

Target and Objectives

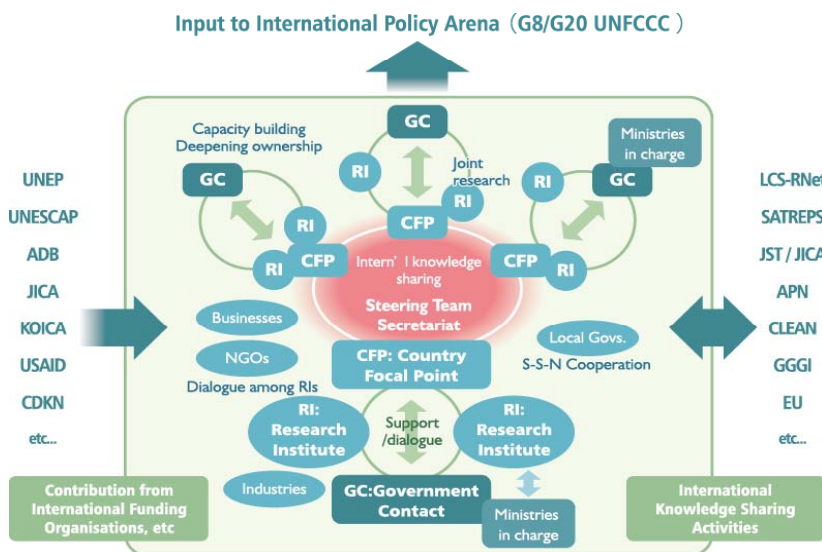
- **LoCARNet** launched by IGES in close cooperation with NIES, **promotes research to support the development of policies for low-carbon growth** by enabling dialogue between scientists and policy-makers.
- **LoCARNet facilitates** the Asian region to move forward with low-carbon growth, with a number of ongoing favourable conditions to **turn challenges into opportunities**.

Initiation

- The Government of Japan and the International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet) proposed the establishment of a network called the **“Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet)”** at ASEAN+3 Environmental Minister Meeting (EMM) held in October 2011 in Cambodia.
- The **launch of LoCARNet** was declared at the side-event of the **“East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue”** held in April 2012 in Japan.
- As an outcome of the side event, **the initiation of LoCARNet was announced by the Minister of the Environment, Japan** in the Dialogue held in Tokyo, Japan on 15 April 2012 where Ministers from the East Asia Summit (EAS) gathered to kick off discussions regarding the promotion of a platform for low-carbon growth in the EAS region.

Framework of “Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet)”

LoCARNet is a multi-layered, flexible network for researchers to contribute to low carbon policy-making.



LoCARNet is an autonomous research network, operated through voluntary initiatives by researchers in various countries, sustaining close links with other like-minded stakeholders. The network is composed of researchers who contribute directly to develop national low-carbon and green growth policy, and are involved in policy-making process and contribute their knowledge to decision-making and policy planning.

Through the network, knowledge and experience are shared, research cooperation related to low-carbon growth is promoted, and inputs to policy-making are provided. Government support is also essential for the network.

Background

- Since 1997, **capacity building and training** of the Asia-Pacific Integrated Assessment Model (AIM) model **for Asian researchers** has been implemented, and more than 50 researchers in Asian countries have been trained .
- In 2008, Japan proposed to set up the “**International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet)**” at the **G8 Environment Ministers Meeting** to contribute to the global effort to tackle climate change by sharing up-to-date scientific findings on visions and pathways towards low-carbon societies.
- Since 2009, the Ministry of the Environment Japan has commissioned the operation of LCS-RNet to the Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) to **develop a knowledge platform for low-carbon development to achieve towards low-carbon societies**.
- Since 2009, the Ministry of the Environment Japan has also commissioned **research on low-carbon growth in Asia** to a research team led by the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES). The research team has studied the **feasibilities of low-carbon growth** in each country **working with local researchers and helping them to exercise the AIM model to set up low-carbon targets and make low carbon scenario in their own countries**.

