

The Institute for Global
Environmental Strategies (IGES)
Kitakyushu Urban Centre
Research & Activity Profile 2022

Journey to Creating Sustainable Cities



Zero
Carbon



Green
Growth



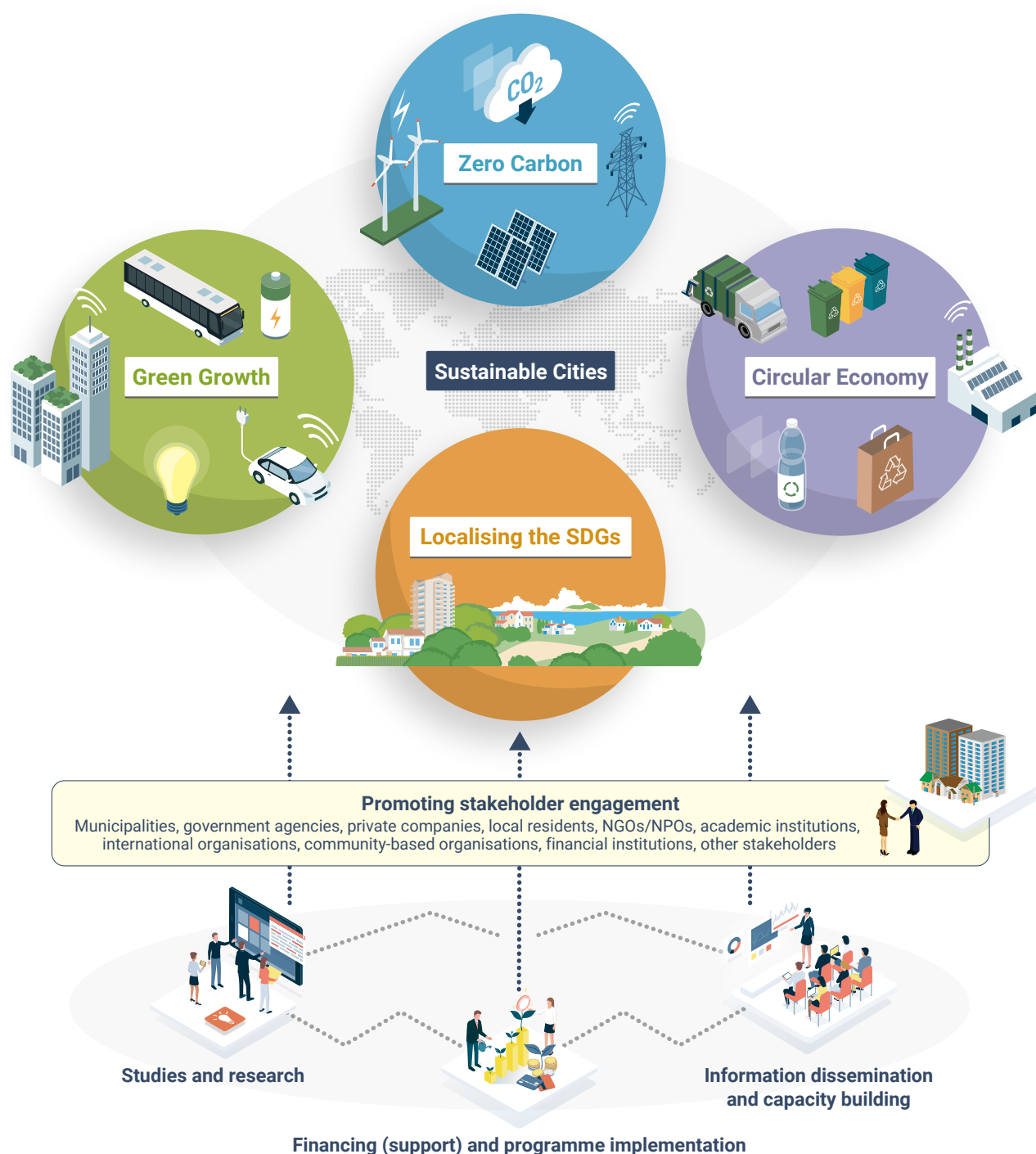
Circular
Economy



Localising
the SDGs



Amplifying Local Initiatives to Realise Sustainable Cities



About the Kitakyushu Urban Centre (KUC)

KUC is one of five Japan-based satellite offices of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). The Centre conducts research and promotes programmes with a primary focus on decarbonised societies, circular economies, green growth and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in close collaboration with local and national authorities, private companies, universities, civic groups, international organisations and other stakeholders.

