

Publications

RISPO-II Technical Summary



RISPO-II (Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options Second Phase) is a region-wide collaborative research project involving research institutes from six East Asian countries. It aims to promote environmental sustainability and poverty reduction in the context of regional economic integration in East Asia. This technical summary introduces the background, the research objectives, the methodological framework, and the image of the expected outcomes of RISPO-II, and also highlights its innovative features such as an advanced policy

development process, full consideration of future uncertainty and effective policy implementation, and high relevance to actual policy processes.

For enquiries: rispo2@iges.or.jp
The full text can be downloaded at
http://www.iges.or.jp/en/ltp/pdf/rispo2_techsum.pdf

Handbook of Eco-Action 21: FY2006 Japanese Edition



Based on the Japanese Ministry of the Environment guidelines, Eco-Action 21 is an environmental management system for small and medium-sized enterprises. The main thrust of Eco-Action 21 is its target of reducing the environmental burden of such items as CO₂ and waste. It also publishes environmental activity reports, with the aim of increasing social self-reliance.

In the handbook, included are case samples of certified and registered enterprises, guidelines, an inspection manual and a variety of useful information on problems and answers of past tests for examiners. This book is a must-have for organisations working on acquiring certification and for those wishing to take the test to qualify as an examiner, as well as for those involved in local governments.

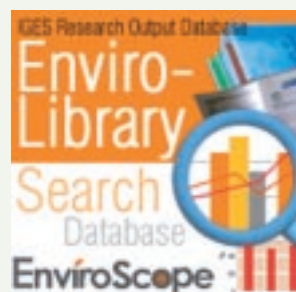
(Edited by IGES Eco-Action 21 Secretariat and published by Environmental Communications Co. Ltd., 1,000 yen tax included)

IGES Launches All-New EnviroScope

IGES EnviroScope is a website which is being implemented in order to collect and provide detailed and updated information on current environmental and sustainability issues, and policy measures of countries and regions.

On June 2006, the website underwent a facelift, with a new feature "Enviro-Library" added, together with functionality improvements. Enviro-Library is a virtual library of IGES research output. The "Headlines" function has been changed to Enviro-News, which collects and syndicates the latest news headlines from selected news sources on the environment and sustainable development.

For more information: <http://enviroscope.iges.or.jp>



Affiliate and Associate Membership

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

Registered affiliate members receive priority information and announcements of symposiums, workshops and seminars hosted by IGES, as well as publications featuring new research findings, including the International Review for Environmental Strategies (IRES), the IGES Newsletter, the IGES annual report and other activity reports.

Associate members receive announcements of IGES activities including symposiums and seminars (although they do not receive priority regarding these announcements) and also receive IGES free-of-charge publications such as the Newsletter and annual report.

IGES welcomes you to become a member and take part in IGES research activities.

■ Affiliate Members (Japanese Yen)

Classification	Registration Fee	Annual Fee
Corporate	50,000	100,000
NGO	15,000	30,000
Individual	5,000	10,000
Students	5,000	3,000

■ Associate Members (Japanese Yen)

Classification	Registration Fee	Annual Fee
Corporate	25,000	50,000
NGO	7,500	15,000
Individual	2,500	5,000
Students	2,500	1,500

Mail News: E-alert

Our mail news service, E-alert, is sent out to subscribers, reporting the activities of IGES projects and environmental news. Recently "E-alert interviews" has been started to deliver candid reports on people involved in environmental policies in their own voices.

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 August 2006 Special Issue

Feature article IGES Holds International Symposium : "Towards a Sustainable Asia"



On 1 July, IGES held an international symposium entitled "Towards a Sustainable Asia - Today's Decisions for Tomorrow's Generations" at the Yokohama Symposia (Yokohama City). It was held to further advance issues raised in the IGES White Paper *Sustainable Asia 2005 and Beyond - In the pursuit of innovative policies*, which presents an analysis on the current state of environmental issues in Asia and related proposals. This IGES White Paper is a compilation of research implemented by IGES on environmental strategies in the Asia-Pacific region. This Japanese publication is based on the English edition (summary introduction in the February 2006 edition of the IGES newsletter), published in January of this year, with some update additions.



The venue for the symposium (open to the public) hosted a crowd of approximately 200, giving a glimpse into the depth of concern over Asian environment issues. Specialists active in the front lines from Japan, the Philippines, and China were invited, and a lively discussion was held from a global perspective based on the IGES White Paper. The discussion was geared to address what is occurring now in Asia, and what can be done with an eye to realising a sustainable Asia.

In the opening address, **Prof. Akio Morishima, Chair of the Board of Directors, IGES**, identified the extreme crisis with respect to utilisation of natural resources in Asia and the decline of environmental quality concomitant with the advance in population and the swift pace of economic development. He also stressed the importance of environmental issues in Asia, noting that "if development is not sustainable in Asia, then sustainable

development at the global level will also be impossible."

