

The role of the G7 in a new Geopolitical Environment

Challenges for the Japanese G7 presidency

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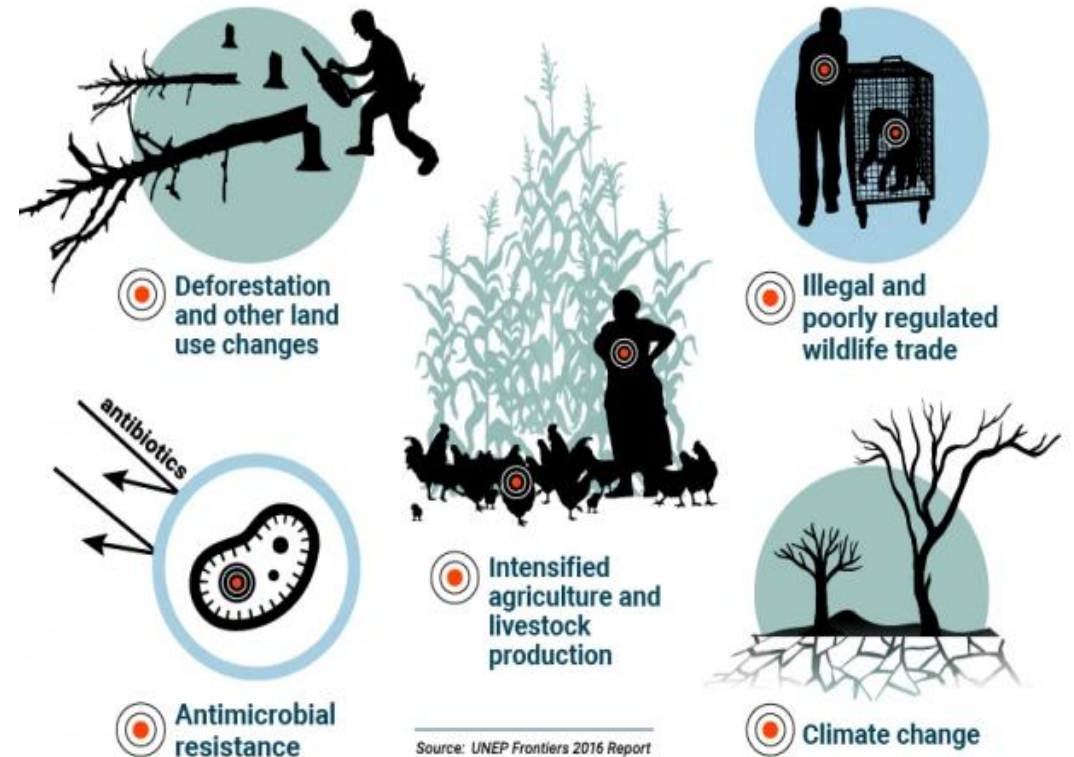
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Climate Crisis and Covid-19

- Climate Change and Covid-19 : Important issues related to the **survival of humankind** that the **international community** should work together on
 - Deeply related to economic **globalization**
 - Following SARS in 2002 and MERS in 2012, the appearance of Covid-19 for the third time in 20 years is abnormal frequency. Possible **changes in ecosystem due to climate change and chaotic development**, and changes in distance between humans and wildlife
- **A high level of crisis awareness and effective measures are required for both problems**

What factors are increasing zoonosis emergence?
(Diseases transmitted from animals to humans)



