

“Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network” Launched



On 3 October 2009, the official launch of the “Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network” took place in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the network is to help the effective implementation of adaptation policies in climate-vulnerable Asia-Pacific through the mobilisation of knowledge and technologies to support adaptation capacity building, policy-setting,

planning and practices. IGES and UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC.AP) will jointly host this network.

At COP15/CMP5 in December 2009, the “Global Climate Change Adaptation Network”, unifying five regional adaptation networks, will be officially launched under the leadership of UNEP.

IGES Endorsed as the Hub Organisation on Groundwater

In June 2009, IGES was endorsed as the knowledge hub on groundwater management of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum’s network of regional knowledge hubs, which aims to share

knowledge and develop capacity on various water knowledge domains. IGES will strengthen its research activities on groundwater to provide recommendations for groundwater management

to ensure the equitable and sustainable use of resources in Asia and the Pacific.

IGES and ICIMOD Agree a Strategic Partnership

On 1 October 2009, IGES and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), in Kathmandu, Nepal, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a strategic partnership for climate change research in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region.

ICIMOD, established in 1983, is a regional knowledge development and learning centre serving eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

Based on the MoU, IGES and ICIMOD will implement joint research programmes on climate change, natural resources management, ecosystem services, and REDD to develop effective policy proposals for sustainable development.

A Special Lecture for the High School Students

IGES has been conducting a series of special lectures for high school students to improve their awareness on environmental issues.

On 14 August 2009, high school students from Kanagawa Prefecture who are engaged in public interest activities visited IGES.

Students attended a lecture on “Global Environmental Issues and Sustainable Development” by Dr. Satoshi Kojima, Manager

of IGES Economic Analysis Team. Through role playing under different economic conditions, they presented their policy proposals for CO2 emissions reduction, taking into account sustainable development and poverty issues.

The students had a good opportunity to learn that it is important to consider the position of other countries and to hold an international perspective when developing global environmental policies.



IGES Affiliate Membership

IGES welcomes affiliate members from corporations, NGOs, the public and students. The purpose of the IGES affiliate membership is to publicise IGES strategic research activities and ask the members to support IGES activities.

Registered affiliate members receive priority announcements and registrations for symposiums and seminars hosted by IGES, as well as IGES publications including the Newsletter, Annual Report, White Paper, Policy Briefs and other activity reports. IGES puts up the logo marks of membership foundations, corporations and NGOs on the IGES website to show their support.

IGES welcomes all new members and hopes they will take an active role in IGES research activities.

For details, please visit:
<http://www.iges.or.jp/en/outline/member.html>

Categories and Membership Fees

| | Registration Charge | Yearly Fee (1 unit) |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
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| NGOs | 15,000 yen | 30,000 yen |
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Mail News: E-alert

Our mail news service, E-alert, is sent out to subscribers, reporting the activities of IGES projects and environmental news.

For subscription: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/news/mail/>

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IGES What's New From IGES

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies November 2009

IGES Launches “ISAP”, a New Forum to Create Synergy for Sustainability in the Asia-Pacific

As the role of the Asia-Pacific region is becoming more influential in promoting sustainable development, IGES launched an annual forum entitled “International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP)” in June 2009 to promote diverse discussions and to provide opportunities to boost information-sharing and strengthen collaborative efforts with front-line experts and stakeholders from international organisations, governments, business and NGOs.

ISAP is made up of the three components: i) open sessions, in which the latest research activities are presented and shared, ii) expert workshops, where specific themes are discussed in depth, and iii) network meetings in which important issues facing this region are discussed with relevant international/regional networks. This comprehensive structure is designed to create synergy to promote a sustainability agenda in the region through various discussions and networking among participants.



IGES organised the inaugural ISAP2009 on 26-27 June 2009 in Hayama, Japan, focusing on “Towards Copenhagen: A New Development Pathway to a Low-Carbon Sustainable Asia and the Pacific”. ISAP2009 held eleven open sessions, eight expert workshops and two network meetings with about 500 participants including more than 100 individuals from overseas for two days in total. The participants of ISAP2009 held discussions on challenges and potential measures on timely topics including “low-carbon development”, “sustainable consumption and production” and “biodiversity”,

and they also shared information based on the outcomes of IGES’s research. In addition, through the expert workshops and network meetings held in parallel with the open sessions, participants could identify future directions of research for the region and strengthen linkages with people from various fields. Participants commented that they were able to exchange information along a wide-range of disciplines on global environmental issues, and at the expert workshops in particular, they could step in and listen to discussions. Based on the presentations and discussions at ISAP2009,

insightful observations and innovative suggestions were extracted from each session as “Key Messages”. IGES publicised these messages in a summary report as the directions towards a new path to low-carbon development and promote the sustainable agenda in the region.

It is hoped that the next ISAP forum, which is due to be held on 12-13 July 2010 in Yokohama, Japan, will further deepen discussions on key policy issues facing the region, attracting even more extensive participation of various stakeholders not only in Japan but also in other countries.



Open Session with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Network Meeting with Lively Discussions



Summary Report of ISAP2009 (available on IGES web)

Policy Dialogues on the Post-2012 Climate Regime in China and India

IGES held a series of policy dialogues on the post-2012 climate regime in Beijing, China (22-23 September 2009) and in New Delhi, India (22-23 October 2009) in collaboration with the Energy Research Institute (ERI) of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China, and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), India, respectively.

Focusing on sustainable low-carbon Asia, the dialogues discussed key aspects to tackle emissions reductions and achieve low-carbon development, including low-carbon scenarios, domestic actions, co-benefit approach, and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of domestic actions and international support. At each dialogue, over sixty experts from Asia and developed countries as well

as representatives from international organisations exchanged opinions on current issues and possible options for the future climate regime from the view point of Asia.