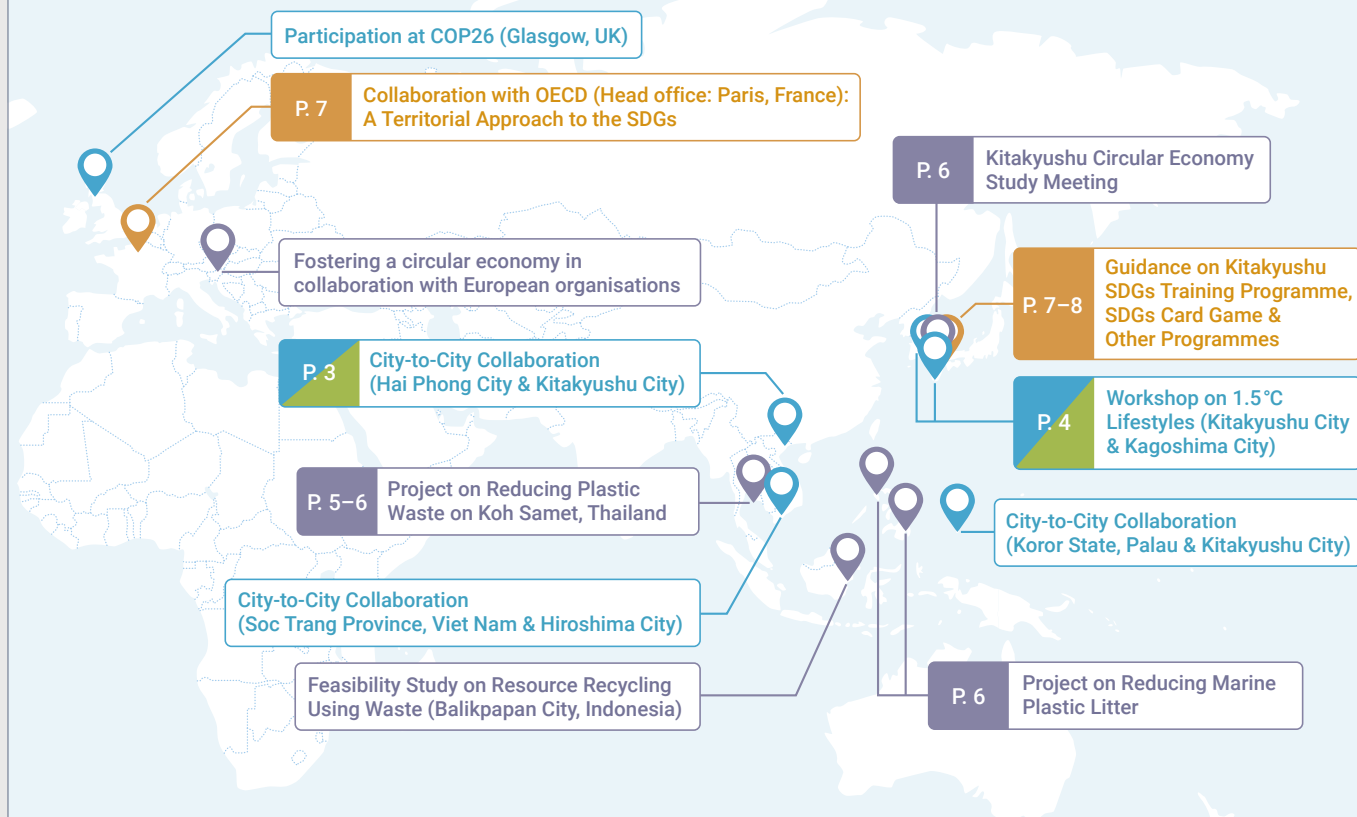
As the drive towards decarbonised societies picks up speed both in Japan and abroad, we aim to act as a hub for zero-carbon cities, proposing measures and disseminating best

practices to encourage municipalities in Kyushu to make the transition to a decarbonised society.

We are also engaged in capacity building and support the transfer and implementation of Japan's exceptional environmental technologies and expertise overseas. This is carried out in collaboration with Kitakyushu and other municipalities in Japan and overseas to help build sustainable cities in the Asia-Pacific region. The Centre also organises lectures and talks at schools and to community groups and provides support to local companies engaging in SDGs actions as a way to help spread the spirit of the SDGs within the local community.