The keynote speech "Towards an Environmentally Co-existent Society: the Future of Asia and the Role of Japan" was delivered by **Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi, Member of the House of Councillors, former Minister for Foreign Affairs, and former Minister of the Environment, Japan**. In the speech, Ms. Kawaguchi noted recent changes in precipitation and hours of sunlight, factors which are having an impact on everyday life, as well as the phenomenon of yellow sand scattering over Japan. Concerns were voiced from a personal perspective regarding what these changes indicate in terms of the global environment. Further, as former Minister of the Environment, she related episodes involving efforts to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in various countries, while underlining that population increase and expansion in energy demand prompt the destruction of the global environment. She also noted the importance of promoting a co-existent lifestyle in harmony with the global environment, as well as development of a global recycling-oriented society.



Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi

Subsequently, **Mr. Hideyuki Mori, Vice-President, IGES**, held a presentation involving the details of the IGES White Paper. An explanation was given on various issues such as climate change, forestry, urban environment, freshwater, business, and environmental education.

Three major conclusions were then introduced, which are summarised in the final section: (1) Efforts are urgently needed in a number of Asian countries for policies addressing environmental pollution and environmental destruction; (2) In order to confront the current state of poverty and environmental degradation in Asia, a sustainable pattern of economic development suitable to the environment must be continuously implemented; (3)

There is no panacea for the promotion of sustainable development. Rather, meticulous policy planning and the balancing of interests with respect to the various conditions in individual countries is the most reliable policy. Further, **Prof. Hironori Hamanaka, a professor at Keio University**, added wide-ranging

comments, noting the necessity of strengthening partnerships among the many parties involved, and creating a comprehensive synergy of education and multifaceted policies for the purpose of ensuring sustainable development and access to environmental information. He also touched on the theme of economic integration, a process which is progressing in East Asia.

Then, as guest speaker, **the Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture, Mr. Shigefumi Matsuzawa**, stressed that "when thinking about what we can do to achieve a sustainable Asia, a global perspective is needed." With the catchphrase of "Starting from 'MOTTAINAI'", he introduced the "My Agenda Programme" for the registration of voluntary steps aimed at global environmental conservation, which is a part of the "New Agenda 21 Kanagawa", and includes measures to promote practical action and a shared environmental mindset among Kanagawa Prefecture, business enterprises, citizens of the prefecture, and NPOs.



Mr. Hideyuki Mori



Prof. Hironori Hamanaka



Mr. Shigefumi Matsuzawa

Panel Discussion: "Towards a Sustainable Asia"

In the panel discussion in the latter half of the symposium, Ms. Charmine Koda, Director of the United Nations Information Centre, served as coordinator. On the theme of "towards a sustainable Asia", panellists gave an account of the current state of environmental issues in Asia and the most pressing issues.



To begin, Prof. Dr. Cielito F. Habito, former Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning in the Philippines noted that "Asia is a diverse region economically, politically, and culturally, and environmental issues are in turn diverse. Accordingly, it is

important to create an equitable partnership amongst municipalities, business enterprises, civil society, and NGOs, and to promote fair access to information and technical transfer." Further, reflecting from his own experience as Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning on the diversity of policies and institutional responses currently in operation in Asia, he stressed that "enforcement is critical, and we in Asia must learn from each other, must strengthen a variety of measures, and must quicken the pace."

Dr. Ruqiu Ye, Senior Advisor, State Environmental Protection Administration of China, reported on the current state of pollution management in China through a variety of environmental measures, under policies based on harmonisation of economic construction and environmental protection. In addition, he touched on the five-year plan, spanning 2006 to 2010, introducing proactive measures with the intent of environmental improvement by key regions and urban centres. The plan involves 20% curbs on energy consumption, 10% reductions on the discharge of pollutants, and restoration of forest cover. Further, using slides, he introduced specific measures such as those in Guilin city, where generation of methane is utilised in fruit cultivation and other sectors of agricultural activities.



Dr. Ruqiu Ye



Dr. Shuzo Nishioka

Dr. Shuzo Nishioka, Executive Director of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), introduced a computerised 100-year climate simulation. He noted that we are at a crisis point in climate change, with mudslides in the Himalayas due to global warming. He

stressed that "Asia holds the key with respect to global warming. The region must take the initiative and react cooperatively to face environmental problems." He stated that "China has stricter fuel efficiency standards than the USA, and in Singapore strategic urban planning has been implemented with due consideration to traffic congestion and air pollution. However, such remarkable efforts in Asia need to be studied, and as a region Asia must adopt shared targets with respect to climate issues, and develop an infrastructure accordingly."

Next, Mr. Yasuhiro Goto, Editorial Writer for the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc. (NIKKEI), described the role of business enterprises. He noted three aspects to the topic of "the environment from a business perspective": (1) Efficiency of business activities has a positive effect on the environment; (2) In terms of corporate social responsibility (CSR), investment is actively implemented in businesses demonstrating CSR from an environmental perspective; (3) Business opportunities exist based on development of environmentally-friendly products such as hybrid cars. He indicated that "the environment is a risk from a business perspective, as evident from the asbestos problem for example, or the call on businesses developing globally for environmental measures overseas. However, businesses that take proactive measures with respect to environmental issues improve their business image, heightening brand impact. Conventionally, the relationship between society and business, or environment and growth, was considered as a trade off. However, with sustainability as a keyword, it is possible to forge a synergy between business and the environment, and what is now called for is the very practical realisation of such."

