

Activities in FY2017

ISAP 2017 25 - 26 July 2017, Yokohama, Japan

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the United Nations University's Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) organised the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP2017) on 25 - 26 July 2017 in Yokohama, Japan.

ISAP is an annual forum aiming to promote diverse discussions on sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific, with the participation of front-line experts and stakeholders from governments, international organisations, business and NGOs.

As the world works towards implementing the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda with its accompanying SDGs, positive action is being taken not just at the national government level, but by a wide range of stakeholders including cities, businesses and financial institutions. It is going to take a fundamental shift in our entire socio-economic system to achieve a decarbonised society and sustainable development - we will need to change our lifestyles, our behaviours, and even our values and norms.

The ISAP2017 held two Plenary Sessions and several Thematic Tracks over two days. There was one Thematic Session featuring discussions on how we can manage transformation smoothly through the consideration of the long-term decarbonisation strategies of Germany, France and Japan.

You can find a report on the event here: <http://www.iges.or.jp/isap/2017/en/>

LCS-RNet 9th Annual Meeting 12 - 13 September 2017, Warwick, UK

The 9th LCS-RNet Annual Meeting will be held at the University of Warwick in Coventry, UK on 12 - 13 September. The meeting will focus on three themes that reflect the current debates on international climate change and energy policy, against the backdrop of recent political changes and uncertainties in Europe and the United States. The main conference theme for this year is "Clean growth and innovation in a changing world". Detailed session themes are:

1. Innovation: technology, resource productivity and industrial policy.
2. Global energy markets and forums of carbon pricing
3. Energy access and low carbon development

The conference will be held in conjunction with the 2017 UKERC annual academic conference, which will overlap with Day 2, and will continue until 14 September. It will explore the implications of international trends within these themes for UK energy policy and research. For your reference, the programme and presentations of the 8th Annual Meeting in Wuppertal in 2016 are available from: https://lcs-rnet.org/lcsrnet_meetings/2016/08/1895 The Synthesis report of the 8th Annual Meeting is downloadable from: https://lcs-rnet.org/pdf/publications/2016_8th_Annual_Meeting_of_the_LCS-RNet_in_Wuppertal.pdf

The third pilot research for Bhutan's Long-term Strategies

LCS-RNet started a pilot project in FY2015 to conduct research on the development path of the Kingdom of Bhutan. The research explores the possibility of the nation's leapfrog-type development. In FY2016, taking over the project under collaboration research with IGES, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), MIZUHO Information & Research Institute, Inc. (MIHR) and E Konzal, the research team summarised the research results on future projections of greenhouse gas emissions and absorption in Bhutan by simulating the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Research shows that the Business as Usual (BaU) scenario greenhouse gas emissions will exceed absorption in 2050, changing into positive emissions.

The project will support Bhutan's climate change strategies using this simulation in FY2017.

A brochure summarising the research results in FY2016 is downloadable from the link below.

<https://lcs-rnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Exploring-carbon-neutral-development-that-diverges-from-the-developed-country-model-Bhutans-long-term-strategies.pdf>

IGES made a press release to announce the research output in 7 June, 2017. (only in Japanese):

<http://www.iges.or.jp/jp/press/20170607.html>



History of LCS-RNet

At their meeting in Kobe in May 2008, G8 Environment Ministers recognised the need for countries to develop their own visions towards low-carbon societies, and supported the establishment of the International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet). In the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting (G8EMM) held in April 2009 in Siracusa, Italy, high expectations were placed on

LCS-RNet, and the network was asked to report back its outcomes periodically. Currently this network is composed of 15 research institutes from seven countries.



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LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Activity Report for FY2016

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LCS-RNet Activities

The 8th LCS-RNet Annual Meeting 6 - 7 September 2016, Wuppertal, Germany



The 8th LCS-RNet Annual Meeting was held in Wuppertal, Germany in September 2016, co-hosted by Wuppertal Institut (WI), Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Ministry of Environment Japan (MOEJ) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). About 82 participants

gathered from 13 nations and two international organisations to take part in this Annual Meeting. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 7th International Sustainability Transitions (IST) Conference and the Wuppertal Institute 25th anniversary event. The theme of the Annual Meeting was "How to Achieve Long-Term Transformation towards Full Decarbonisation". Below are the major messages from LCS-RNet from this meeting.