Kitakyushu Urban Centre Leading Fields of Activity in FY2021

Zero Carbon/Green Growth Circular Economy Localising the SDGs



The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Organisational Profile

Background

January 1995	Proposal to establish the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES; a private consultative body of the Prime Minister)
April 1998	Establishment of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
October 1999	Establishment of the Kitakyushu Office
April 2010	The Kitakyushu Office is renamed the Kitakyushu Urban Centre
April 2012	IGES transitions to become a public interest incorporated foundation

	No. of employees	Non-Japanese Staff (Out of total staff)
Strategic Research	159	44
Projects for Public Interest other than Strategic Research	22	8
General Administration	18	0
Total	199	52

(As of 30 June 2022)

Research activity base



Zero-Carbon Cities

Realising decarbonised societies through city-to-city collaboration at the international level

Efficient and effective solutions to different challenges can be identified by encouraging exchange between cities on the theme of decarbonisation. We promote decarbonisation in cities overseas by supporting exchange between cities in Japan and other countries. We also help in developing human resources through inspection tours and trainings, in addition to promoting the transfer of technology packages that bundle the environmental management expertise of municipalities in Japan with solutions from the private sector.

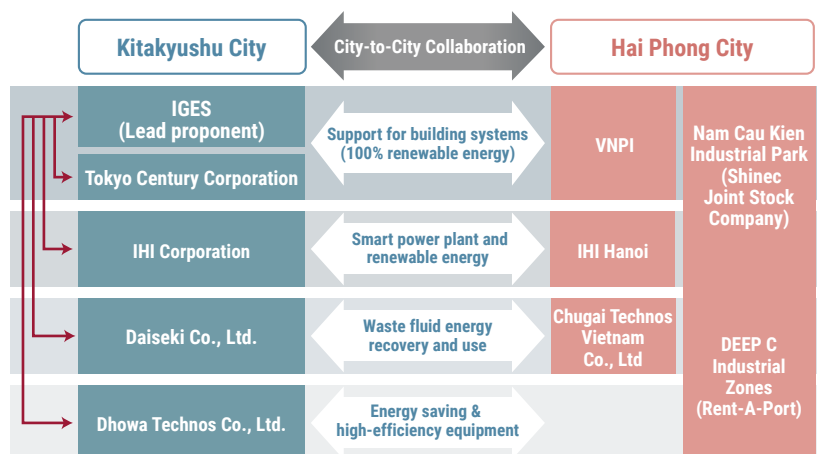
Collaboration between Hai Phong and Kitakyushu to create a zero-carbon city

The largest port city in the northern part of Viet Nam, Hai Phong has long carried out exchange in a number of different fields and promoted cooperation projects with its sister city of Kitakyushu. Both cities pledged to work together to create a zero-carbon city at COP26* in November 2021. In view of this, we are engaged in collaborative projects to decarbonise Hai Phong.

Specifically, we are supporting the formulation of a 2050 Zero-Carbon plan in Hai Phong that will serve as a guide for the development of green growth policies in the city. We are also promoting studies and activities to support the certification of industrial zones in Hai Phong as “eco-industrial parks”* by utilising knowledge from Kitakyushu, home to one of the largest eco-towns in Japan, while also taking the features of industrial clusters into account, a quality shared by both cities.

*COP26: 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow, UK

*Eco-industrial parks: Industrial parks that can achieve high levels of productivity while reducing environmental impacts through resource efficiency, cleaner production and symbiosis with industry. Industrial parks are positioned as a key policy for the decarbonisation of Hai Phong.



Implementation structure for FY2021



Promoting international city-to-city collaboration projects

The Ministry of the Environment's “City-to-City Collaboration for Zero-Carbon Society”* programme promotes research and activities on decarbonisation with the cooperation of municipalities and companies in Japan and cities overseas. We are conducting studies as a member of the research team, offering a platform for promoting the expansion of the entire programme and providing administrative support.

*City-to-City Collaboration for Zero-Carbon Society: This programme was launched in FY 2013, with nearly 20 projects adopted each year. To date, 41 cities and regions from 13 countries and 17 municipalities in Japan have taken part in the programme (as of FY2021).



Region

Kyushu

Japan

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Zero Carbon

Green Growth

Circular Economy

Localising the SDGs

Extending the circle of decarbonisation from Kyushu to Japan and beyond

Around the world, there is a growing movement to endorse and commit to the 1.5°C target in the Paris Agreement. By the end of August 2022, more than 760 municipalities in Japan had declared their intention to become zero-carbon cities.

Collaboration between local authorities and stakeholders in the community (residents, businesses, other) are an indispensable part of efforts to take tangible actions in decarbonising the region. We are promoting decarbonisation in Kyushu's zero-carbon cities by assessing the needs of municipalities, raising awareness among a diverse set of local stakeholders, and developing human resources.