Future Direction of LoCARNet

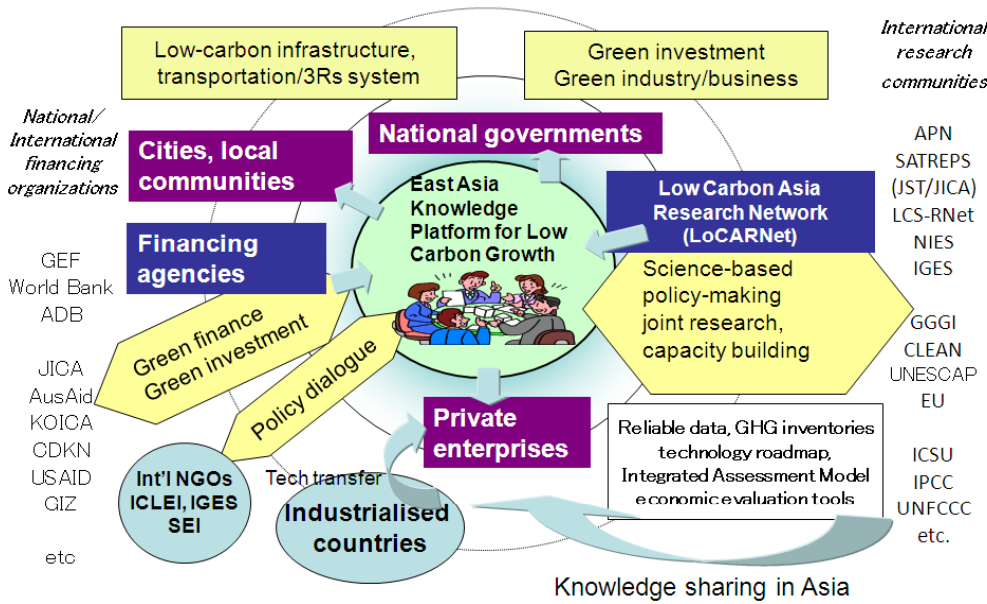
- **There is a need to enhance collaboration with other stakeholders.** International organisations and development practitioners can cooperate toward low-carbon research and provide support to build up a research exchange network/platform. Private sector collaboration will also become more important for green investment and green growth.
- **Coordination and collaboration are vital at the national, sub-national/cities and regional levels.** This will strengthen ownership of knowledge, and also accelerate the speed of low-carbon growth in Asia.

LoCARNet - Activities and Uniqueness

- **Network of prominent researchers** who are deeply involved in low-carbon development policy processes in this region.
- **Science-Science-Policy Dialogue:** LoCARNet promotes research for policies towards low-carbon growth by enabling a sufficient amount of dialogue between scientists and policy-makers.
- **Ownership of knowledge by countries:** LoCARNet also encourages collaboration amongst researchers in-country whose research capacity and scientific knowledge are firmly grounded in their home countries.
- **South-South-North Collaboration:** LoCARNet aims to increase in research capacity in the AP region through knowledge sharing and information exchange, in the scheme of not only north-south cooperation, but also south-south regional cooperation.

Concept of “East Asia Knowledge Platform for Low Carbon Growth”

- aim to help developing countries create and implement low-carbon and resilient development strategies, compatible with their development goals.

