

Publications

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For more information : <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/ires/ires.html>

2006 Top News on the Environment in Asia



This is a compilation of important environmental news topics selected by environmental experts from the Asia-Pacific region as well as by international organisations and research institutes. With Fiji and Myanmar contributing reports for the first time, this 2006 edition brings together more news items than ever before, with three organisations and twenty-three countries submitting a total of 121 articles.

To download: <http://www.iges.or.jp/en/news/topic/0612topnews.html>
To obtain a bound copy, please send a fax with your name, organisation and address to +81-46-855-3709.

Shonan International Village Festival IGES Mini-Dialogue and Facility Tour



To communicate with the local community using environment as a keyword, IGES organised two events on 5 May, as part of the Shonan International Village Festival 2007. These were the "IGES Mini-Dialogue" and "IGES Facility Tour".

At the Mini-Dialogue, local participants of all ages and backgrounds listened to the lectures on global environmental issues given by IGES researchers and actively exchanged opinions. The facility tour was also successful; the participants received an explanation of IGES's environmentally friendly facilities such as solar and wind power generation systems.

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.

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

Send comments or suggestions about this newsletter

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IGES What's New From IGES

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

June 2007

IGES Welcomes Prof. Hamanaka as the New Chair of the Board of Directors

On 1 April, Prof. Hironori Hamanaka (Member of the Board of Directors, IGES / Keio University) became the new Chair of the Board of Directors of IGES. Before joining Keio University, he was the Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of the Environment. He served with the Government of Japan for more than 35 years, mostly in the field of environmental policies. He has devoted his administrative career to intergovernmental negotiations in areas including: the Kyoto Protocol and its implementing rules; major international agreements such as the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, and the development of national policies and institutions to implement international agreements, most notably the Kyoto Protocol. Based on his professional career, he was elected in March 2006 and serves as a Co-chair of the Compliance Committee under the Kyoto Protocol and the Chair of its Facilitative Branch.



Chair's Greetings

It gives me great pleasure to announce that I have taken up the position of Chair of IGES as the successor to Professor Akio Morishima. Since its establishment in 1998, IGES has been conducting strategic policy research to realise sustainable society in the Asia-Pacific region. The outputs of previous activities have heightened the expectation towards IGES and I am very much aware of the very great responsibility assigned to me.

It will be a considerable challenge to deliver research results for effective policies and

activities to promote sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, which is currently experiencing remarkable economic growth and continued population increase and urbanisation. Based on the results and reviews of three phases of research activity over the last nine years, IGES has now formulated the Integrative Strategic Research Programme for the Fourth Phase which becomes the platform for the further promotion of research.

To inherit and develop the intellectual assets and cooperative relationships with other

organisations, I believe it is my duty and challenge to manage this institute effectively under the new research structure, and steer the Fourth Phase Research Programme in the right direction to bring about practical results.

I will dedicate myself to fulfilling the expectations set out for the institute, working together with all the staff, and to this end I would like to ask for your continued kind assistance and support.

April 2007

Hironori Hamanaka



The IGES Fourth Phase Integrative Strategic Research is Launched

IGES is proceeding with specific and hands-on strategic research in three-year phases. This research is carried out to better meet policy needs in the Asia-Pacific region. The following projects have been launched in the Fourth Phase (April 2007 to March 2010). By making full use of the intellectual assets of research outcomes and networks accumulated through activities in the past, each project conducts strategic research and produces policy recommendations through close cooperation with relevant organisations in Japan and abroad.

Climate Policy Project

The project aims to propose ways to engage Asian countries in framing the future climate regime beyond 2012, effectively implement the Clean Development Mechanism, facilitate adaptation to climate change, and maximise developmental and climate benefits of policies in sectors of high regional importance.

Biofuels Project

The project will conduct a comprehensive analysis of the environmental, economic, and social effects of biofuels relating to their production, trade, and use, as well as formulate viable policy options to optimise biofuel use for environmentally sustainable transport in Asia.

Forest Conservation Project

To achieve sustainable forest management, rural livelihoods and a fair negotiation of tenure, access and use rights must be secured. Reform of forest regulatory regimes to these ends must be accompanied by effective implementation, which requires action at local, national and international levels. The project works on issues such as forest regulatory frameworks, alternative livelihoods, forest certification, public procurement policy and the role of border control agencies in curbing the trade in illegal wood.