Organisation of workshops for the general public on 1.5°C Lifestyles

To achieve the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target, CO₂ emissions in our daily lives (Lifestyle Carbon Footprint (LCFP)*) must be reduced by 67% on average across Japan by 2030 and 91% by 2050. This requires a simultaneous shift in lifestyles and transformation of social systems with the involvement of a diverse range of local stakeholders.

We design and organise workshops for the public in collaboration with municipalities and local organisations to promote and raise awareness on 1.5°C Lifestyles. To date, workshops have been held in Kagoshima City and Kitakyushu City, providing opportunities to connect the voices of residents to local policies and concrete action. These workshops will be expanded to other regions in the future.

* Greenhouse gas emissions generated over the lifecycles of products and services used by household consumers (from resource extraction, material processing, product manufacturing, distribution and use, to disposal)

Source: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Aalto University, D-mat Ltd., 1.5-Degree Lifestyles: Targets and options for reducing lifestyle carbon footprints, February 2019, https://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/15-degree-s-lifestyles-2019/en?_ga=2.200460270.1921670330.1667542214-1179241888.1624614824



Public participation workshop



City-to-City Collaboration workshop

Related publications



Details on P9–10

Accelerating the Transition to a Circular Economy

The linear, unilateral economic system of mass production, consumption and disposal has devastating impacts on the environment, contributing to environmental pollution, ecosystem degradation and climate change. We collaborate with international organisations, municipalities, universities, businesses and other stakeholders to develop and implement plans and tangible projects to accelerate the transition to a circular economy (hereinafter referred to as the "circular economy"). We are taking a holistic approach to generate positive impacts not only on increased resource and product use efficiency, but also on social wellbeing, environmental wellness, prosperity and resilience.



Co-creation of circular economy systems

In collaboration with circular economy hubs, universities, and other organisations, we built an alliance to develop recommendations and policies that support and enable the transition to a circular economy and disseminate circular economy practices. We identify the gaps and weaknesses in current policies and practices that impede the development of circular economies and provide recommendations for possible solutions to overcoming existing barriers.



Article on "Circular economy in a global market perspective" appearing in the e-publication, INTERSECTING (Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ))



Presentations at international conferences

Development of an island-wide recycling model for plastic waste on Koh Samet, Thailand

A feasibility study funded by the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW) is being conducted on the development of a closed-island recycling model for collecting, treating, and reusing plastic generated on Koh Samet, a tourist destination in Rayong Province, Thailand. The study includes a material flow analysis on plastic waste on the island and an oil conversion demonstration to recycle and use plastic waste generated on Koh Samet.



Koh Samet, Thailand



Plastic waste scattered along the shore



Region

Kyushu

Japan

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Zero Carbon

Green Growth

Circular Economy

Localising the SDGs

Kitakyushu Circular Economy Study Meeting

A study group was launched jointly with universities and private organisations* in Kitakyushu. The “Kitakyushu Circular Economy Vision” was developed after a total of 15 meetings, which maps out the direction for transitioning local environmental industries to a circular economy system.

A research report was published in February 2022, with the new Kitakyushu Circular Economy Vision Promotion Commission established in June 2022 to engage in activities to realise the vision of a circular economy.



Report by the Kitakyushu Circular Economy Study Meeting



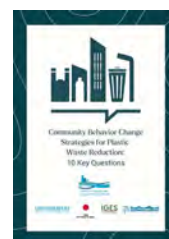
Diagram of the Kitakyushu Circular Economy Vision

*Kitakyushu Interdependent Business Consortium for Sustainable Development (KICS)

Support for reducing marine plastic litter in urban areas in the Philippines

Due to weak solid waste management systems, marine litter is a common sight on the Philippine coastline. We supported two cities in the Philippines in developing action plans for marine litter and pilot projects to prevent plastic waste from entering water bodies. We drew up two national-level white papers; in one, we assessed the waste management infrastructure gaps in the Philippines, and in another, we discussed the influence of changes in community behaviour on reducing mismanaged waste. We also developed a policy paper introducing a model on extended producer responsibility tailored to the Philippines. Additionally, we issued a learning kit on marine plastic litter for use in educating students on plastic materials, plastic pollution issues and possible solutions.