The results of the dialogues will be presented at a side event at COP15/CMP5 scheduled for December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Dialogue in Beijing, China



Dialogue in New Delhi, India

Regional Workshop on Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC)

In the midst of active discussions on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), one of the task forces of the Marrakech Process* that is gaining attention is Education for Sustainable Consumption (ESC).

Based on the importance of ESC, IGES organised a regional workshop targeting the three main Northeast Asian countries of China, Japan and Republic of Korea. The workshop was held in Beijing from 16 to 18 July 2009 with cooperation from Ministry of Environmental Protection, China and Beijing Normal University.

The workshop was attended by UNEP, UNESCO, UNESCAP and government officials from the three

countries along with ESC experts and practitioners. Presentations and discussions exchanged information regarding the role of government in promoting strategic ESC policies and good practice. It was confirmed that the three countries need to continue advancement of strategic ESC policy to improve implementation, and regional cooperation for strengthening political dialogues was also encouraged.



* the Marrakech Process: a process that supports a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, which was proposed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Summit 2002), and promotes actions centering on 7 task forces.

MoU for Sino-Japanese Cooperative Activities on CDM

On 25 June 2009, IGES and the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection (Beijing, China) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for cooperative activities on CDM.



Signing Ceremony

The Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection and IGES are also appointed as a platform* for environmental cooperation between China and Japan, and this MOU has high expectations to be one of the Sino-Japan cooperative activities for environmental protection.

As a practical cooperative activity under this MOU, IGES has begun to implement capacity building for validators of the Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) in China. On 24 July 2009, a CDM technical seminar was held in Beijing for the staff of the Environmental Certification Center of SEPA, which was accredited as the first domestic DOE of China.



CDM Technical Seminar

IGES will promote this activity jointly with the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection to promote technological and human exchanges, and to contribute to further progress in Sino-Japanese cooperation.

* Sino-Japanese environmental cooperation platform: According to the Memorandum on greater environmental cooperation between the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, China, which was signed in June 2009, IGES, NIES (National Institute for Environmental Studies), Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection and the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences were designated as a platform for environmental cooperation between China and Japan and will promote the transfer of cutting edge environmental technology and research development cooperation.

Inaugural Meeting of the International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet)

The first annual meeting of the International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet) was held in Bologna, Italy on 12-13 October 2009.

LCS-RNet was established with the initiative of the G8 Environmental Ministers Meeting held in Kobe, Japan, in May 2008. IGES serves as the Secretariat of the LCS-RNet.

In Bologna, 55 participants, including researchers from developed and developing countries and IGOs such as World Bank, and nine officials from six governments, gathered to discuss the status quo of the


research relating to the LCS and identify the research gap, as well as the possibility for the cooperation.

A session of policy context was held at the beginning as a way to pose questions to scientists on how the knowledge gaps can be bridged. There were discussions in the subsequent sessions on four key issues: green growth; national pathways and the research environment; technology innovation; and behavioural change.

The output of the meeting will be presented at a side event at COP15/CMP5 in December 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Researchers' Viewpoint



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD): Opportunities and Caveats

Enrique Ibarra Gené
Policy Researcher, Forest Conservation Livelihoods and Rights Project

For more than three decades the world has been continuously losing tropical forests at alarming rates, and since the mid 1980s the international community has undertaken numerous efforts to curb the loss but to no avail. Forest loss contributes roughly 20% of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, thus measures to reduce forest loss must be part of the global effort to mitigate and prevent dangerous climate change.

The proposed global mechanism to include natural forests as a mitigation measure (in a post-Kyoto regime) is named Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). REDD aims to provide financial rewards to countries that can demonstrate the reduction of deforestation rates. It is expected that REDD could raise funds in hitherto unseen amounts for forest protection and improved forest management.

But for REDD to be successful, a number of national and regional conditions need to be met. Technical (biophysical) questions aside, policy issues need to be urgently addressed. Broadly speaking, REDD demands a comprehensive

approach to meet the direct and indirect causes of deforestation if it is to fulfill the promise of delivering win-win outcomes. Policy coordination across sectors (for example between forestry and agriculture) is essential to establish clear jurisdictions, reduce competition among governmental agencies as well as overlapping competencies over land use planning that effectively contradict one another.

It is also essential for REDD to establish clear, secure land tenure and ensure that local communities benefit directly from these efforts, not to mention that for many communities forests are essential for their livelihoods. Failure to effectively include local communities in REDD will be the equivalent of returning to old (and unsuccessful) command-and-control policies.

A strength of REDD is that it is bound to be performance based, meaning that countries that fail to reduce forest loss will not receive the financial resources they expect, which can be a powerful incentive for them to take effective action. Tropical developing countries are definitely interested in the potential financial

resources that REDD can deliver, and national REDD preparations can be observed in many. A few countries (such as Indonesia and Cambodia) have already designed demonstration projects and have a head start in the process of implementing REDD.

But in spite of these positive developments, there is also reason for concern. REDD is being treated as a forest-sector measure, and the much needed policy coordination between sectors is still not observable. Contradictory land use policies can also be observed. Likewise, the inclusion of local communities in REDD design processes is weak. REDD is promoted mainly at high political and technocratic levels, thus local communities are poorly informed of REDD development and are therefore largely at the mercy and good will of governments and project developers.

As much as I wish to see REDD succeed, I cannot help to think of an old French proverb: "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" (the more that things change, the more they stay the same).