

## IGES Regional Centre Commences Operations

3 June 2011 marked the opening of the IGES Regional Centre for overseas operation in the Asia-Pacific in Bangkok. At the ceremony there were speeches from the Government of Thailand, Embassy of Japan in Thailand, United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Thailand Environment Institute (TEI), and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

For further details, please visit : <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/bangkok/>

The new Centre will continue to serve as the secretariat or the hub for regional networks including the Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN), the Regional Hub for the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), and the Sustainable Development Planning Network for Asia-Pacific (SDplanNet-Asia&Pacific) and further expand its activities for sustainable development with key stakeholders in Bangkok and in the region.



## New Publications



### Mainstreaming Transport Co-benefits Approach: A Guide to Evaluating Transport Projects

This guideline, based on IGES joint research with Nihon University, Japan and associated organisations in Thailand and the Philippines, provides a set of detailed instructions and tools for policymakers and development specialists to quantify co-benefits of transport projects in Asia.

To download, please visit : <http://enviroscope.iges.or.jp/modules/envirolib/view.php?docid=3209>



## Commemorating the Tree Planting Project

### A Chance to Experience a Forest Coming to Life Three Years After 3,000 Trees Were Planted



Three years have passed since IGES planted 3,000 trees at its Hayama headquarters to mark its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. IGES commemorated the occasion on 3 May 2011 by holding an event to celebrate the trees' growth.

The event was attended by Dr. Akira Miyawaki, Director of IGES-Japanese Center for International Studies in Ecology (JISE), who is involved in forest development all over the world. The trees had already grown to over two metres in height, and under Dr. Miyawaki's guidance, about 100 participants worked hard to promote further growth by weeding and spreading compost around them.



## IGES' Disaster Relief Donation Campaign

In the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami that occurred on 11 March 2011, a voluntary disaster relief donation campaign was conducted at IGES. A total of ¥517,419 was collected on site, and has been donated to the Japanese Red Cross.

## 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)
Foundations/Corporations	50,000 yen	100,000 yen
NGOs	15,000 yen	30,000 yen
Private Members	5,000 yen	10,000 yen
Student Members	5,000 yen	3,000 yen

### 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/>

Send comments or suggestions about this newsletter

e-mail : [iges@iges.or.jp](mailto:iges@iges.or.jp)

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# IGES What's New From IGES

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

June 2011

## Environmentally Sustainable Cities

### —IGES Contributes to Partnerships across Asia

Sustainable urban environmental management is an urgent issue in Asia, where urbanisation is rapidly progressing. At the Inaugural East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) in 2008, "Environmentally Sustainable Cities" (ESC) was selected as an immediate priority area for environmental cooperation in the region. Promotion activities are being carried out, including organisation of a High Level Seminar on ESC for two consecutive years. This seminar garners the participation of diverse stakeholders, including governments, international organisations, NGOs, private companies and research institutes.

## IGES Provides Comprehensive Supports to High-Level Seminar

The 2nd High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (HLS ESC), organised by the Governments of Japan, Australia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand, was held in Kitakyushu, Japan on 15 - 16 March 2011. The Seminar brought together some 140 participants, including representatives from 12 national governments, 19 local governments, international organisations, development organisations and research institutes.

Working in close consultation with all EAS countries and stakeholders, IGES contributed to the seminar's programme design and event

management in its capacity as the secretariat, while Prof. Hironori Hamanaka, Chair of the IGES Board of Directors, took on the role of chair.

During the seminar, IGES and the ASEAN Working Group on ESC jointly presented a proposal on an ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme, which was developed as a concrete initiative to realise the five recommended practical activities for ESC development adopted during the 1st HLS ESC. The participants also heard reports on environmental commitments expressed by local governments, as well as measures taken by national governments to

facilitate the development of sustainable low-carbon cities. Thematic sessions were also held to address the specific environmental issues: Urban Solid Waste Management, Urban Air Quality Management, Sustainable Planning Towards a Liveable City and Adapting Cities to Changing Climates. These sessions offered participants an opportunity to share insights derived from their policies and initiatives, facilitating collaboration among the different stakeholders.