Policy papers and teaching materials developed as part of support activities



Workshop in Puerto Galera, Philippines



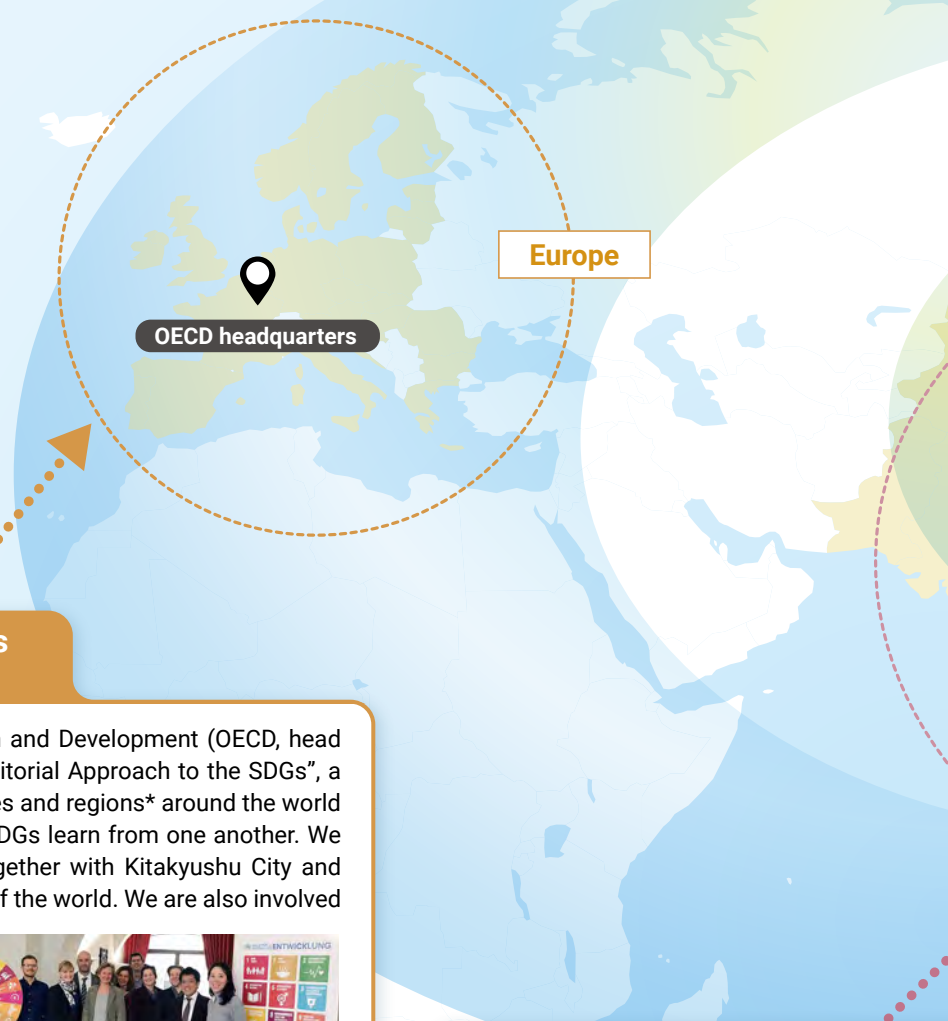
Online meeting



Details on P9-10

Expanding the Circle of Influence of the SDGs to All Audiences and Promoting Solutions to Local Challenges

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to achieve 17 goals and 169 specific targets in countries around the world by 2030. The philosophy of the Goals to “leave no one behind” requires the cooperation of all stakeholders, including local authorities, businesses, schools, organisations and the general public. We are committed to expanding the circle of influence of the SDGs in a user-friendly format and to connecting the region with the rest of the world in order to use the SDGs as a means to solve local challenges.



A Territorial Approach to the SDGs in collaboration with OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, head office: Paris, France) is implementing “A Territorial Approach to the SDGs”, a peer learning programme in which select cities and regions* around the world that are actively engaged in promoting the SDGs learn from one another. We are also participating in this programme together with Kitakyushu City and learning about the SDGs in different regions of the world. We are also involved in the development of an online tool comparing the SDGs indicators of more than 600 regions and cities, as well as a collection (toolkit) of good practices from around the world.

* Bonn (Germany), Southern Denmark (Denmark), Flanders (Belgium), Viken (Norway), Kópavogur (Iceland), Córdoba (Argentina), Paraná (Brazil), other



Visit to Bonn, Germany



Source: (Right) OECD, Toolkit for A Territorial Approach to the SDGs, <https://www.oecd.org/cfe/oecd-toolkit-for-a-territorial-approach-to-the-sdgs-2913bae2-en.htm>
(Left) OECD, Measuring the distance to the SDGs in regions and cities, <https://www.oecd-local-sdgs.org>

Offering user-friendly, interactive programmes on the SDGs



2030 SDGs card game

In addition to the SDGs Card Game, lectures and workshops on the SDGs can be adapted for different purposes. Trainers can also visit schools, companies, organisations, civic centres, and municipalities. Please feel free to contact us by email or phone to discuss requirements and conditions.