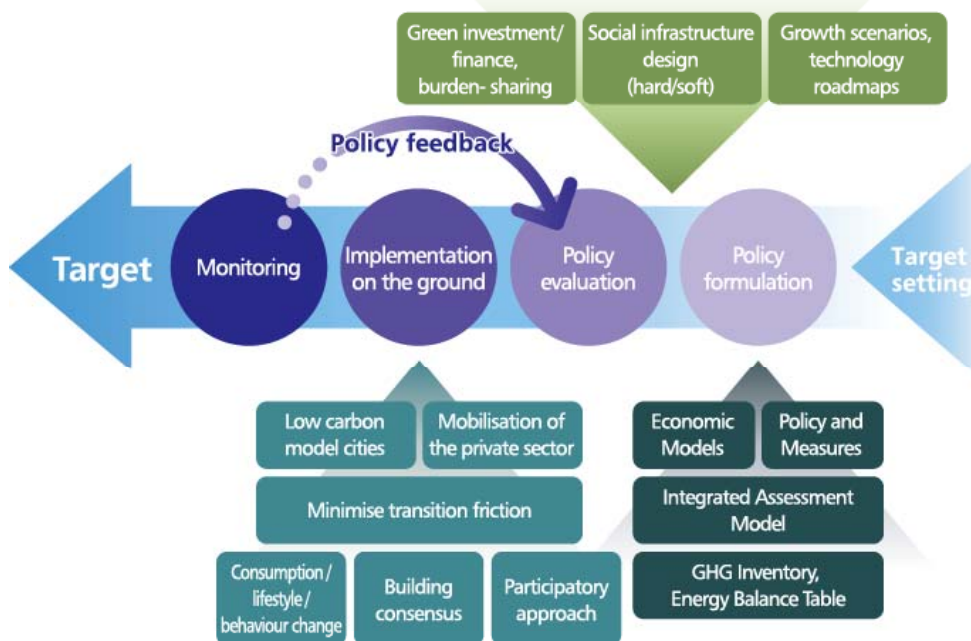


“East Asia Knowledge Platform for Low-Carbon Growth” is a platform to lead the sustainable low-carbon world through high and strong growth by enhancing collaboration of research, knowledge, policy, business, industry and investment in Asia. It is a cluster of various stakeholders in a world with a common goal and achievement towards low carbon societies.

“LoCARNet” functions as one of the key contributors to the East Asia Knowledge Platform through networking of research communities to work for low-carbon development.

Formulation of low-carbon growth policies

- Step-by-step process from data collection, knowledge sharing, identification of tools and methods, to implementation and review-



Knowledge cluster for low-carbon growth research: Low-carbon growth research needs broad disciplinary knowledge, tools and methods for integration into practical policy process towards a sustainable future. We need knowledge sharing networks for exchanging wisdom to strengthen research capacity in the Asian region.

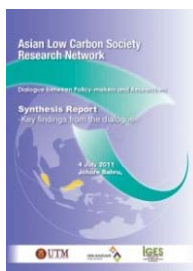
Procedures of low-carbon growth policy, in general, go through target setting, policy planning, selection of policies using economic and social evaluation, policy implementation, monitoring the effects of policies, and revising policies through review and feedback processes.

Dialogues between policymakers and researchers concerning demands and roles of research on sustainable low-carbon development and green growth, were held in Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia. With knowledge and experiences of participants from the policy-making community and academia, these dialogues identified the importance of immediate actions, the obstacles and the strategies to overcome barriers. The views and knowledge were shared among policy-makers and researchers. Key findings covered diverse issues such as interdisciplinary approaches toward low-carbon development, collaboration between policy- and research communities, focused areas (e.g. forestry, peat-land, land-use change and the energy sector), the role of technology, financing schemes and lifestyle innovation. The key messages and synthesis report were published as an outcomes of these dialogues as the publications listed below.

2011 July in Malaysia

Malaysia workshop on Asian Low Carbon Society: From Malaysia to Asia

The workshop took place as a meeting, entitled Symposium on Low Carbon Asia Research Projects, on 4-5 July 2011 at Persada/Puteri Pacific Hotel, Johor Bahru, Malaysia, co-organised by Iskandar Malaysia Regional Authority, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)-Centre for Innovative Planning and Development, IGES/ LCS-RNet Secretariat, Kyoto University and NIES, and sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment Japan, JICA and JST.



2011 January in Cambodia

Cambodia Workshop on Scientific Approach to Low-Carbon Development Planning in Cambodia

The dialogue took place at a meeting, entitled Scientific Approach to Low-Carbon Development Planning in Cambodia on 10 January 2011, co-hosted by Ministry of Environment, Cambodia and Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) / Secretariat of LCS-RNet, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



2010 November in Thailand

Thailand Workshop on Transition towards Low Carbon Societies in Thailand and Asia - Dialogue between Policy-makers and Researchers and Cross-sectoral Approach

The dialogue took place at a meeting, entitled Transition towards Low-Carbon Societies in Thailand and Asia, on 17-18 November 2010, co-hosted by Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO, Public Organization) and the Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment (JGSEE), supported by IGES/ Secretariat of LCS-RNet, in Bangkok, Thailand.



2010 February in Indonesia

Indonesia Workshop on Towards Sustainable Low-Carbon Development and Green Growth in Indonesia and Asia-Linking Research and Policy-

The dialogue took place at a meeting, entitled Dialogue between Policy-makers and Researchers: Demands and Roles of Research on Sustainable Low-Carbon Development and Green Growth from Policy Perspective, on 16 February 2010, co-organised by the Ministry of the Environment, Republic of Indonesia and IGES/ Secretariat of LCS-RNet, at the IPB International Convention Centre, Bogor, Indonesia.



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