A month after the 2nd HLS ESC, the proposed ASEAN ESC Model Cities Programme was finally approved. It was presented and discussed at the 9th ASEAN Working Group on ESC Meeting held in Yangon, Myanmar, in May 2011. Forming the programme's Regional Secretariat alongside the ASEAN Secretariat, IGES will be implementing programme activities in close collaboration with all key stakeholders, as well as reporting related outputs at the upcoming EAS EMM and other meetings. In line with this, IGES expects to continue playing an active role in facilitating ESC-oriented cooperation in Asia.



Various stakeholders from Asia participated in the seminar



## Policy Recommendation on Intercity Networking

IGES is currently undertaking research on low-carbon development utilising networks among Asian cities in collaboration with Kyushu University and Hosei University. As an output of the research, the International Workshop on Local Initiatives towards a Low Carbon Asia was held in Kitakyushu, Japan on 14 March 2011.

The workshop addressed the four sectoral issues of energy, waste management, transportation and rural development, with presentations on low-

carbon policy measures in Dalian City (China), Bangkok Metropolitan City (Thailand), Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam), and Japanese cities, and sought the possibility of actual intercity cooperation. The workshop indicated the efficacy of intercity cooperation and recommended network-based collaboration whereby central and local governments, corporations and NGOs can interact with one another to transfer effective low-carbon policies to other cities.



Sharing good practices

## The "Monthly Asian Focus" Web-based Series—Environmentally Sustainable Cities Featured

IGES produces a series of web-based articles entitled "Monthly Asian Focus" with an emphasis on "Sustainability in Asia", providing the latest information on environmental trends, along with the perspectives and observations of environmental experts with first-hand experience.

The June issue featured Environmentally Sustainable Cities with an expert from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), which works with IGES to encourage partnership between cities. His comments address the background to the developing partnership between cities in Asia and the issues they face.

The June issue of Monthly Asian Focus can be accessed here: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/news/topic/asianfocus201106.html>



## Initiative to Deal with Disasters in Japan

IGES has launched a research project focusing on post-earthquake recovery in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake of 11 March 2011.

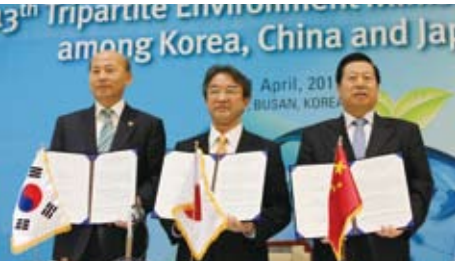
With a view to recommending low-carbon, climate resilient recovery scenarios, the project focuses particularly on two themes: (1) assuring

energy security and mitigating climate change; and (2) resilience and adaptation to climate change. An additional goal of the project is to identify the lessons learned from Japan's earthquake and offer relevant suggestions to other countries in Asia.

IGES will announce the research updates and

recommendations at the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP2011) to be held in Yokohama on 26 to 27 July 2011, as well as at events during the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

## IGES' Contributions to the TEMM13 Process



The 13th Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM13) among China, Japan and Republic of Korea was organised in Busan, Republic of Korea from 28 to 29 April 2011. TEMM is held annually to promote dialogue on regional and global environmental issues at the ministerial level.

At TEMM13, the three ministers shared views on policy progress in respective countries and important environmental problems such as climate

change and transboundary issues, and also discussed co-operation towards countermeasures against disasters in response to the recent earthquake in Japan.

IGES has been supporting a series of meetings up to TEMM13, and also made substantial contributions to this significant inter-governmental policy process in East Asia by supporting the student and business forums and by assisting with the joint communiqué.