TEL: +81-93-681-1563

Email: kitakyushu-info@iges.or.jp



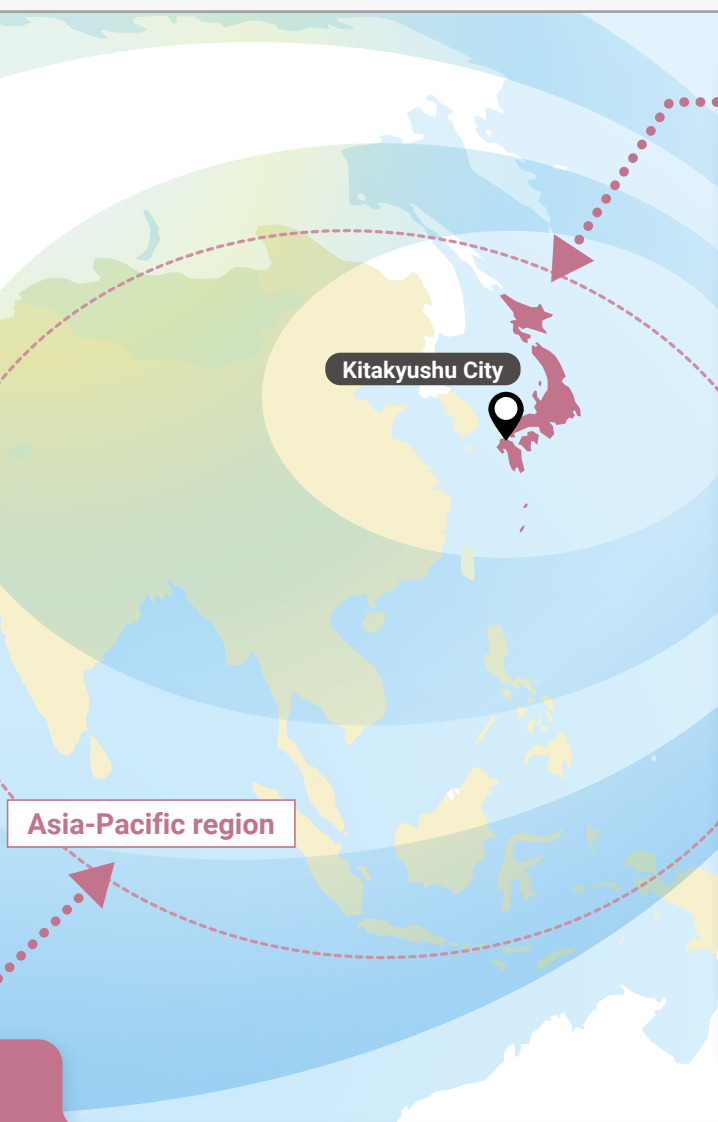
Region

Kyushu

Japan

Asia-Pacific

Europe

Zero
CarbonGreen
GrowthCircular
EconomyLocalising
the SDGs

Kitakyushu City

Asia-Pacific region

Kitakyushu SDGs Training Programme

Selected by the Japanese government as an SDGs FutureCity, Kitakyushu is attracting attention from across Japan and around the world as an advanced SDGs city. With the SDGs positioned as a universal language around the globe, we have offered training programmes on Kitakyushu's SDGs in English each year since 2019 in collaboration with the NPO Satoyama Active Viewers of Sustainable Society. These programmes are used to convey information about Kitakyushu's SDGs initiatives to a wide range of participants from Japan and abroad and provide a programme that offers participants a space to think about the SDGs. In 2021, the scope of training was expanded to other parts of Kyushu, including Goto City in Nagasaki Prefecture, which, similar to Kitakyushu City, aims to revitalise the environment, society and the economy through offshore wind power.

Kitakyushu SDGs Training Programme website (English only)

sdgs-kitakyushu.iges.jp



FY2019 meeting

Courses and workshops on the SDGs

We conduct lectures and workshops and offer advice on the SDGs for a wide range of purposes. Services are available in English and Japanese, both in-person and online. We look forward to hearing from you.

2030 SDGs Card Game

A certified IGES KUC researcher is licensed to facilitate the 2030 SDGs Card Game, developed by Imacocollabo, which can be tailored to a variety of purposes. This card game is a simulation of the real world which includes a mix of people with different values and goals. The game allows participants to experience the basic philosophy of the SDGs, which integrates economic, environmental and social aspects, as well as changes in human behaviour. The game offers the opportunity to consider why our world needs the SDGs and the possibilities that can be created through their application. Cards are available for the general public, children, and foreign nationals (in English) according to age and language.

