

## Preface

The International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet) was established in 2009 on the initiative of the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting (G8EMM). At their 2008 meeting in Kobe, G8 Environment Ministers recognised the need for countries to make the transition to low-carbon societies. This would contribute to the goal, discussed at the 2007 G8 Heiligendamm Summit, of halving global emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050. To make the transition, each country needs a clear vision of what a low-carbon society would look like and how the transition might be achieved. Given this, the G8 Environment Ministers in Kobe strongly supported the establishment of the research network to help with developing these visions and pathways.

Prior to the official launch of the network, a group of low-carbon society researchers met in Trieste, Italy on 1-2 April 2009. This meeting was held under the auspice of the Italian G8 Presidency through the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. Participants at this meeting acknowledged the importance of collaboration in taking forward LCS research at the interface between science and technology, society and policy. Researchers also identified important research themes and approaches such as: scenario and modelling approaches; interdisciplinary perspectives on the transition to LCS; integration of environmental, energy, economic and social systems; dissemination of knowledge; and building awareness outside the scientific community<sup>1</sup>.

Following the official launch of the LCS-RNet, the Euro Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change (CMCC), Italy, organised the inaugural meeting of LCS-RNet in Bologna Italy on 12-13 October, 2009. The agenda of the Inaugural Meeting was developed by CMCC and an Interim Steering Group responsible for the scientific planning of the meeting.

This report of the Inaugural Meeting of the LCS-RNet consists of two parts: a synthesis report; and session summaries. The synthesis report sets out the conclusions of discussions, focusing specifically on issues that require further consideration by researchers and by policy-makers. Addressing these issues will help to fill the gaps in designing future low carbon societies in ways that promote sustainable development in both developed and developing countries. Session summaries and summaries and abstracts of presentations during the sessions are attached in electronic format.

This report demonstrates LCS-RNet's achievements in its first six months. We would like to express our gratitude to all of those who contributed. We also would like to express our sincere gratitude to governments and government contact points for their support and advice.

Special thanks are due to CMCC and Dr Carlo Carraro, Dr Giulia Galluccio, and Ms Sara Venturini, for their initiative in planning the Inaugural Meeting and their hospitality in Bologna.

We would also like to express our special appreciation to the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy, for their generous support for LCS-RNet activities during 2009. We would also like to thank the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, for their initiative in setting up the network. As a result, light will be shed on the role that science can play in designing policies that will bring about the large societal changes needed to achieve deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions reductions for the benefit of future generations.

### Steering Group of the LCS-RNet

Vincenzo Artale (Co-Chair)  
National Agency for New Technologies Energy  
and the Environment,  
/ Ente per le Nuove Tecnologie, l'Energia e  
l'Ambiente (ENEA), Italy

Mikiko Kainuma  
National Institute for Environmental Studies  
(NIES)  
/ (独) 国立環境研究所, Japan

Stefan Lechtenböhmer (Co-Chair)  
Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment  
and Energy  
/ Wuppertal Institut für Klima Umwelt Energie  
GmbH, Germany

Jim Skea  
UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC), UK

Jean-Pierre Tabet  
Environment and Energy Management Agency  
/ Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise  
de l'Énergie (ADEME), France

---

<sup>1</sup> see <http://lcs-rnet.org>