#COVID19

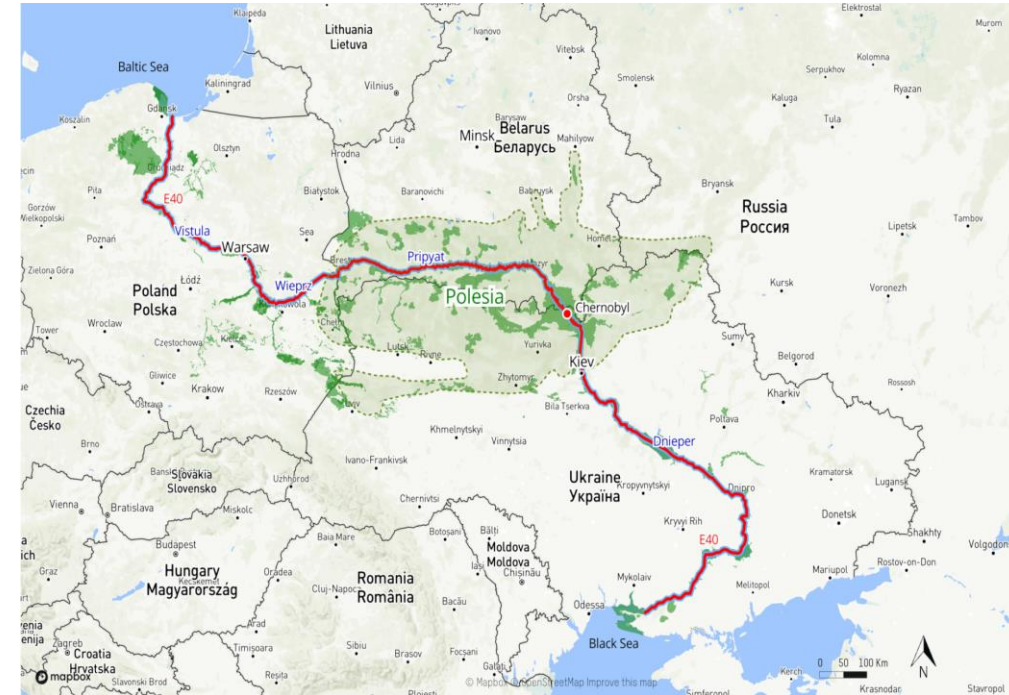
Green Recovery from Covid-19

- Conventional economic recovery measures (support for fossil fuel intensive industries, expansion of construction projects, etc.)
→ May contribute to short-term economic recovery, but cannot expect long-term structural change to a decarbonized society.
- **Green recovery measures:** economic recovery measures to counter the economic recession caused by the COVID-19 through **investments that focus on the environment**, with an emphasis on solving issues such as addressing **climate change** and maintaining **biodiversity**.
- ⇒ expected results: increased **green jobs** and better business performance.
- They should also contribute to the transition to a decarbonized society and the realization of **SDGs**.
“**Build back better**”, including new lifestyle and work style such as low carbon employment, renewable energy, telework)



What Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Revealed

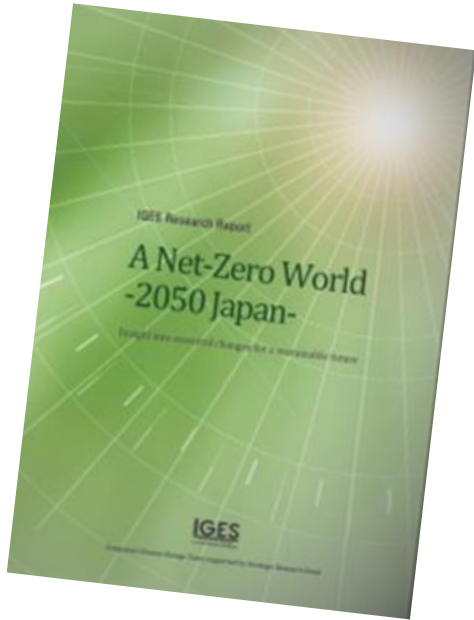
- War is the greatest human rights/environmental disaster: many dead, wounded, refugees
- Environmental damage in Ukraine caused by Russian military actions
Attacks on industrial/populated cities → long-term, irreversible environmental risks to air, water, soil, etc.
Risk of nuclear power plants (15 in the country) becoming targets of attack: Chornobyl and Polyža nuclear power plants
Destruction of precious natural treasures: Polisia wetlands, also known as the European Amazon
- CO2 and toxic emissions from military activities themselves
- Crisis of national and international environmental governance



Polesia, Europe's largest wetland wilderness
Source: <https://wildpolesia.org/threats/>

➔ **Urgent reduction of dependence on fossil fuels are the ways to attain energy and environmental security** . ➔ Expansion of renewable energy and promotion of energy efficiency and conservation

Challenges on climate crisis: Net zero society



IGES (2020) *A Net-Zero World -2050 Japan-: Insight into essential changes for a sustainable future.*

<https://www.iges.or.jp/jp/pub/net-zero-2050en/en>

IGES Report on a net zero society in Japan

- To stimulate domestic debate on the construction of a net-zero society, by providing **concrete social visions**



The two scenarios compared:

- **Lock-in scenario:** Strong forces to maintain the status quo are assumed, and little domestic social change takes place. Net zero is achieved while relying on the use of fossil fuels with carbon capture technologies.
- **Transition scenario:** In response to various social problems and digitalization, key socio-economic elements such as social institutions, production processes, and infrastructure will be transformed. Net zero is achieved by the use of digital transformation, electrification, and renewable energy.

