

Low Carbon Society Newsletter

**Special
Edition**

- Achieve a Low Carbon Society -

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LoCARNet: A platform to discuss technology, technology transfer and other urgent topics

One year has passed since the launch of the Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet: <http://lcs-rnet.org>) on 14 April 2012. The First Annual Meeting of LoCARNet was held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2012.



At this Meeting, various urgent issues have been pointed out for researchers and the research community and for policymakers through highlighting the importance of low-carbon research, such as research that contributes to the policy-making process and research on the use of integrated assessment models; land use and forestry; GHG inventories; low-carbon cities; local level practices, local decisions, and local initiatives; the institutionalisation of low-carbon green growth; and technology.

In the technology session of the First Annual Meeting, a number of key questions were discussed by the participants, who included researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders. These questions included what the technology needs and barriers are for low carbon technologies in Asia, where technology and policy interlink, how to enable policies that support low carbon technologies in a nation-wide context, and how to support Asian countries to enable them to meet their technology needs while fostering an enabling environment. "Technology Needs and Enabling Policies in Asia" were addressed by three speakers from the Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), The Energy and Resources Institute (India), and a consultant to the Asian Development Bank. For the details of the meeting, please see the link: http://lcs-rnet.org/meetings_locarnet/2012/10/1st_annual_meeting_of_the_locarnet.html

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News from Secretariat

LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretary General shakes hands with the Minister of Environment of Cambodia

23 April 2013, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretariat and the Japanese LCS research team from NIES and Kyoto University met with H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Senior Minister and Minister of Environment, to discuss research collaboration.



Announcement from the Secretariat

LCS-RNet 5th Annual Meeting and LoCARNet 2nd Annual Meeting to be held in Yokohama, Japan

21st-22nd July 2013 for LCS-RNet

This meeting will be held back to back with the 5th Annual Meeting of the International Low Carbon Research Network (LCS-RNet) on 24th -25th July 2013 and the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP) 2013 from 23rd to 24th July 2013. Details of the meetings can be found on the LCS-RNet/LoCARNet website

http://lcs-rnet.org/meetings_locarnet/2013/07/2nd_annual_meeting_of_the_locarnet_in_yokohama_japan.html

LoCARNet's activities

Asia's economic development in recent years has been remarkable. Within the context of economic development in Asia, a major issue is how low carbon can be connected with economic growth and national development. The importance of sharing Asia's knowledge and experiences moving toward a low-carbon society has been recognized, and a common challenge across Asia extends beyond the

national level. Against this backdrop, LoCARNet has conducted interactive meetings in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia as part of its activities. LoCARNet will continue to work to promote the development and implementation of policies in Asia based on scientific evidence through dialogues among researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders, including businesses.

List of LoCARNet's Activities

16 Feb 2010	Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia Meeting: Low Carbon Development Workshop in Indonesia and Asia: <i>Dialogue between researcher and policymakers</i>
17 Nov 2010	Bangkok, Thailand	Thailand Meeting: Transition towards Low Carbon Societies in Thailand and Asia <i>Dialogue between researcher and policymakers</i>
10 Jan 2010	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Cambodia Meeting: Cambodian Low-Carbon Development Plan Scoping-Meeting <i>Dialogue between researcher and policymakers</i>
4 Jul 2011	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	Malaysia Workshop: Low Carbon Asia Research Project, Johor Bahru, Malaysia <i>Dialogue between researcher and policymakers</i>
31 Oct 2011	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	Asian Workshop: Low Carbon Asia Research Project, Johor Bahru, Malaysia <i>International workshop for researchers, policymakers and stakeholders</i>
15 Apr 2012	Tokyo, Japan	Side event in East-Asia Low Carbon Development Knowledge Dialogue
May 2012	Kobe, Japan	APN (Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research) newly established fund on "low-carbon initiative"
29 May 2012	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Cambodia Workshop: Designing and establishing Cambodian Low Carbon Development Plan, Phnom Penh, Cambodia <i>Dialogue between researcher and policymakers</i>
31 May 2012	Hanoi, Vietnam	Workshop on Exploring Potential for Low Carbon Society in Vietnam <i>Dialogue between researcher and policymakers</i>
9 Jul 2012	Johor Bahru, Malaysia	3rd international symposium on sustainable low carbon Asia research and policy dialogue, Johor Bahru, Malaysia <i>International workshop for researchers, policymakers and stakeholders</i>
23 Jul 2012	Yokohama, Japan	LoCARNet kick-off meeting
16-17 Oct 2012	Bangkok, Thailand	LoCARNet First Annual Meeting <i>International workshop for researchers, policymakers and stakeholders</i>
13 Dec 2012	Tsukuba, Japan	LoCARNet In-Depth Meeting on Strategic Action Plan
14-15 Dec 2012	Tsukuba, Japan	AIM international Workshop
21 Feb 2013	Jakarta, Indonesia	Indonesia Workshop: Research Cooperation on "Development of Low-Carbon Strategies" <i>Dialogue between researcher and policymakers</i>
22 Apr 2013	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Cambodia Workshop: A Systematic and Quantitative Design of Low Carbon Development Plan for Cambodia <i>Dialogue between researcher and policymakers</i>
24 Apr 2013	Vinh Phuc, Vietnam	Vietnam workshop: Low Carbon Society in Vietnam <i>Capacity development and Training workshop</i>

