that shed light on various dimensions of riverine pollution due to MPs and potential solutions. The keynote presentation first gave an overview of MPs (types, sources, and transport mechanisms) and then proceeded to highlight the major concerns regarding MPs, as follows:

1. Takeaway food culture, e-commerce and the 'sachet economy' are growing in the region, which has led to the increased use of plastics. Consumer preferences are also shifting from traditional fresh foods to packaged foods, and shopping on digital platforms is on the rise. Consequently, convenience and versatility have led to increased plastic wastes, and mismanaged plastic wastes have become an emerging environmental problem.
2. Consequently, plastics with a size less than 5 mm in diameter (known as "microplastics" (MPs)) generated as a result of breakdowns and fragmentations of larger plastics, are currently a great concern, as they exist in water, sediments, fauna, and even flora.
3. MPs can contain various toxic contaminants (e.g., bisphenol A, phthalate plasticisers, carcinogens, polybrominated flame retardants, and heavy metals), which are either derived from the plastic itself or absorbed from the surrounding environment. The evidence regarding their toxicological effects on aquatic biota cannot yet be explained in a systematic and generalised way because knowledge on this issue is still evolving.
4. The velocity at which MPs settle from land to oceans depends on the size, shape, the extent of biofilm formation, and the extent of formation of colloids with organic matters.
5. Lack of scientific data and information about MPs, especially its impacts on ecosystems and human health, which makes it harder for policy makers to design and implement robust monitoring and management plans.

The keynote presentation concluded by exploring why riverine MPs are an environmental challenge, especially in ASEAN. Factors such as the tropical monsoon climate, insufficient wastewater treatment, its large share (about 11%) of global clothing exports, and intensive agriculture and aquaculture make MPs a particularly difficult challenge in the region.

The keynote speech was followed by three presentations on issues in the ASEAN region, the current state in Indonesia, and the detection of pollution from satellite observations, respectively. At the end of session, panelists from the academic, business, and international cooperation sectors provided opinions about contributions that each sector must make to address the problem (such as more research, new business models, and the promotion of extended producer responsibility), and the need for funding to implement robust monitoring and management plans.

Key Messages

- The biggest concern about managing MP pollution in ASEAN is the lack of data, partially due to diligent monitoring based on standardised protocols. Effective management calls for standardised sampling methods, skilled manpower, and data diversity (covering different environmental components, including sediments/soil, water, and biota).
- Along with poor solid waste segregation at sources, collection and treatment systems, human behaviour and lifestyles are also a significant factor contributing to MP pollution. Changing lifestyles and rapid development (leading to the rise in e-commerce, excess packaging, etc.) further exaggerate MP pollution in ASEAN.
- Management plans require greater participation from all relevant stakeholders ranging from individuals and private companies to policymakers. To enhance the science-policy interface, it is necessary to ensure funding for implementing robust monitoring and management plans that address MP pollution.
- To mitigate MP pollution in riverine environments, there is a need for more rigorous scientific studies, business models for plastic management, application of the circular economy approach (better collection, treatment and management services), reduction of single-use plastics, and promotion of extended producer responsibility.

2 December 18:00–19:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 12

Cutting Methane Gas from the Waste Sector, Crucial for Zero Carbon Societies in Asia and the Pacific

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t12.html

Speakers

Maria Delia Cristina M. Valdez
Chief, Solid Waste Management Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines

Misato Dilley
Associate Expert, United Nations Environment Programme, International Environmental Technology Centre

Nathan Borgford-Parnel
Science Affairs Coordinator, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, UN Environment Programme

Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage
Director, IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET)

Summary

This session discussed the urgency of cutting methane, a short-lived climate pollutant with a global warming potential 28 times that of CO_2, from the waste sector. Scientific evidence shows that the atmospheric concentration of methane has increased rapidly over the last decade due to anthropogenic activities in three major sectors: fossil fuel operation (36%), agriculture (42%) and waste (18%). Current methane concentrations go beyond the IPCC 2ºC scenario and methane emissions must be reduced by 40-45% by 2030 to achieve the 1.5ºC target set out in the Paris Agreement. Although the waste sector receives less attention in climate mitigation plans and investments due to its relatively lower mitigation potential based on IPCC calculations (3%-5%), the Philippines' experience presented in the panel highlighted how addressing waste management in a more integrated manner can contribute to achieving 10-20% of national emissions targets. This requires well-designed waste management policies and practices based on scientific data. In the Philippines, for example, the emissions quantification tool (EQT) has been utilised and corresponding measures have been included in the Nationally Determined Contributions and national strategies. On the other hand, experiences from Bhutan, Mongolia and Nepal show that governments have difficulty implementing sustainable waste management due to technical and financial limitations and lack of institutional capacity.