Need for paradigm shift and tighter link between policy and science

- **Paradigm shift**
 - As we only have about 30 years of global carbon budget left, solving the climate change crisis has now acquired a new level of urgency. The Paris 2015 Agreement underscored this by calling on achieving the max 2°C temperature increase, making efforts towards 1.5°C, transitioning to a decarbonised society, and institutionalising the intrinsic value of carbon mitigation and removal. This transition calls for a paradigm shift.
 - Such paradigm shift requires a new role for science, one that has a

much stronger focus on interdisciplinary, trans-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder processes aimed at solving climate change and the related fundamental problems of society. This will require the development and use of action research approaches as well as innovative, dynamic and interactive qualitative-quantitative methodologies.

Linkage between policy and science

- While science has an unquestionably crucial role to play in assessing, selecting, designing and implementing the most effective policies for addressing climate change mitigation and sustainable development goals, a gap still exists between science and policy, which needs to be bridged.
 - For science to be effective in providing knowledge for implementation, it needs to engage multiple stakeholders - national and city governments, private sectors (including financial), citizen groups and others. Policymakers, on the other hand, need to give clear signals for decarbonisation and dematerialisation via use of policies and investments.
 - The primary contribution of LCS-RNet is to bridge this gap by providing a much needed platform for dissemination of scientific knowledge and dialogue among key stakeholders.

For more details, please visit the links below.

LCS-RNet website: https://lcs-rnet.org/lcsrnet_meetings/2016/08/1895

Synthesis report: https://lcs-rnet.org/pdf/publications/2016_8th_Annual_Meeting_of_the_LCS-RNet_in_Wuppertal.pdf

Wuppertal Spezial No.53: <https://epub.wuppertalinst.org/frontdoor/index/index/docId/6636>



The 2nd Government Focal Point Meeting

LCS-RNet 2nd Government Focal Points' Meeting was held in Wuppertal, Germany in September. At the meeting, the Government Focal Points (GFP) from Germany, France, Italy, Japan and the LCS-RNet Steering Group members discussed the idea of analysing NDCs according to the DPPP template among others, and LCS-RNet's scope of activities, organisation and governance.

The meeting reaffirmed the specific role and unique character of LCS-RNet and its secretariat. In other words, LCS-RNet has been



developing a link between science and policy by providing a platform of discussion between scientists and policymakers, which is the strength and uniqueness of LCS-RNet. Furthermore, it was shown that the secretariat could function as an "information hub" or "information centre".

Looking into the future, it was pointed out that the network should focus more on specific theme/issues, such as comparing research on long-term strategies and scenarios, developing a database, Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (DDPP), as well as carbon pricing and technology transfer. On the other hand, consensus was reached on expanding the participant countries of the network beyond the G7 countries.

In this context, a 5-year plan for the network was considered at COP22 in Marrakech and will be developed at the next LCS-RNet Annual Meeting which will be held in September 2017 in the UK.

Pilot Research on the Impacts of Integrated Low Carbon and Resiliency Policy Responses to Climate Change on the Development Path of Bhutan

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has been working with the National Institute for Environment (NIES) to conduct field study research over a two-year period from 2015. The research budget was acquired from the Research and Information Office of the Global Environment Bureau of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ).

Researchers from IGES and NIES visited Bhutan in 2015 and began collecting fundamental data. In 2016, making use of the data collected and of existing projection methods (a low-carbon scenario formulation tool called Extended Snapshot: ExSS), preliminary future projections were made for the country's greenhouse gas emissions and absorption up to 2050. These showed the potential for Bhutan's emissions to exceed absorption in 2050 if additional low-carbon measures are not introduced.

In addition, repeat visits in October 2016 brought opportunities for opinion exchange on preliminary future projections with local

policymakers and researchers. As a result, a request to promote the research was received from the National Environment Commission of Bhutan, and an agreement on joint research was reached with local research institutes that promote climate change impact assessment and research on happiness levels in Bhutan.

A brochure of the project in FY2016 is downloadable from the below link. https://lcs-rnet.org/lcsrnet_meetings/2017/05/2233



LoCARNet Activities

Report of the 5th LoCARNet Annual Meeting 25 - 26 October 2016, Bandung, Indonesia

On the 25 and 26 October 2016, the Ministry of Environment Japan, the Institute Teknologi Bandung, Bogor Agricultural University, NIES and IGES, co-organised the 5th Annual Meeting of the Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet) in Bandung, the Republic of Indonesia.

The meeting focused on the topic of "Carrying out the Paris Agreement: Role of research communities in supporting science-based climate policy". Researchers, government officials, as well as representatives from private enterprises and international organisations from Japan and other Asian countries participated in lively discussions on some of the urgent issues facing the region (low-

carbon cities, innovative monitoring systems, land use, adaptation, formulation and implementation of NDCs (nationally determined contributions) and ideal capacity building).