Key Messages

Pursuing the transition scenario can provide various opportunities:

- To address social issues (aging, depopulation, local economic revitalization etc.)
- To improve energy security
- To avoid risks of relying on unproven carbon storage sites in Japan

To pursue the transition scenario, a national strategy which makes all stakeholders work together is required.

Challenges on climate crisis: Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

- COP26 organized in Glasgow last year reached the agreement on the implementation guidelines for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
- Article 6 is instrumental for operationalizing international carbon markets and has great potential to contribute to deeper global emission reductions by stimulating the global decarbonization market and private investment.
- At the same time, the environmental integrity should be secured in terms of the implementation of Article 6 under the Paris Agreement.
- To secure the environmental integrity, the avoidance of double counting (corresponding adjustment), enhanced transparency (article 6 reporting) and conservative baseline setting are one of the approaches to be designed in the future.
- Since those approaches are new concepts that are different from CDM mechanism, the capacity building for parties who will participate in the Article 6 is essential to prepare the further preparation.

Challenges on marine plastic pollution

Since East Asia and Southeast Asia are identified as a hotspot of marine plastic pollution, international and national efforts are concentrating to the region. G20 Report on Actions Against Marine Plastic Litter (official report of G20 resource efficiency dialogue process compiled and edited by IGES) showed that **Approx. 2/3 of** bilateral or multilateral initiatives **(23 out of 35)** by G20 countries **concentrated in Southeast Asia**.

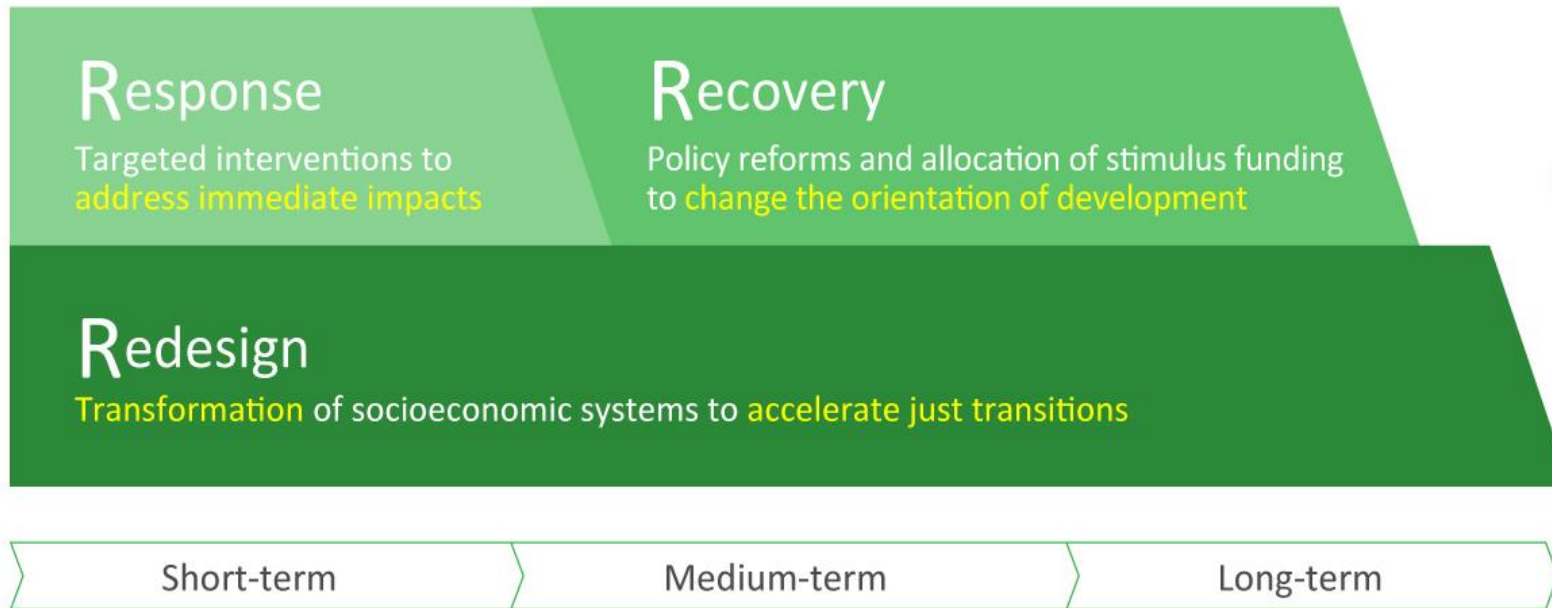
- OECD-style policy analysis and coordination function is necessary to mainstream circular economy among emerging countries especially for East and Southeast Asia as a hotspot.
- Emerging economies should be provided a capacity building to take a lead to coordinate different donors. This would enable donors of G7 as well as UN agencies to coordinate international efforts to tackle marine plastic pollution.
- It is crucial that global plastic agreement to be negotiated till 2024 to emphasize the development of national action plans and reporting of the progress of such plans. This will enable to identify issues and priorities to **be translated into national/regional action plans (NDC-equivalent to Plastics)** that can be implementable among emerging countries given their different institutional settings and level of interests. **On-going discussion on global agreement on plastics at UNEA** should go to that direction
- Identify entry point and champion to promote good examples as well as introduce Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) schemes..



