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Report on the Outcome of IGES-Urban Environment/ IHDP-Industrial Transformation Joint-Meeting in Kitakyusyu

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1 Outline of the Joint-Meeting

The IGES-Urban Environment/ IHDP-Industrial Transformation Joint-Meeting in Kitakyusyu was held from June 23 through 25, 1998, under the auspices of IGES (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies) and the City of Kitakyusyu. The Environment Agency of Japan and Japan Federation of Economic Organization supported the meeting. The objective of this joint-meeting is to discuss issues and initiatives key to the sustainable development in our society from the aspects of urban environmental management and industrial transformation with wide participants of researchers from both in and outside of Japan.

The Joint-Meeting was comprised of three parts. Part I is a group meeting of the IGES Urban Environmental Management Project (IGES-UE). IGES-UE is one of the five core research projects of IGES, which promotes researches on rapid urbanization and environmental changes in the Asia-Pacific region. Part II is an open symposium jointly conducted by IGES-UE and the Industrial Transformation project of the International Human Dimensions Program of global environmental change (IHDP-IT). Part III is the East-Asia Regional Workshop organized by IHDP-IT.

2 Summary of Part I- The 1st IGES-UE Project Meeting

The IGES-UE project is one of the five core research projects (Project on Climate Change (CC), Project on Urban Environmental Management(UE), Project on Forest Conservation(FC), Project on Environmental Education(EE), and Project on Environmental Governance(EG)) of IGES. Various environmental problems occur intensively and simultaneously in Asian cities, in the context of rapid economic development, urbanization and industrialization of the region. The UE project is aiming at illustrating innovative models for environmental management and development strategies for cities, based on case studies and comparative studies of typical cities in Asia-Pacific region.

The main objectives of this first IGES-UE Project Meeting are as follows:

- (1) Fix contents of each case study;
- (2) Fix research agenda;
- (3) Discuss and fix case study guideline.

About 30 members participated in the group meeting on June 23- Prof. Hidefumi Imura, project leader of UE, research staff from IGES, co-researchers and leaders/ core members of local case study team from China, Korea, Indonesia and Japan. Seven cities were previously selected for case study, three from China (Shenzhen, Changzhou, Dalian), one or two from Korea (Ulsan, Incheon), one from Indonesia (Tangrang) and two from Japan (Kitakyusyu, Ube). Research plan of each case study was presented by local study team, and the features of these cities and study focus were discussed. The meeting discussed and reached a common understanding on the project agenda, case study guideline and work plan for the next two years.

3 Summary of Part II- IGES-UE/ IHDP-IT Open Symposium

This open symposium was held on June 24. The symposium focused on how the private companies and local government handled the environment and the industrial transformation toward de-coupling of the economic growth and industrial activities with their environmental impacts. More than 300 participants from government and private sector attended the meeting. The symposium was comprised of 3 sessions. Session I was the introduction of the IGES-UE and IHDP-IT project, by Prof. Hidefumi Imura, who is the project leader of IGES-UE and Prof. Pier Vellinga, the Chair of IHDP-IT Steering and Organizing Committee respectively. Session II consisted of three keynote speeches from Japan, China and Korea, introducing the urban environmental problems in East- Asia. Each keynote speakers presented major problems facing by cities, experiences in overcoming environmental problems such as air pollution, and future prospects of constructing a more sustainable and ecologically efficient city. Session III was devoted to the introduction of the approaches of the Japanese industry toward industrial transformation. The Japan Federation of Economic organization and leading enterprises from Japanese major industry such as Nippon Steel Corporation, Kajima Corporation, Nippon Express Co., Ltd., Ebara Corporation, Fujitsu Limited, Osaka Gas Co., Ltd. presented their approach to industrial transformation and efforts in dealing with environmental problems.

4 Summary of Part III- IHDP-IT East Asia Regional Workshop

Part III is the East Asia Regional Workshop of IHDP-IT. IHDP is the abbreviation of

International Human Dimension Program of Global Environmental Change, which is comprehensive, interdisciplinary and international framework of social sciences related to global environmental change. IHDP was initiated in 1990 by the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in order to complement research conducted by natural scientists in the International Geosphere Biosphere Program. Industrial Transformation (IT) is one of six priority research fields within IHDP. The purpose of IHDP is to foster and coordinate research related to the human dimensions of global change. Three research fields- Macro-system and Incentive Structure, Production System, and Consumption System are identified as major research fields of IT.

This East- Asia Regional Workshop is one of the series of workshops all over the world organized by the steering committee of IT. About 40 researchers and 20 observers mainly from East Asian countries participated in the workshop. The overall objective of the workshop is to identify and develop research proposal for potential core research project of IT.

The workshop consists of 5 consecutive sessions. Session I is introductory session. Prof. Pier Vellinga, Chair of Scientific Planning Committee (SPC) introduced the background of IHDP-IT, science plan and the overall goal of the workshop. Examples of potential core research project were given in the second keynote speech by Prof. R. H. Socolow, who is a SPC member of IT. Two research themes for core research project prepared by steering committee were also presented for discussion.

Session II mainly dealt with one of the three major research fields of IT- the Macro-System and Incentive Structure. This session included presentations of researches on the changes in the macro-flow of substances, materials and energy, and researches on changes in the macro incentive structure. Four speakers presented their research activities in this field, and several short presentations were made on potential core research proposals. Moderated discussion followed the presentations.

Session III dealt with the second research field- the Production System. Researches in this field are expected to focus on the technological change and changes in the organization of production. There were 5 presentations mostly from Japan on research activities in this field. Several short presentations on potential core research projects and comments as well as discussions followed the presentations.

Session IV was on the third research field, the Consumption System. This session was designed to deal with the changes in need and preferences of consumer and the changes in the ways these needs and preferences are expressed. Three presentations were made in this session. Two of them were on the results of survey on consumers environmental awareness and their behaviors in Japan, Germany and China, and the

remaining one was on the role of private enterprises as a consumer and their practices on green procurement.

Session V concluded the previous sessions, with reports from chairs of previous sessions. The criteria for core research projects were discussed in this session, which was concluded that the core research projects must be (1) Multi-lateral; (2) Inter-disciplinary; (3) Unique; (4) Deal with real problems; (5) Researchable and problem solving; and the results should be 6) Communicable. Based on these criteria, the presented core research projects were reviewed and discussed, and the following three of them were recommended for further development as potential core research projects from East Asia:

- (1) Comparative Study of Industrialized/ Industrializing Areas in East Asia;
- (2) Implementing Extended Producer Responsibility for Industrial Transformation;
- (3) Rural Ecological Engineering for Hybrid Renewable Energy Use and Agricultural Wastes Recycling.

The above three research agenda were proposed respectively by IGES, National Institute for Environmental Sciences of Japan and the Eco- Environmental Research Center of Chinese Academy of Sciences. These three proposals will be further elaborated and restructured for final presentation to science committee of IT in October 1998.