No. participants: 5 to 60 people **Duration:** 1.5 to 2 hours
Format: Face-to-face only
Languages: Japanese (general public, children) and English

SDGs Board Game

A certified IGES KUC researcher is licensed to facilitate the SDGs Board Game, developed by the Future Technology Association for Promotion. In this game, different actors, including large corporations, venture businesses, universities, research institutes, and charitable organisations, make progress on the 17 Goals by travelling around prefectures in Japan on missions to solve various problems. Participants can also experience trade-offs (negative impacts) and uncontrollable events that lie behind progress and innovate an SDGs-focused thinking process.

Number: 8 max. per board
(Multiple boards can be used at the same time.)
Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours **Format:** Face-to-face only
Language: Japanese only



Marine Litter Learning Kit: A Facilitator's Guide

September, 2022 | English

Author: Koji TAKAKURA, Kohei HIBINO, Vesna LAVTIZAR, Anna R. OPOSA, Virginia MARINEL F. SALAZAR | Publisher: UN Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

The Marine Litter Learning Kit: A Facilitator's Guide is designed for educators and facilitators who organise environmental education programmes that focus on marine litter. It is meant to be applicable to various learner profiles and learning situations where facilitators can choose appropriate activities for their target audience. The guide also uses the learning-by-doing approach with hands-on activities and games for learners.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/hocci-mlk-un-habitat/en



Establishing a New Balance: A Fair Marriage Between Global and Local Value Chains

May, 2022 | English

Author: Vesna LAVTIZAR, Andreea OARGA MULEC | Publisher: New Dialogues Berlin In INTERSECTING

How can we frame and put the circular economy into practice in a globalised world? Does the term, "global value chain", contradict the concepts of sustainability and resilience? Are there ways for global value chains to accelerate, rather than hamper, global as well as local circular transitions? How can massive and powerful global chains strengthen local ones, instead of becoming even stronger by making those at the local level weaker? These important questions were discussed in this paper.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/global-value-chains/en



Drawing a Future Vision for the Environmental Industry in Kitakyushu —Report by the Kitakyushu Circular Economy Study Meeting—

February, 2022 | Japanese

Author and Publisher: Kitakyushu Circular Economy Study Meeting

More than 20 years have passed since Kitakyushu Eco-Town put down roots in the city. The Kitakyushu Circular Economy Study Meeting conducted a series of studies and discussions on Kitakyushu Eco-Town's features and challenges with the aim of drawing a future vision for the environmental industry in Kitakyushu. This report compiles information on required actions, Kitakyushu's environmental assets and potential, and visualises future challenges using a backcasting approach, with an eye on the 2030 and 2050 goals.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/kitakyushu-circular-economy/ja



Trends of the Zero Carbon Cities in Japan

December, 2021 | English

Author: Junko OTA, Junko AKAGI | Publisher: Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning In Asian Research Policy

Today, more than 400 municipalities in Japan, representing nearly 90% of the national population, have declared their commitment to become zero-carbon cities under a national framework (as of 30 July 2021). This article illustrates the rapidly expanding trends of Zero-Carbon Cities with an overview of emissions and energy status in Japan, and analyses triggers and supporting elements, including the development of new national policies and strategies to bring about social and economic co-benefits (those that contribute to or benefit both society and the economy) to local regions.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/zero-carbon-cities-japan/en



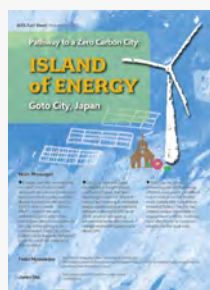
Progress on Financing Climate Change at COP26

November, 2021 | Japanese

Author: Junko OTA, Noriko SHIMIZU, Tomoko KYOGOKU
Publisher: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, UK in November 2021 focused on "financing" by developed countries as a way to support climate change countermeasures in developing countries. This briefing note outlines key outcomes and discussion points from international negotiations by the Parties, as well as trends and initiatives by Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and in private finance.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/cop26-climatefinance/ja



Pathway to a Zero Carbon City: Island of Energy, Goto City, Japan

November, 2021 | English

Author: Fedor MYASOEDOV, Junko OTA | Publisher: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

The Island of Energy is a compilation of zero-carbon initiatives by Goto City in Nagasaki Prefecture. This fact sheet contains successful examples of how the city has increased its renewable energy supply ratio over electricity demand to 56% by promoting the co-existence of floating offshore wind power with fisheries and working with local energy companies to give back to the community.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/goto-city/en