Overview of outcomes:

- At the Annual Meeting, information was shared on low-carbon policies in Asian countries and cities, as well as business investments in the environment, resulting in active dialogue among a diverse range of participants including researchers, policymakers, private industry and international organisations.

- In her keynote address, Dr. Nur Masripatin, Director General of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia, spoke on the need for strong scientific grounds to implement the Paris Agreement. She stated that scientific communities must bridge the gap between research programmes and activities. She also mentioned the need for policy formulation and



planning processes, and hoped that their roles could be strengthened.

- In a session on low-carbon cities, Japan presented case studies on local government initiatives utilising a Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) city-to-city partnership scheme, and the Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) programme being carried out in the ASEAN region. Initiatives on the ground in Asian cities (Semarang, Indonesia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Haiphong, Viet Nam) were introduced. In discussions, the view was expressed that sharing best practices can be effective for expanding initiatives. However case studies themselves should also be shared, including their level of success.

- While there are a number of countries in Asia with low greenhouse gas emissions where current major initiatives are in agriculture and forestry, these countries have reached a stage of rapid development so greenhouse gas emissions are predicted to increase significantly in the future. In the session on land use co-chaired by Prof Rizaldi Boer of Bogor Agricultural University, participants came to realise the importance of implementing concrete policies in line with each country's circumstances while carrying out greenhouse gas reduction from a long-term perspective.

- In a session on ideal capacity building for formulation and implementation of NDCs (nationally determined contributions) co-

chaired by Dr. Ucoik Siagian of the Institute Teknologi Bandung, it was proposed that in addition to capacity development support from developed countries, leading developing countries should also share their knowledge, and South-South regional cooperation must be further enhanced. This will enable developing countries to steadily implement and consolidate the NDCs. It was also pointed out that capacity building for youth is vital as they will be in charge of the next generation.

- In the closing session, discussions took place on the message to be sent out from the Annual Meeting. With the enactment of the Paris Agreement, there is a need for sound implementation of measures and a guarantee of transparency in all countries, so the meeting agreed that it was important to create links to concrete actions, such as incorporation of scientific knowledge into policy and formation of individual projects utilising JCM.

LoCARNet website: https://lcs-rnet.org/locarnet_meetings/2016/12/2026

LoCARNet 5th Annual Meeting Synthesis Report: https://lcs-rnet.org/pdf/publications/5th_Annual_Meeting_of_LoCARNet_in_Bandung.pdf



Capacity building workshop for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar 26 September 2016, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

On 26 September 2016, IGES held a workshop entitled "A Quantitative Design for Low Carbon Development Plan in Cambodia". This workshop was jointly organised by the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia, with support from the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) and the cooperation of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES).

In the first session, line ministers from Cambodia presented and shared emerging national policies and strategies related to climate change and LCD. In the second session, representatives from Lao PDR and Myanmar introduced their climate policies and strategies. The third session introduced the level of progress reached in cooperation between policymakers and research communities in each country.

Discussions were then held and proposals made on ways to further fortify the research communities that will support science-based policymaking in the future.

Details are available from the link below:

https://lcs-rnet.org/locarnet_meetings/2016/09/1935



Capacity building workshop targeting at South Asia / Stakeholder Meeting 6 February 2017, Bangkok, Thailand



After COP21/Paris Agreement, there has been a growing demand for science-based quantitative policymaking. IGES held a stakeholder meeting with researchers and policymakers in Thailand, back-to-back with a capacity building workshop targeting South Asia on 6 February 2017. The two meetings (policy dialogue and CB workshop) were jointly sponsored by IGES, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), and the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC-AP), Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), with support from MOEJ.

The stakeholder meeting introduced Thailand's climate change related policies and how they are being implemented, as well as the present state of research related to the environment and climate change. The meeting indicated how research communities are expected to contribute to scientific policymaking, pointing out the urgent need for capacity development for policymakers as well.

At the CB workshop, IGES gave a presentation outlining LoCARNet activities, and then experts from LoCARNet (Malaysia and Thailand) were invited to introduce good practices of leading Asian countries, as well as efforts made to promote horizontal expansion of these practices based on South-South cooperation schemes. This was followed by a panel discussion on how to improve the capacity of the research community in contributing to scientific policymaking.

Further details are available from: https://lcs-rnet.org/locarnet_meetings/2017/04/2169