Dialogue in Iskandar Malaysia among researchers and policymakers

Malaysia has already initiated preparation for low-carbon development at the national level. At the same time, low-carbon urban development is now under way in order to transition the national plan into implementation. One low-carbon district in Malaysia, the Iskandar Development District, is aiming at a 50% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions intensity by 2025. The Iskandar Regional Development Agency,

together with researchers at the Malaysia University of Technology, Kyoto University (Japan), Okayama University (Japan) and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (Japan), has created a low-carbon scenario. In 2012, the Iskandar Regional Development Agency further consolidated its low-carbon plan and also completed its blueprint for a low-carbon society. Working toward a green economy,

the Development Agency aims to create a green investment policy that looks ahead 10 or 20 years into the future.

In light of Asia's great importance within global climate policies, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA), and the Secretariat of LoCARNet/International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet) jointly organised a Symposium on Low-Carbon Asia Research Projects on 4 July 2011 in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, together with Kyoto University, Okayama University, the

National Institute for Environmental Studies and the Science and the Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), which is supported by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The international workshop aimed at disseminating the results of these endeavors underway in Iskandar Malaysia both within Malaysia and overseas. Thanks to these organisations, this symposium was very fruitful, with 120 participants from Asian countries and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).



Hayama* letter (From Secretariat)



**Shuzo Nishioka,
Secretary General of LCS-RNet and LoCARNet**

Tokyo, one of the cities bidding to host the 2020 Olympic Games, boasts one of the world's most effective and efficient transportation systems in the world, where people can easily and freely move around without relying on automobiles. I myself travel from my



home in Shinjuku, which lies in the heart of the Tokyo metropolis, to the IGES Tokyo office by subway. It takes 45 minutes, including connections. It was 80 years ago, a time when people could not afford to own their own car, that the first "metro line," or subway line, opened in Tokyo. In the 1960s when the automotive age came to Japan, the subway system had already spread throughout Tokyo. Compared with the traffic jams on Tokyo's roadways, people can move much more quickly, cheaply and safely by subway. Therefore, people use the subway for commuting from their homes to their workplaces. Trains' carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are only one-tenth those of a car. In most cities in Asia, the automobile era began before public transport systems were constructed, resulting in enormous challenges in the areas of air pollution and traffic congestion. On the other hand, Asian cities have demonstrated clear progress in this area in recent years with the development of BRT, subways, monorails and other forms of public transportation. When we consider the length of a century, from the perspective of a low-carbon society, Tokyo was fortunate in having already established public transportation systems before car ownership became widespread. The Fifth Annual Meeting of LCS-RNet and the Second Annual Meeting of LoCARNet will be held in Yokohama this coming July. I hope participants from abroad enjoy the public transportation that seamlessly links many places to enjoy during their visit to Japan.

**Hayama is a beautiful Japanese town well-loved for its beaches and hills with spectacular views of Mt. Fuji. The LCS-RNet and LoCARNet Secretariat is located within the offices of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Hayama. LCS news will be updated from Hayama and transmitted to the world.*

Message from the Editor

Our recent mission to Cambodia was our third since we began in 2010. Every year when we meet in Phnom Penh to discuss the progress of low-carbon policy and research in Cambodia, we find new progress in low-carbon related policy initiatives as well as tremendous changes in the development of the city of Phnom Penh itself, with many newly-constructed buildings and infrastructure. Against this backdrop of dramatic changes, Cambodia needs to develop and enhance its research capacity to support policy planning with scientific evidence. When we first visited Cambodian universities in 2010, not many researchers were working on domestic climate change issues. At the time, the focus was typically air pollution or agricultural issues. Only two years after our first visit, we found that the number of climate change-related research projects had increased, notably in the area of the relationship between climate change and pollution and agricultural issues. Climate change research in Cambodia focuses primarily on adaptation issues rather than mitigation issues. However, a casual observation of the quick pace of development taking place in the capital suggests that in the future Cambodia is likely to need more research on mitigation and capacity in order to be able to analyse future CO₂ emissions and their impacts. We look forward to even further progress regarding climate change issues when we visit Cambodia next year.

Takako Wakiyama, Researcher, Green Growth and Green Economy Area, Institute of Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)/ Secretariat of LCS-RNet/LoCARNet

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About LCS-RNet and LoCARNet**LCS-RNet**

LCS-RNet is a practical platform of researchers/research organisations that are making close contributions to individual countries' low-carbon policy-making processes. The basic nature of LCS-RNet is a platform to support and encourage information sharing and voluntary cooperation among research institutions, specifically in the field of LCS research. LCS-RNet also facilitates interactions between researchers and various stakeholders and delivers its findings to policy-makers to assist in science-based policy making during transitions to low-carbon societies.

LoCARNet

LoCARNet is a network of researchers that facilitates the formulation and implementation of science-based policies for low-carbon development in the Asian region. The aim of LoCARNet is to facilitate science-based policies in order to realise a sustainable future based on a stabilised climate. To this end, the network endeavours to establish research capacity in the region based on South-South-North cooperation, and to reflect research findings into actual policies to achieve low-carbon growth.