Key Messages

- Recent global attention on reducing methane to achieve 1.5ºC by 2030 in the IPCC Global Methane Assessment Report, and the Global Methane Pledge signed by more than 100 countries at COP26 increased the potential and urgency of addressing sustainable waste and resource management.
- Waste management needs to move away from a focus on end-of-pipe waste treatment methods to more integrated waste and resource management, aiming at circular economy and achievement of the other SDGs.
- Experience shows that a 40–50% methane reduction is possible in the waste sector using currently available technologies. However, success will depend on strong political will, policies, investments and actions.

3 December 11:00–12:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 13

Zero Deforestation in Supply Chain of Imported Agricultural Commodities

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t13.html

Speakers

Erin D. Matson
Senior Consultant, Climate Focus

Clea Paz-Rivera
Senior Programme Manager, New York Declaration on Forests, Climate and Forests Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UMEMIYA Chisa
Research Manager, Climate and Energy Area / Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES

YAMANOSHITA Makino
Joint-Programme Director, Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES

Hiromitsu SAMEJIMA
Research Manager, Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES

Summary

The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF), adopted at the United Nations Climate Summit in 2014, set forth a goal to halve natural forest loss by 2020 and end it by 2030. However, the world has failed to meet the 2020 target. In 2020, tropical deforestation, mainly due to the expansion of land for agriculture, caused more than twice as much greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as Japan's total emissions that year. Globally, there is an increasing recognition that tropical deforestation is also relevant to consumer countries (including Japan), which import agricultural and forestry commodities produced by clearing forested areas.

In this session, the Secretariat of the NYDF Global Platform (the United Nations Development Programme) explained the NYDF goals, revised in October 2021, and emphasised the importance of a multi-sectoral approach, including agriculture and trade, to end deforestation by 2030. On behalf of the NYDF Assessment Partners monitoring progress on the NYDF, Climate Focus reported that, while companies have made many commitments to preventing deforestation, implementation of supply chain initiatives and transparency are severely lacking. IGES presented an analysis on the linkages between Japanese commodity imports and deforestation in the tropics, showing that timber, rubber and coffee imports may be driving deforestation in some tropical countries.

Key Messages

- Ending the loss of natural forests by 2030 is an essential milestone to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, and immediate action is warranted.
- The private sector's efforts alone cannot prevent deforestation caused by commercial agriculture and trade. Collaboration between governments, the private sector, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities is essential. The NYDF seeks to further endorse and continue to facilitate collaboration between stakeholders.
- To prevent tropical deforestation, it is essential that the demand side (including Japan) carefully choose sourcing areas and responsible suppliers, and collaborate with other importers and local stakeholders.

3 December 15:00–16:00 (GMT+09:00)

Thematic Track 14

Zero-carbon Cities–The Implications of COP26 and Beyond

https://isap.iges.or.jp/2021/en/t14.html

Speakers

UCHIDA Togo
Director, ICLEI Japan Office

DOHI Ryoichi
Deputy General Manager Corporate Planning Div. Fuyo General Lease Co., Ltd.

FUJINO Junichi
Programme Director, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES

Moderator

KATAOKA Yatsuka
Programme Director, City Taskforce, IGES

Summary

This session first introduced discussions at COP26 held in Glasgow and various side events, stressing the importance of COP26 as the event at which the 1.5°C target of the Paris Agreement was recognised internationally. Local governments are now expected to play a role in achieving this target, for example by protecting communities and natural ecosystems, and in providing know-how to developing countries through city-to-city cooperation.

Next, several commitments that came out of COP26 were presented, including the agreement of the Paris Rulebook, the net-zero target that encompasses more than 90% of the world economy, the "Global Methane Pledge" to reduce methane emissions, and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. Local governments are expected to put their climate action plans into practice in the near future.