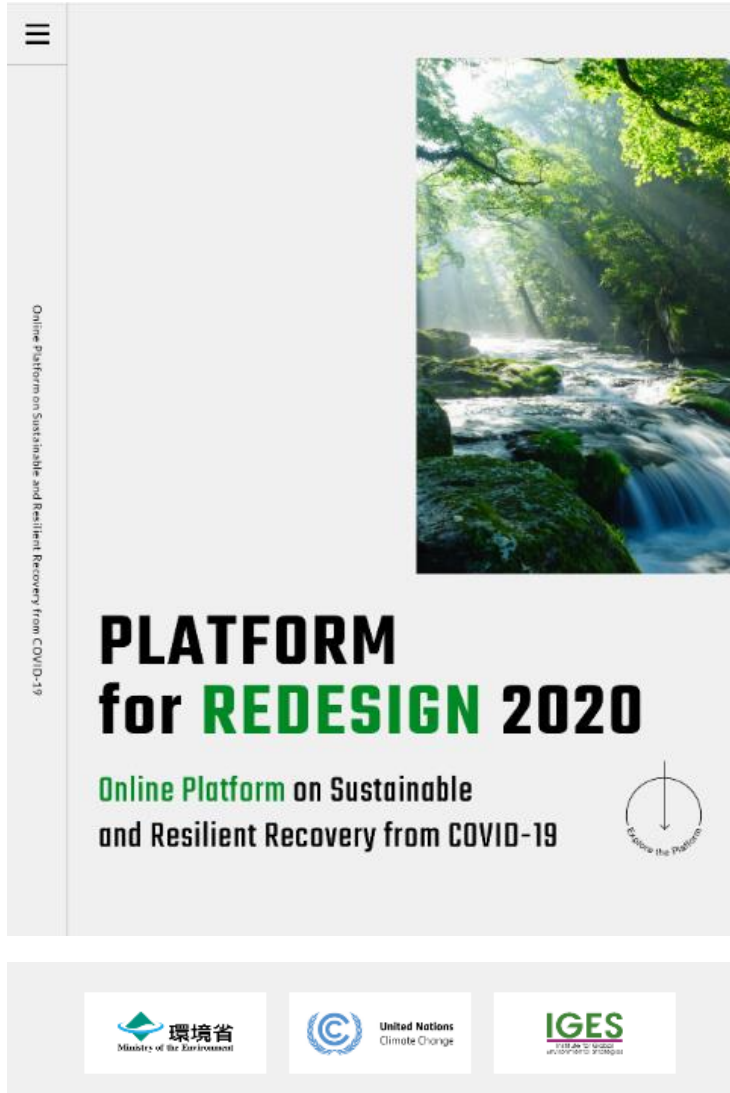
Challenges on green recovery

IGES has developed an analytical framework to examine ‘green recovery’ aiming towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive societies. The Triple R Framework is composed of three building blocks: Response, Recovery, and Redesign.