## Research to Address India's Energy Conservation Needs



IGES Kansai Research Centre is conducting international joint research\* with India's the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Kyoto University to encourage use of the Japanese private sector's low-carbon technologies in India.

Rapid economic growth in India has led to increased energy consumption, making the need for energy conservation measures a pressing issue. The joint research project will examine from a number of different viewpoints how Japanese low-carbon technology could help to address India's energy conservation needs. It will also make a tangible

contribution to India's capacity to promote energy conservation by conducting pilot projects in India employing Japanese technology. On 7 March 2011 IGES organised an international symposium in Kobe, Japan, at which India's latest energy policies were outlined and participants exchanged views on measures to promote energy conservation there. The measures discussed included identifying key low-carbon technologies, capacity building for engineers, and creating a framework for cooperation between the public and private sectors.

\* The research is a Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) project, implemented as an Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

## Towards Rio+20 Lecture by The Club of Rome's Secretary-General: Sustainability under Scrutiny

IGES organised an open lecture by the Secretary-General of the Club of Rome\*, which took place on 31 May 2011 in Tokyo. Entitled "Real Values and Their Role in Promoting the New Economics of Growth and Real Wealth: Sustainability under Scrutiny", the lecture was part of IGES' preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012.

In his lecture, the Secretary-General looked at economic activity in today's world and how it is causing critical issues for mankind, including environmental damage and world-wide unemployment. He noted a need to change the direction toward economies more conducive to

social sustainability and pointed out the necessity to ensure full employment and protect the natural capital. A question-and-answer session during the event offered an opportunity for those present to gain a better understanding of the crises the world currently faces, and to discuss in depth about sustainability and the values that can contribute to mankind's future.

In preparation for Rio+20, IGES is continuing to promote discussion of the key aspects of sustainability, such as governance for sustainable development and green economy.



Ian Johnson, Secretary General for the Club of Rome

\* The Club of Rome is a globally-active think-tank which makes proposals addressing the critical issues faced by mankind. Its first major report, "The Limits to Growth" (1972), propelled issues of limited global resources and the state of civilization to the forefront of academic debate.

## Collaboration to Offer Blended Distance Learning Course

Over two months from 8 April 2011, IGES collaborated with India's the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the World Bank's Tokyo Development Learning Center (TDLC) to offer a Blended Distance Learning Course on "Science and Policy of Climate Change."

Designed specifically for development specialists, policymakers and others involved in development in the Asia-Pacific region, the course covered a wide range of topics from scientific analysis of climate change to policy research and included lectures by 11 IGES researchers.



Asian countries gave the programme a good evaluation

### Researchers' Viewpoint

## Will Rio+20 be a 'point in history'?

Takashi Otsuka,

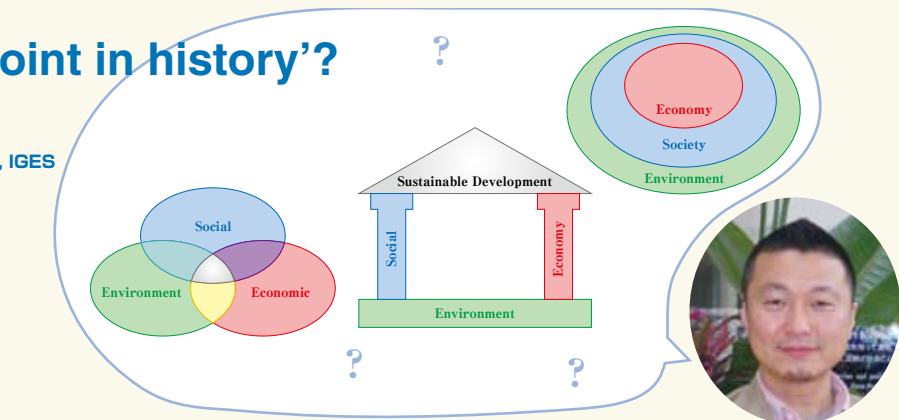
Deputy Director, Programme Management Office, IGES

The once-a-decade fiesta is coming soon. Held every 10 years since 1972, this is the chance for people around the world to come together and openly discuss the relationship between human beings and our global environment.