The role of the financial sector was then presented, as a way to realising a zero carbon city, with some case studies. A donation-type finance programme with funds raised through green bonds showed how companies can work with regional banks, leasing companies affiliated with regional banks, and local governments to promote the spread of renewable energy. It was pointed out that the private sector would find it easier to enter the market if there was a zero-carbon roadmap for the region that allowed companies to calculate the risks and opportunities.

It was emphasised that with the revision of the Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures, local governments are more driven to draft their action plans, creating a movement for local governments to cooperate with each other towards reducing emissions as a group.

Key Messages

- COP26 was an important meeting where the 1.5°C target, which was the effort target of the Paris Agreement, was recognised internationally. Local governments are now expected to play a role in achieving this target, for example by protecting communities and natural ecosystems, and in providing know-how to developing countries through city-to-city cooperation.
- The private sector would find it easier to participate in the drive to realise zero-carbon cities if there was a zero-carbon roadmap for the region that allowed them to calculate the risks and opportunities.
- With the revision of the Act on Promotion of Global Warming Countermeasures, local governments are more driven to draft their action plans. This is creating a movement for local governments to cooperate with each other towards reducing emissions as a group.

Closing Ceremony

Closing Remarks

TAKAHASHI Yasuo, Executive Director of IGES, started his remarks on the major changes in our socio-economic structures, lifestyles and values caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, which led to the decision to hold ISAP completely online last year, and to hold this year's in a hybrid format that combines face-to-face and online communication. He explained that IGES has been going through a trial and error process to establish a new communication method that optimises the real and virtual worlds.

With regard to IGES's impact generation and dissemination, he mentioned that IGES contributed to setting the agenda for future climate change measures by participating in 19 side events held during COP26. Support was also extended to the international negotiations at the conference. IGES also provided assistance to companies from Japan that were participating on site in Glasgow, and to Japanese local governments participating online, thereby contributing to the promotion of stakeholder engagement. Efforts were made to gather information and establish networks both onsite and online. In addition, he addressed IGES' achievements in providing timely information, including appearances on major TV news programmes in Japan.

Then, he introduced the "Climate Change Webinar Series" that IGES began broadcasting in April 2021. The total number of participants for the 20 webinars held so far was 8,040, and more than 1,000 people registered for the most recent webinar on the preliminary results of COP26, indicating the high level of interest in the post-COP26 period.

He concluded by introducing the thematic meetings to be held following the plenary sessions, and extended his gratitude to all participants. He emphasised IGES' commitment to further focus on building sustainable societies in the Asia-Pacific region in cooperation and collaboration with domestic and international partners.

Programme

Plenary Session

24 November 2021 (GMT+09:00)

13:30	**Opening Ceremony** [Guest Remarks] **YAMAGUCHI Michael Tsuyoshi** Minister of the Environment, Government of Japan **KOITABASHI Satoshi** Vice Governor, Kanagawa Prefectural Government [Welcome Remarks] **TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko** President, IGES
13:50	
14:00	**Plenary Session 1** **Creating the Conditions to Reduce Biodiversity Loss** [Speakers] **Elizabeth Maruma Mrema** Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity **TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko** President, IGES [Moderator] **André Mader** Programme Director, Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES
14:30	
14:30	**Plenary Session 2** **Climate Action in Asia in the "Decisive Decade"** [Speakers] **Kejun Jiang** Director, Energy Research Institute (ERI) **TAKAMURA Yukari** Professor at the Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo [Moderator] **TAMURA Kentaro** Programme Director, Climate and Energy Area, IGES
15:00	
15:00	**Plenary Session 3** **Can COVID-19 Revitalise the SDGs and Enhance the Post-2030 Sustainability Agenda?** [Speakers] **Johan Rockstrom** Director, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Professor in Earth System Science at the University of Potsdam **ISHII Naoko** Executive Vice-President, Professor at the Institute for Future Initiative, Director for the Center for Global Commons, The University of Tokyo [Moderator] **Eric Zusman** Research Leader, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES
15:30	
15:45	**Plenary Session 4** **Panel Discussion: "The Decisive Decade: Towards Integrated Solutions to Climate, Biodiversity and Other Planetary Challenges"** [Speakers] **Vibha Dhawan** Director General, TERI **ISHII Naoko** Executive Vice-President, Professor at the Institute for Future Initiative, Director for the Center for Global Commons, The University of Tokyo **KATO Hiroshi** Executive Director, Environment Department, Environment and Agriculture Bureau, Kanagawa Prefectural Government **FUJITA Kaori** Senior Deputy Editor, Nikkei ESG / Professor, Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University **TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko** President, IGES
16:45	
16:45	**Plenary Session 5** **How Can Business Lead the Transformation that the World Needs?** [Speakers] **FUTAMIYA Masaya** Chair, Committee on Responsible Business Conduct & SDGs Promotion, Keidanren Director - Chairman, Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. **Peter Bakker** President/CEO, World Business Council for Sustainable Development **TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko** President, IGES [Moderator] **ONODA Shinji** Research Manager, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES
17:15	
17:15	**Closing Session** **TAKAHASHI Yasuo** Executive Director, IGES