Freshwater Project

The project develops innovative and practical methods for groundwater quality management and strategic water quality management for urban areas, so as to guarantee safe water supply. The project also contributes to the Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA), which shares information on water environment conservation and promotes the capacity development of stakeholders in the region.

Waste and Resources Project

The project conducts strategic policy research on both upstream (production, consumption and distribution) and downstream (waste and recycling) issues of resource use. Special attention is given to international recycling and linkages between product and recycling policy and chemicals management policy.

Business and the Environment Project

This project examines the environmental behaviour of corporations and various approaches influencing the behaviour. It provides critical insights into the traditional dichotomy between industrial development and environmental preservation and aims to propose pro-active policies that facilitate business to meet sustainable development goals.

Capacity Development and Education Project

To achieve sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific, stakeholders must be able to understand, decide and act on key issues. "Access to environmental information," "partnership building and capacity development" and "education for sustainable development" remain crucial in this context. The project examines enabling conditions and explores effective measures and mechanisms for catalysing people's behavioural changes and improving environmental performance.

Programme Management Office (PMO)

Being alert and responsive to the emerging needs of the Asia-Pacific region, PMO designs an integrative strategic research plan and coordinates research projects. As well as promoting initiatives for sustainable development in the region, including the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), it conducts selected cross-cutting studies.

- (i) Promotion of Urban/Local Initiatives for Sustainable Society
- (ii) Economic Integration, Trade and Strategies for Sustainable Development
- (iii) Environmental Management and Development of Indicators for Sustainable Development Planning for the Greater Mekong Sub-region
- (iv) Environmental Management in Northeast Asia

Asian Mayors' Policy Dialogue for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in Cities



On 23-24 April, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC), the Japanese Ministry of the Environment, and IGES jointly organised the Asian Mayors' Policy Dialogue for the Promotion of Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) in

Cities 2007 in Kyoto, as a pre-event to the Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank.

City mayors representing 23 cities in 14 countries (7 ASEAN countries, China, Korea, Mongolia, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Japan) presented best practices of EST in their respective cities and held policy discussions on ways to further promote

EST in Asia. Following the Policy Dialogue, the Kyoto Declaration was adopted declaring the intent to work towards implementing EST, in order to further promote comprehensive policies in the future.

Acting as the Secretariat, IGES planned and coordinated the conference and ensured the conference received a wide range of publicity. At the Opening Session of the conference, the Chair of IGES, Prof. Hamanaka, made a presentation entitled "Local Initiatives for EST in Asian Cities" focusing on the necessity to work towards EST at the city level, based on results from IGES research and from activities by ICLEI Japan¹. The IGES researchers supported the moderators of the Break-out Sessions in developing a summary of the discussion of each session and contributed to the smooth operation of the Plenary Discussion Sessions.

¹ Prof. Hamanaka also serves as the Chair of International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Japan.

US-Japan Workshop on Climate Actions and Developmental Co-benefits

On 5 and 6 March, IGES, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a joint workshop in Washington, D.C. entitled "US-Japan Workshop on Climate Actions and Developmental Co-benefits."

The aim of this workshop was to continue the earlier discussions on ways to maximise the ancillary benefits of greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation policies on economic growth, energy security, public health and job creation. There were prominent speakers from Japan and the US - representing governments, academia, non-governmental organisations and leading research institutions - along with participants from China and Mexico, who focused on the policy measures that lead developing countries to achieve their developmental goals as well as reductions in GHG emissions. Participants also exchanged the latest information on policies in selected sectors such as energy, transportation, waste management and agriculture and discussed ways to promote a co-benefits approach through international cooperation, as well as measures that strengthen the US-Japan bilateral cooperation on co-benefits.

Recognising that a co-benefits approach is one of the most effective measures to cope with global warming in developing countries, IGES will conduct research on this approach focusing on the major sectors in the Asia-Pacific region such as transportation, waste management and agriculture.



International Symposium on Climate Change and Business Strategy in Europe



New business opportunities from climate change are attracting much attention these days. In this regard, IGES organised an international symposium entitled "Climate Change and Business Strategy in Europe: Short-term Benefit or Long-term Investment?" on 19 April in Tokyo.

As an introduction, Dr. Shuzo Nishioka, project leader of Japan Low Carbon Society Scenarios toward 2050, in which IGES participates, explained the role of business in realising a low carbon society. Following this, Dr. Manfred Stock of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research gave a keynote speech on the trends of business in Europe. Prof. Yoshifumi Fujii of Bunkyo University presented how Japanese business should adapt in order to build a low carbon society, and Mr. Hitoshi Hattori of Ricoh Japan introduced the environmental management carried out by Ricoh Group. At the panel discussion, five Japanese companies (Ricoh, Mitsubishi Estate, Tokyo Electric Power Company, Sompo Japan, and Nippon Steel) exchanged opinions on their efforts for environment and business strategies to realise the low carbon society.