Commitment to Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050 by Local Governments in the Kyushu Region of Japan —Background, Current Situation, and Challenges—

January, 2021 | Japanese, English

Author: Junko OTA, Junko AKAGI | Publisher: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

This publication provides a summary of the background, current situation, and challenges that drove 31 prefectures and municipalities (local authorities) in Kyushu to declare their commitment to becoming zero-carbon cities, with a look at national and international trends on net zero-carbon societies. The report compiles information on internal developments in each municipality, actual status of awareness-raising activities for local stakeholders, and the challenges they face.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/kyushu-zero-carbon-en/en



Operation Manual for Small-to-Medium Scale Compost Centres Using the Takakura Composting Method

January, 2020 | English, Indonesian

Author: Kohei HIBINO, Koji TAKAKURA, Febriansyah, Sudarmanto Budi NUGROHO, Ryoko NAKANO, Eric ZUSMAN, Junichi FUJINO and others | Publisher: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

This practical, hands-on manual was created for the operators of small- to medium-scale composting centres in Bandung, Indonesia, as part of a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Partnership Programme. The method applied in this manual is the “Takakura Composting Method”. Detailed technical guidance was provided on-site by Dr Koji TAKAKURA, the inventor of this method.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/bandung-compost-manual-en/en-0



Actions for a Sustainable Society —Collaboration between Asia and the City of Kitakyushu

July, 2018 | Japanese, English

Author: Junko AKAGI, Yatsuka KATAOKA, Shiko HAYASHI, Kohei HIBINO, Junko OTA, Fritz Akhmad NUZIR | Publisher: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Kitakyushu has continued to maintain its position as a leader in city-to-city collaboration in Japan in terms of the number of partner cities and target areas, length of cooperation, and recognition by the international community. This report features a summary of the background and factors that enabled Kitakyushu to conduct, expand, and deepen activities on a continuous basis and discusses future developments in city-to-city collaboration.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/actions-sustainable-society-collaboration/en?_ga=2.172238691.1921670330.1667542214-1179241888.1624614824



Kitakyushu City the Sustainable Development Goals Report

July, 2018 | Japanese, English

Author: Junko OTA, Kaori HOSODA, Shiko HAYASHI, Junichi FUJINO, Yatsuka KATAOKA | Publisher: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

This Sustainable Development Goals report on Kitakyushu City is structured around the “Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews: 2018 Edition” and was presented at the 2018 UN High-level Political Forum by three Japanese municipalities (Kitakyushu City, Toyama City, Shimokawa Town) and New York City, as the world’s first report at the local government level. This policy report introduces the case of Kitakyushu City, a leading implementer of the SDGs in Japan, and seeks to contribute to the sharing of good practices on the SDGs with others engaged in the implementation of the Goals in urban areas around the world.

iges.or.jp/en/pub/kitakyushu-city-sustainable-development-goals/en





International Village Center (East exterior)



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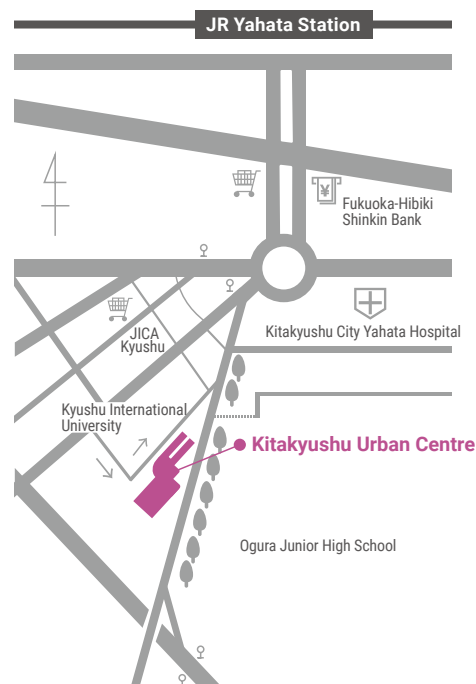
Kitakyushu Urban Centre on the IGES official website
iges.or.jp/en/about/research-units/kitakyushu-urban-centre



Kitakyushu Urban Centre on Facebook
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Kitakyushu SDGs Training Programme
sdgs-kitakyushu.iges.jp



JR Kyushu > 15-minute walk from Yahata Station on the JR Kagoshima Line

Nishitetsu Bus > 3-minute walk from Kokusaimura Koryu Center (International Village Center)
5-minute walk from Nishihonmachi 4-chome Minami.

Cover photo: International Village Center (courtyard)

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) is an international research institute conducting practical and innovative research for realising sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

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