The Stockholm Conference (UN Conference on the Human Environment: UNCED) was held in 1972 with the slogan 'Only One Earth.' The UNEP Governing Council in 1982 marked the 10-year anniversary of the Stockholm Conference, and then the Rio Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: UNCED) was convened in 1992, turning into an epoch-making event which resulted in the adoption of key policy documents and action plans such as the 'Rio Declaration on Environment and Development', 'Agenda 21' and 'The Declaration of Forest Principle.' The Rio Summit also delivered some significant outcomes which led to the 'UN Framework Convention on Climate Change', the 'Convention on Biodiversity' and the 'United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification'. The Johannesburg Summit (World Summit on Sustainable Development: WSSD), held in 2002, reviewed the progress since Rio and participants returned to their home countries with further commitment and motivation, promising to 'Making it happen!'

Rio+20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: UNCSD) will be convened in 2012. The conference will review the progress to date and will try to fill the remaining gaps in actions on sustainable development. Discussions will focus on two themes, namely 'green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication' and 'institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD).'

Let me simplify the history of trends in the conference themes. At Stockholm, 'Environment' was featured for the first time in history. 'Development' made its presence felt strongly at the Nairobi Conference, and both 'Environment'



and 'Development' played a role together at Rio. The Johannesburg Summit emphasised the 'implementation of concrete actions'. Now at Rio+20, 'economy' and 'governance' are the focus measures to realise sustainable development. From abstract to concrete, from concepts to measures, these decadal steps seem to be making gradual but steady progress.

Tangible milestones in designing and implementing global governance for sustainability can be seen in the establishment of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) which were the outcomes of the Stockholm Conference and the Rio Summit respectively. The current discussion on IFSD is to reconsider the institutional framework, such as UNEP, CSD and other relevant institutional arrangements, which are not functioning properly after 20-40 years. Rio+20 can be an opportunity to discuss an appropriate institutional framework to effectively address this global sustainability issue.

The success of Rio+20 should be judged by its tangible delivery, not just by the simple adoption of 'a focused political document.' At Rio+20, an agreement on a blueprint of global governance mechanism for sustainable development should be made by overcoming a number of confrontations and differences in positions. This is what will further distinguish Rio+20 from a mere decadal fiesta.

The 'Stockholm Declaration' stipulated that it was the responsibility of both developed and developing countries to make "common efforts"

towards conservation and sustainable use of global environment and resources. However this was modified to 'common but differentiated responsibility' in the 'Rio Declaration.' The global economic centre is shifting from the G8 to the G20, as are the GHG emissions from each country. Under these circumstances, responsibility issues, in particular for the emerging economies, should be widely discussed in relation to the discussion of IFSD.

It is also important how you visualise the relationship between the three pillars of sustainable development - environment, society and economy. When you hear the words "they are inter-dependent, therefore integration and coordination are necessary," isn't it more likely that you imagine a venn diagram in your mind with three circles of the same size overlapping with each other? For IFSD discussions, UNEP drew a figure with environment as the foundation for the other two pillars (economic and social).

'A point has been reached in history...' This is how the 6<sup>th</sup> Paragraph of the Stockholm Declaration begins. It has been 40 years since then.

Personally, I do not see any pillars but rather three concentric circles (economy ⊂ society ⊂ environment). There is an environmental boundary given as a finite planet where diverse living things, including humans, exist and subsequently, human beings build a society within that boundary. Economy then becomes a subset of social activity. Will Rio+20 be that point in history when we start building an old but new socio-economic structure based on sustainable use of ecological services?

Sources for figures: Bradnee Chambers et al. (2005) and Wikipedia