The “Triple R Framework”



Challenges on green recovery: Platform for Redesign 2020



- ◆ This online platform compiles national efforts taken and planned to overcome COVID-19 and environmental crises.

Stronger Climate Action in Recovery Packages

Renewable Energy & Green Hydrogen

Transportation (Ground Transportation)

Transportation (Aviation)

Housing & Urban Planning (including Adaptation)

Circular Economy

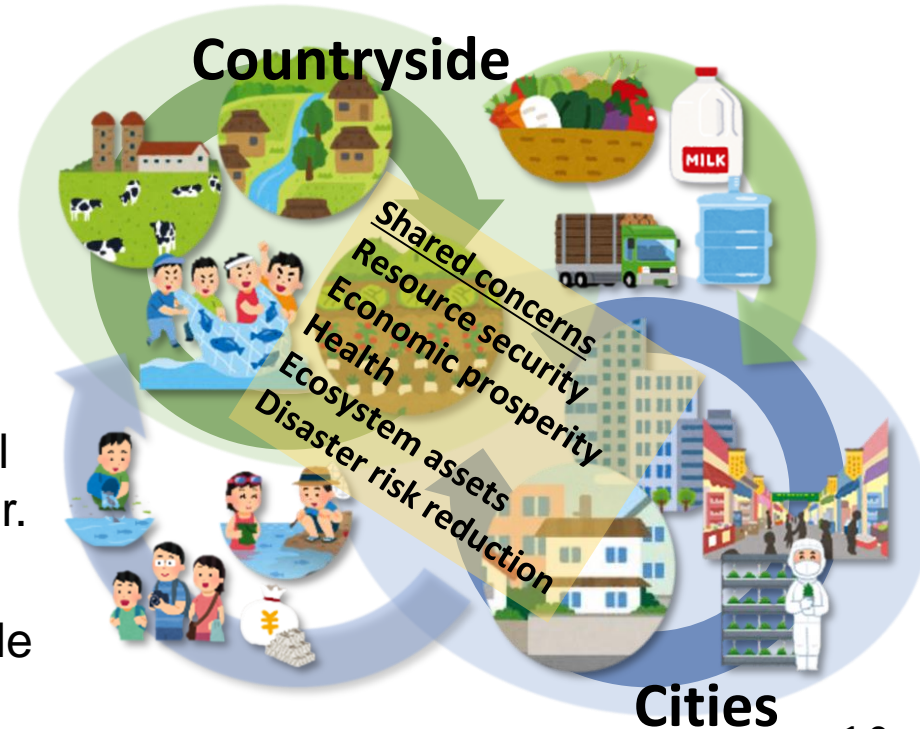
Green Jobs

Platform2020redesign.org

Challenges on integrated sustainable transition

The government of Japan formulated “Decarbonization Roadmap” in June 2021, which aims to create sustainable and affluent regions nationwide through transition to **decarbonized, circular and decentralized society** with focusing on the followings:

- **Solving local issue** in a decarbonizing manner
 - Expanding local renewable energy which benefits local communities
 - Promoting decarbonized local transportation
 - Promoting **money circulation** in local communities
 - Promoting **enjoyable sustainable lifestyle**
- Decentralization must facilitate local solutions and coordination between local municipalities and national government is crucial. IGES has supported local municipalities to implement Regional Circular and Ecological Sphere, which aims to re-discover regional resources and make optimum use of them in a sustainable manner.
- Lifestyle innovation is also crucial to realize better quality of life through sustainable transition. IGES has led the 1.5-degree lifestyle project for this purpose.



Conclusions

- The climate crisis is a human rights crisis (especially a "children's rights crisis")
2050 carbon neutrality is a responsibility to future generations.
- War is the greatest destruction of human rights and the environment.
- Promoting energy conservation and expanding renewable energies is the way forward for energy and climate security.
- Promote green recovery from the Covid-19 disaster, and promote the Green New Deal toward a decarbonized society.
- Zero emissions is at the core of the new national development strategy, and decarbonization is a prerequisite for economic survival. The "era of great decarbonization competition" has truly begun.
- We should aim at a society where people can live humanely in a decarbonized, nature-friendly, recycling-oriented, and regionally self-reliant society.
- The G7 member countries have to take the lead in transforming the world into a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive society.