Transition conforms to Nature: The IPCC AR5 warned that, as long as anthropogenic GHG emissions continue, so will the rise in global atmospheric temperature. So, to stabilise the climate, zero emission is ultimately the only solution. The amount of emissions permissible to keep the rise less than two degrees from pre-industrial levels, which is the aim of the UNFCCC, is no more than around 30 years if we continue present emission rate of 2010. Transformation to low-carbon society is an urgent necessity.

The moment to change is now: We currently find ourselves at a historical turning point. No country has ever experienced such a quick transformation. We have to address the most urgent challenge of transforming our high energy-consumption civilization that has developed over some 250 years, into a low-carbon society within the very short timeframe of only 50 years, and ultimately into a zero-emission society. We do not have much time left. Already, we see the impacts of climate change across the world, so we also need to create resilient local communities to adapt to the changing climate.

Major barriers to transition: Transition to low-carbon (LC) and resilient societies requires substantial changes at every level and on all occasions in our societies. There are major inertial forces in highly energy-dependent locked-in societies, which constitute serious obstacles to the changes. To replace urban infrastructure and production equipment, to modify the social system such as legislation, organisations and customs, and to change peoples’ beliefs, thoughts and lifestyles will take a fair amount of time.

Overcoming hurdles by accelerating actions amongst multi-layered actors: The last anchors of taking action are (1) people in the community who consume energy and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and (2) business entities which use resources and energy to provide commercial products and services. To encourage these two parties to take action, we must also acknowledge the significant roles played other parties and encourage science (research) communities to accumulate knowledge, governments to create a system, local governments and cities to set venues and opportunities to meet, finance to provide funds, education system and NGOs to motivate people to act (through education in schools, mutual learning in society, and knowledge-sharing), and also ensure that international collaborating schemes and international organisations such as the UN set major frameworks. Only by promoting collaboration through close dialogues amongst those concerned, will rapid and effective transition occur. Dialogues can facilitate cooperative recognition (science-based results such as necessity of zero-emission and necessity of adaptation), consensus on transition process (target setting and course of actions), coordination amongst stakeholders concerned in implementation, and cooperation towards effective actions.

The Decade of Climate Action – getting started: In 2015, every nation will pledge to reduce emissions from 2020. Our future depends on how much we can accumulate and combine our wisdom and action within this time period. Therefore, we have to accelerate dialogues to facilitate those functions. We would like to propose “Decade for Accelerating Transformative Action to Low Carbon Society: DATALoCS”, to promote global action and ensure climate stabilisation.
“Decade for Accelerating Transformative Action to Low Carbon Society”

Stakeholders called for Action

Academia
ICSU, IAC, Universities, Research Institutions...

International Entities
UN, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO, UNFCCC...

Int’l Finance/Aid Organisations
WB, ADB, AFDB, AIID, JICA, USAid

National Gov’t/Regional alliances
ASEAN, OECD, TEMMS, IEA

Business/Industry
WBCSD, CLP...

Local Gov’t/Alliances
City, ICLEI, C40...

Public Society
Local residents, citizens, consumers

NGO
CDKN, WRI, CAN,,

Examples of Action

Function to be strengthened

Knowledge creation/assessment

Knowledge sharing

Agent of change

Financial function

Facilitation

Social learning

Urgent transition to a low-carbon and resilient world

Scientific observation, climate prediction, process analysis, data accumulation, publishing data & articles

Enabling solution oriented inter-disciplinary research

Effective joint action among Int’l entities

IPCC AR5

PCC AR6

IPCC

Strengthening Climate related agenda and activities in UN & UN family

Accelerating formation of new regime and its implementation in UNFCCC

Research-Policy dialogue for science based integrated national climate policy

Dialogue for N-S, S-S Cooperation

Public participation to design/transformation to LC/R cities

Compromising conflicts associated with industry/energy shift to LC society

School education for climate knowledge and action

Enhance NGO cooperation to drive transition

Social learning for CC resilient community

Urgent action to climate vulnerable spot and continuous strategic adaptation operation

Transformation to LC lifestyle in daily life & preparation for adaptation in community

Taking role to consolidate multi-level stakeholder action into transforming to LC & resilient society

PDCA

Urgent transition to a low-carbon and resilient world