

Response at COP21 to LCS-RNet's Position Statement and Recommendations

The core assertions of LCS-RNet's position statement are that the policy shift toward the "2 degrees target" of the Cancun Agreements represents a global and historic turning point; that "carbon pricing" to promote investment toward the future should be taken up as a common policy in order to bring about a low-carbon society, taking into account that the keys to transition will be energy conservation and conversion to non-fossil fuel energy systems, response measures to cities, where over 70% of the population is expected to be concentrated in the future, and the low-carbon development of developing countries; and that, in relation to cooperation with developing countries and financing, the world must break free from the debate underway until now on the breakdown of obligations in accordance with "common but differentiated responsibilities," and instead move on to a sharing of responsibilities at the actual policy implementation stage. Moreover, the statement proposes that the enormous investment of funds necessary for conversion to low-carbon societies be leveraged to boost the stagnating global economy.

Based on forward-looking integrated research on transitioning to low-carbon societies carried out through the cooperation of researchers and research institutes deeply involved in the policy-making process in their respective countries, this position statement garnered support in the form of signatures from over 220 persons from 48 nations, including a Nobel laureate, former cabinet members, and 79 IPCC researchers. The statement was submitted to the Government of France and then introduced to the world and taken up for discussion before audiences of considerable size at COP21 side events held at both the EU and France pavilions. One prominent result is that the article 109 of the Paris agreement retains (UNFCCC, 2015), slightly amended, one key sentence of the LCS-RNet declaration about the 'recognition of the social, economic and environmental value of mitigation activities'. This sentence is the anchor of i) "conversion of economies based on various forms of 'carbon-pricing' with added social, economic and environmental value", ii) "effective utilisation of 'climate finance' in developing countries based on proactive administration of the 'common but differentiated responsibilities' principle", iii) "strengthened capacity development in developing countries and the orientation of international finance to advance technology transfer", iv) the use of the huge investments in urban systems and energy systems required for major social change to trigger a "new industrial revolution", v) as well as the necessity of linking measures to new economic growth based on actual economies.

LCS-RNet position statement



Further development of the organisation, generating greater impact

With a view to enhancing the impacts from research communities in addressing major policy issues such as those outlined above, LCS-RNet will fundamentally aim to bring forth a sustainable world, placing climate policy at the core (by promoting linkages with the SDGs), while also working to expand the scope of its research communities in terms of geography, disciplines, and stakeholders. The Network will also work to identify effective topics for research through close discussions with target entities and disseminate research outcomes while fortifying its coordination with policies and with society.

Future steps for LCS-RNet

1. **Hold annual meetings:** Utilise reports on research, discussions of future key agenda items, and discussions of network administrative policy to accumulate knowledge and then disseminate it to national governments and others around the world.
2. **Deliberate major issues and hold mini-workshops for joint research:** small groups will deliberate closely on critical topics several times a year and the outcomes will be linked to discussions at the annual meetings.
3. **Generate impact:** The Network will also place emphasis on generating impact in the course of its efforts to disseminate the outputs of its activities, making use of various meetings, media, websites and journals.
4. **Engage in close cooperation with the IPCC.**

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International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet)

The International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet) began with a proposal from Japan at the G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Kobe in 2008. LCS-RNet is a network of research communities intensely involved in the climate-related policy-making process in various countries. Currently, research institutes in Japan, Germany, France, Italy and the UK form the central core of the network. Working in collaboration with research institutes in India and the Republic of Korea, the Network cooperates with research communities in both developed and developing countries and undertakes activities with them.