On hearing these reports, IGES Chair of the Board of Directors, Prof. Akio Morishima pointed out that "discussions have been held from the standpoint of Europe and the United States regarding global issues

such as the environment. Such discussions have dealt realistically with the kind of lifestyle that is needed on behalf of subsequent generations, transcending the perspectives of the developed and developing nations, governments, civilians, and NGOs. Yet the voice of Asia needs to be heard from Asia." Further, he renewed the emphasis that "At IGES, policy dialogues have been held in various Asian nations with respect to the future climate regime beyond 2012. However, in Asia, which lacks the kinds of cooperative frameworks seen in Europe, it is important to proceed as such beginning from what can be done."

In this exchange of opinions, lively discussions were held and practical examples were raised, including business measures and activities by region in Japan, the Philippines, and China, with respect to the sort of cooperation that is necessary in the Asian region. Through the discussions, the need was stressed for regional cooperation, technological transfer, and support for environmental measures by small and medium-sized enterprises and small-scale producers in Asia. Finally, the coordinator of the symposium, Ms. Koda, concluded the meeting by summarising the shared recognition regarding the urgent need to forge partnerships among local governments, businesses, civil society, and NGOs.



Prof. Akio Morishima



Mr. Yasuhiro Goto



Ms. Charmine Koda



IGES Establishes a Beijing Office to Strengthen Research Activities Jointly Conducted with China



IGES established a Beijing Office (the Sino-Japan Cooperation Project Office) on 2 July 2006 and also concluded an agreement for cooperation with the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection. The office is located at the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection, an institution affiliated with the State Environmental

Protection Administration of China (SEPA), in Beijing's Chaoyang District. The office will serve as a base for developing various research activities conducted bilaterally between China and Japan and multilaterally in conjunction with various international organisations.

For the moment, the office will implement activities in the following areas: 1) prevention of air pollution and acid rain; 2) prevention of water pollution and water resource management; 3) promotion of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle) and a circular economy as well as the treatment of hazardous waste; 4) improvement of the urban environment and 5) prevention of global warming. As regards point 1, IGES has started a training project for developing action plans on the improvement of the urban air

environment. The project is being conducted in cooperation with the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection, together with support from the State Environmental Protection Administration of China (SEPA) and funding from the World Bank. Furthermore, regarding point 5, IGES has already launched a Japan-China CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) capacity building project in collaboration with Tsinghua University, with support from the National Development and Reform Commission of China. In addition, IGES is now implementing "Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options Second Phase (RISPO II)". This project was started last fiscal year and is being jointly conducted with the Sino-Japan Friendship Centre for Environmental Protection.

IGES Activities at ECO ASIA 2006



Addressing the transformation of lifestyles at the local level

Representatives from local governments, NGOs, and international organisations around Asia gathered to discuss how they are addressing the issue of lifestyle change through local action at the "International Workshop on Local Initiatives Addressing the Transformation of Lifestyles." The Workshop, organised by UNESCAP, Japanese Ministry of Environment, and IGES, was held on 23 June at the United Nations University, as a pre-event for Eco Asia 2006, included representatives from Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Nepal and international agencies. These representatives delivered presentations and held discussions on local initiatives and cooperation schemes aimed at improving the environment, coupled with economic and social benefits.

Throughout the region, local initiatives are well developed as effective instruments addressing different aspects of transforming lifestyles to achieve sustainable development. The local initiatives presented—focusing on energy-, transport- and waste-related actions—targeted multiple benefits, in particular poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability.

In the conduct of local initiatives, there are various constraints, including a lack of awareness and public apathy towards the environment, lack of capacity and skills, and economic and social issues stemming from environmental problems. Capacity-building of local government staff was also acknowledged as a key issue to ensure that activities remain sustainable.

The Workshop emphasised the important role of comprehensive national policies and legislation which target the entire material lifecycle, production patterns and/or national development strategies, to support local initiatives which often



KABAHIN KA-Clean Bago City Programme (Courtesy of the City Government of Bago, Philippines)

have a limited and sectoral scope, as environmental issues can be too large to be addressed only at the local level. Different types of intervention, such as technology- or infrastructure-oriented interventions at the national level were highlighted as an important contribution, as well as incentive mechanisms to encourage local initiatives and effective knowledge management at both the local and national level.

Domestic and international partnerships, as well as participation in the schemes of international agencies, were recognised as a key point to facilitate the sharing of know-how on successful activities, and coordinate financial, knowledge and technical support. Synergy among such supporting institutions was called for and the Kitakyushu Initiative*, in partnership with other international programmes, may play an incubating role to facilitate local initiatives to gain substantive support from such institutions.

The outcome of the deliberations was reported to Eco Asia for discussion by the environmental ministers of the region.

* The "Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment" was adopted at the 4th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED) in 2000. The programme aims to demonstrate tangible progress in the environmental quality of cities in the Asia-Pacific region. The IGES Kitakyushu Office functions as the secretariat of the Kitakyushu Initiative Network, and carries out research and activities to support participants in the programme.