Understanding new business opportunities and constructing appropriate business strategies have become crucial factors to promote the development of companies. Reflecting recent high interest in this topic, more than 160 people mostly from the business sector participated in the symposium.

Researchers Viewpoint

Biofuels: Silver Bullet for Global Warming, or a Path to Environmental Destruction?



Satoshi Kojima

Daisuke Sano

Biofuels Project

Satoshi Kojima (Sub Manager) Daisuke Sano (Policy Researcher)

Biofuels are attracting attention worldwide due to their potential to address global warming and energy security issues. In January 2007, the European Commission proposed a binding minimum target of a 10% share of biofuels used in transport for the European Union by 2020 as a part of its long-term renewable energy roadmap. In his State of the Union Address in the same month, US President Bush proposed to increase the use of biofuels as one means of achieving a 20% reduction in US gasoline consumption over the next 10 years. In Asia, many governments are already developing plans to rapidly expand biofuel production. The Cebu Declaration on East Asian Energy Security, which advocates the development and expanded use of biofuels, was adopted in January 2007 by the heads of 16 States/Governments of the Member Countries of ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand.

However, there are serious concerns about this "biofuel frenzy" policy trend. Since biofuel crops like corn are also utilised for food and animal feed, price hikes caused by an increased demand for fuel may hurt lower-income people. Moreover, large-scale expansion of biofuel crop production may lead to environmental problems

such as deforestation, loss of biodiversity, land degradation and water pollution. In fact, protest marches occurred in Mexico when corn prices jumped due to a sudden increase in corn demand in the United States. Deforestation caused by the expansion of biofuel crop production has been reported in Malaysia and Brazil.

Various potential solutions have been proposed to address these concerns. Technical solutions include the use of biofuel crops which minimise conflicts with food or feed, the allocation of such crop production to land where food crop production is not suitable and the use of wastes instead of crops to produce biofuel. In particular, bioethanol production from cellulosic materials is promising. An institutional solution that is being considered is a possible pact between developed and developing countries that aims to facilitate technological/financial assistance from developed countries which consume biofuels in order to promote sustainable production of biofuels in developing countries (<http://www.biopact.com>). However, many of these potential solutions have not yet been put into practice on a commercial scale and their potential effectiveness needs to be assessed in the context of the Asian region.

Considering these challenges and opportunities of biofuels, IGES plans to conduct policy research to develop strategic policy options to promote sustainable production and consumption of biofuels in Asian countries in a way that helps alleviate poverty without compromising environmental sustainability. This research will try to develop an integrated burden-sharing policy package that will generate revenue in developed countries in a way that promotes sustainable consumption of biofuels, and will use that revenue to promote sustainable production of biofuels in developing countries. This would be based on both green fuel taxes in which the tax rates depend on environmental impacts and preferential tariff schemes for "green" biofuels. These economic incentives will generate revenues that would be used to green the biofuel production process in developing countries, for example through technical and financial assistance, and promote sustainable consumption and production of biofuels. Other complementary policies such as an environmental certification/labelling system for biofuels will also be considered.

IGES Holds a Side Event at UN CSD 15th Session

IGES organised a side event entitled "Asian Aspirations for Sustainable Development in the Context of the Climate Regime Beyond 2012" on 3 May at the 15th UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York.

In order to develop constructive thinking on the future climate regime in the Asia-Pacific region and to contribute to the shaping of a regime that reflects regional concerns and developmental aspirations, IGES held a series of multi-stakeholder consultations in 2005 and 2006. This event presented the results of consultations focusing on energy security and development, clean development mechanism (CDM), technology development and transfer, as well as adaptation to climate change. At the panel discussion with experts from India, Indonesia, Japan, Sweden and UNESCAP, there was a lively exchange of ideas on ways to strengthen the future climate regime.



IGES Concludes the MOU on Research Cooperation with Yokohama National University

On 19 March, IGES concluded the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Yokohama National University of Japan on cooperation in environmental research activities.

Based on the MOU, they will further promote and conduct joint research projects and seminars, and will exchange expertise and researchers, especially in the field of international environmental assessment and management in Asia.