LCS-RNet Activities and Proposals since the Network's Launch

First Five Years (2009 to 2013): Activities as a Venue for Exchanging Climate Change Policy Research among Developed countries

During its first five years, LCS-RNet engaged in knowledge exchanges related to climate policy in developed countries primarily through its annual meetings, while also conducting research on common agenda items, disseminating its outputs,

making policy proposals. Through these activities it succeeded in having its outcomes reflected in various countries' policies. At its first annual meeting in Italy, LCS-RNet identified key policy areas. At its second annual meeting in Germany, reflecting the fact that climate policy requires society-wide "transition," the Network expanded the scope of its research and examined the role of science in furthering that transition. The third annual meeting in France focused on the possibility of climate policies becoming an engine driving new growth. The fourth annual meeting in the UK took up concrete policy proposals, including energy systems and the transition of cities, and the fifth, in Japan, focused on the use of resources during future transitions and the necessity of forward-looking investments in cities. Discussions at the annual meetings were compiled into synthesis reports and a special issue of an academic journal (*Climate Policy*, published January 2013). Reports were also made to each participating country and outcomes were reflected in policies through the work of researchers in each country.



1st meeting in Italy 2nd meeting in Germany 3rd meeting in France 4th meeting in UK 5th meeting in Japan

Expansion of the Network's Activities (2014 and beyond): Toward Climate Policy Transition at COP21 in Paris

Beginning in 2014, LCS-RNet turned its focus to the lead-up to COP21, positioned to be a major turning point for global climate policies. In line with this, at the 6th annual meeting in Italy, the Network discussed energy systems, cities and land-use, and cooperation with developing countries, as well as climate finance, an issue of major importance cross-cutting the other three. The 7th annual meeting in France in June 2015 was an opportunity to bring together knowledge from discussions at past annual meetings into "COP21: A Moment of Truth for Climate and Sustainable Development," an LCS-RNet position statement indicating directions forward for important agenda items being taken up at COP21. This contributed meaningfully to the shaping of policy direction both during and since COP21, through the LCS-RNet French research group and the French Government.



6th meeting in Italy 7th meeting in France

Further Development of LCS-RNet since the Paris Agreement

Global climate policy crossed an important threshold at COP21. Now, all countries around the world are to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, aiming at stabilising the global temperature rise to less than 2 degrees (and working to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees). In order to achieve this target over the next half century, knowledge and wisdom from around the world must come together. In addition, capacity building hand-in-hand with technology transfer and financing are required to advance low-carbon development in developing countries. Accordingly, the creation of a research community with a sense of ownership in each country is vital to act as a long-term foundation for policy formation. Further, the international community is called on to enter the implementation stage and share scientific knowledge with non-state actors, including civil society, the private sector, the financial sector, and cities—that is, the actors that will be implementing mitigation measures. Research communities themselves must also participate in social change as change agents.

Some research groups have begun to monitor and assess the implementation process of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and make proposals for improvements.

With regard to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in the future research groups will work to consolidate information on the current status of essential science and technology, not only globally, but also regionally and for each constituent group. Following the Paris Agreement, the role of research communities in supporting the formulation and implementation of concrete policies grounded in science has become even more important.

Against the backdrop of such changes, LCS-RNet recognises the need to carry out new activities as a **continuing forum for discussing the future direction of research necessary for climate policies to bring about low-carbon transitions, for conducting comparative research and assessment on actual low-carbon policies being advanced in countries around the world, and formulating proposals** and will undergo a major renewal as it evolves into this new stage.

For example, the following are among the urgent major issues to be addressed by the international community and the approach to be taken from the research side in order to stabilise the climate, looking toward the five-year period after COP21.

01

Creating a **long-term (post-2050) strategy** by each country toward the realisation of carbon neutral societies in the latter half of the 21st century

02

Deploying policies in the energy, resources and urban sectors to be developed based on **"carbon pricing"** as a common global policy

03

Promoting cooperation toward **"low-carbon development" in developing countries:** consideration from the research perspective of support measures toward policy scenarios, technology transfer, and domestic institutionalisation of capacity building

04

Setting civil society, the private sector, the financial sector, cities and local groups in consideration from the transformation of society: the **promotion of partnerships between these non-state actors and research communities**

05

Establishing a **global finance system** to promote the transition toward low-carbon societies

06

Deterring energy consumption all throughout the consumption, distribution and production processes

07

Regional **integrated mitigation and adaptation measures** to respond to advancing climate change

08

Research communities themselves transforming into **"change agents"** promoting transition