Thematic Tracks

25 November 2021 (GMT+09:00)

15:00 – 16:00 Thematic Track 1

Nature-based Solutions for Accelerating Climate Change Adaptation – Challenges and Possibilities for the Asia-Pacific

[Speakers]

Damasa M. Macandog Professor of Plant Ecology, Institute of Biological Sciences, University of the Philippines, Los Baños College
Raphael Glemet IUCN Asia, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands
Rajarshi Dasgupta Senior Policy Researcher, Integrated Sustainability Centre / Adaptation and Water Area (Specialist in Landscape Ecology and Planning), IGES

26 November 2021

15:00 – 16:00 Thematic Track 2

Result of Article 6 of Paris Agreement and Future Perspectives on the Carbon Market

[Speakers]

URAGUCHI Aya Technical Director, Conservation International – Japan
TAKAHASHI Kentaro Deputy Director, Climate and Energy Area, IGES
TAGUCHI Toru Programme Manager, Climate and Energy Area, IGES

18:00 – 19:00 Thematic Track 3

Proud to be a "Change Agent" – Implications from award-winners of FY2020 IGES President's Award

[Speakers]

TAKAHASHI Yasuo Executive Director, IGES
Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage Director, IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET)
HOTTA Yasuhiko Programme Director, Sustainable Consumption and Production Area, IGES / Vice President, Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production
Sivapuram Venkata Rama Krishna Prabhakar Principal Policy Researcher, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES
Pimvadee Keaokiriya Programme Manager, Regional Centre in Bangkok, IGES
Riyanti Djalante Assistant Director / Head of Division Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division ASEAN Secretariat

29 November 2021

15:00 – 16:20 Thematic Track 4

Young Researchers' Innovative and Original Approaches to Solve the Problems of Climate Change and the SDGs

[Speakers]

KAWAKAMI Tsuyoshi Executive Director at Environment Restoration and Conservation Agency
YASUOKA Yoshifumi Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo
FUJIMORI Shinichiro Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Engineering, Kyoto University
KAWAKUBO Shun Professor, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and Design, Hosei University
OGAWA Takaya Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Energy Science/Hakubi Center, Kyoto University

18:00 – 19:00 Thematic Track 5

EU-IURC Joint Session: The Role of Municipalities in Promoting the Renovation Wave

[Speakers]

Paolo Bertoldi Senior Expert, European Commission
Jon Gastañares Lizarriturri Head of the Energy Efficiency Division of the City Council of Donostia / San Sebastian
Iker Mardaras Larrañaga Architect, Energy Efficiency Division of the City Council of Donostia / San Sebastian
FUJITA Masayuki Kyoto City Environmental Policy Department Global Warming Countermeasure Office
Brigitte Koehnlein Deputy Head of the Department for Federal, European and International Affairs, Hamburg Ministry for Environment
Pablo Gandara Team Leader, IURC Asia-Australasia
IMURA Hidefumi Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University / Advisor to the President of Yokohama City University / Senior Fellow, IGES

[Moderator]

NAKANO Ryoko Research Manager, City Taskforce, IGES

30 November 2021

18:00 – 19:00 Thematic Track 7

A Hydrogen-based Society: Can Japan Promote Green Hydrogen Production in Asia?

[Speakers]
SADAMORI Keisuke Director, Energy Markets and Security, International Energy Agency (IEA)
OHIRA Eiji Director General, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)
Dolf Gielen Director for Innovation and Technology, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
TAMURA Kentaro Programme Director, Climate and Energy Area, IGES
MORI Hideyuki Special Policy Advisor, IGES

[Moderator]
Nandakumar Janardhanan Research Manager/Leader for Co-Innovation Technology Transfer, Climate and Energy Area, IGES

1 December 2021

15:00 – 16:00 Thematic Track 8

1.5°C Lifestyles - Co-creation of Decarbonised Society through Collaboration among Citizens, Business and Government

[Speakers]
MURAKAMI Chisato Chairperson of Committee on Environment, Nippon Association of Consumer Specialists
KAWAHARA Yuki CEO, Taiyo Jyuken Co., Ltd.
NIWA Yumiko Staff at the SDGs Future City Promotion Division, Climate Change Policy Headquarters, City of Yokohama
WATABE Atsushi Programme Director, Sustainable Consumption and Production Area, IGES
ASAKAWA Kenji Programme Manager, City Taskforce, IGES

18:00 – 19:00 Thematic Track 9

How Can Countries Strengthen Planning and Action on the SDGs?

[Speakers]
Vivi Yulaswati Senior Advisor to the Minister of National Development Planning, Indonesia
Sara Krüger Falk Executive Director, Global Compact Network Denmark
MORITA Atsushi Deputy Director, Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

[Moderator]
AMANUMA Nobue Deputy Director at Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES

2 December 2021

11:00 – 12:00 Thematic Track 10

Landscape Approaches for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Co-benefits

[Speakers]
Sacha Amaruzaman PhD Candidate, Centre for Global Food and Resources (GFAR), University of Adelaide
Verónica Rojo Researcher, VICAM / Assistant Professor, the University of Luján
OKUDA Naohisa Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment of Japan
Himangana Gupta Visiting Research Fellow, UNU-IAS / Consultant, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko President, IGES

[Moderator]
TAKAHASHI Yasuo Research Manager, Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES

15:00 – 16:20 Thematic Track 11

Riverine Microplastics Pollution in ASEAN Countries – Current State of Knowledge

[Speakers]
Emilie Strady Researcher, French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) / Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO) / Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT)
Emenda Sembiring Head of Environmental Engineering Post Graduate Study, Insitut Teknologi Bandung
Chris Ruf Frederick Bartman Collegiate Professor of Climate and Space Science, University of Michigan
Janet Salem Economic Affairs Officer, Circular Economy Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Justin Wiganda Vice-Chairman of Indonesian Plastic Recycling Association
Pham Ngoc Bao Deputy Director, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES
Amila Abenayaka Policy Researcher, IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET), Sustainable Consumption and Production Area, IGES

[Moderator]
INAMURA Yukako Policy Researcher, Adaptation and Water Area, IGES

18:00	Thematic Track 12
	Cutting Methane Gas from the Waste Sector, Crucial for Zero Carbon Societies in Asia and the Pacific
	[Speakers] **Maria Delia Cristina M. Valdez** Chief, Solid Waste Management Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines **Misato Dilley** Associate Expert, United Nations Environment Programme, International Environmental Technology Centre **Nathan Borgford-Parnel** Science Affairs Coordinator, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, UN Environment Programme **Premakumara Jagath Dickella Gamaralalage** Director, IGES Centre Collaborating with UNEP on Environmental Technologies (CCET)
19:00	
3 December 2021	
11:00	Thematic Track 13
	Zero Deforestation in Supply Chain of Imported Agricultural Commodities
	[Speakers] **Erin D. Matson** Senior Consultant, Climate Focus **Clea Paz-Rivera** Senior Programme Manager, New York Declaration on Forests, Climate and Forests Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) **UMEMIYA Chisa** Research Manager, Climate and Energy Area/Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES **YAMANOSHITA Makino** Joint-Programme Director, Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES **Hiromitsu SAMEJIMA** Research Manager, Biodiversity and Forests Area, IGES
12:00	
15:00	Thematic Track 14
	Zero-carbon Cities – The Implications of COP26 and Beyond
	[Speakers] **UCHIDA Togo** Director, ICLEI Japan Office **DOHI Ryoichi** Deputy General Manager Corporate Planning Div. Fuyo General Lease Co., Ltd. **FUJINO Junichi** Programme Director, Integrated Sustainability Centre, IGES [Moderator] **KATAOKA Yatsuka** Programme Director, City Taskforce, IGES
16:00	

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