

In response to a request by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), the UNFCCC organised a Forum on experiences and best practices of cities and subnational authorities in relation to adaptation and mitigation on 11 June 2014. It is hoped that this will provide an opportunity for parties and relevant stakeholders to share experiences and best practices of cities and subnational authorities.

The Chair indicated that what is needed is proper governance and a clear direction to commit to a carbon neutral world at the local level, and that collaboration of national, subnational and local government for sustainable development should also be facilitated to promote transformational urban process. It was also pointed out that there needs to be accountability and responsibility at city and sub-national level as well as leadership in planning and designing low-carbon cities.

In the presentation and discussion, participants communicated the need to increase the role of cities, and emphasised vertical integration of international, national and city levels in order to reflect efforts by

cities ahead of the 2015 agreement. From the floor, Prof. Ho of UTM highlighted the importance of quantitative analysis, inputs of scientific research into action, baseline setting and target setting to reduce CO2 at the city level. He also drew attention to the example of Iskandar, Malaysia to showcase bottom-up policy planning and consensus building, and emphasised the role of networks such as Low Carbon Asia Network (LoCARNet) to help promote low-carbon societies in Asian countries through open discussions of best practices on mitigation and adaption issues in cities.



Introducing new special correspondents for LCS-RNet and LoCARNet

What are LCS-RNet/LoCARNet special correspondents?

Aiming to promote active involvement of young researchers in the field of low carbon society and development, the secretariat of LCS-RNet/LoCARNet has started a “special correspondents programme”, calling for existing young researchers, and nominating other potential young researchers, in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Laos. The role of an LCS-RNet special correspondent in Asia will be to deliver low carbon-related news and to be actively involved in LCS-RNet and LoCARNet activities.

Linh Dieu Nguyen from Vietnam; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Linh Dieu Nguyen is currently based in Laos working as regional technical advisor for the Mekong River Commission-GIZ Cooperation Program on Transboundary Water Management . Her current research interests are climate change adaptation, flood risk management and sustainable hydropower development in the Lower Mekong region, with a focus on gender mainstreaming. She has been involved in the following related activities to promote low carbon societies: (1) promotion of an ecosystem-based adaptation approach to reduce flood risk, strengthen natural infrastructure and reduce carbon emission as part of a pilot project to mitigate climate-sensitive flood risk in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam; (2) provision of technical support to integrate international best practices of sustainability into hydropower development in the Lower Mekong region, and promotion of renewable energy-based alternatives through capacity building, research and a pilot project.

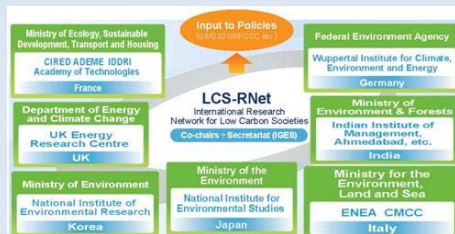
Muchamad Muchtar from Indonesia; Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Muchamad Muchtar is programme officer for the IGES Indonesia Support Desk. He has been working on institutional arrangements and implementation of national and provincial action plans relating to GHG emission reduction. Thus, his current research interest is climate change issues involving both mitigation and adaptation, and related institutional arrangements in Indonesia. <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/linh-nguyen/30/79b/b87>

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.



International Research Network for Low-Carbon Societies

- Scientific Research Contributing to Low Carbon Policy-making Process -

Newsletter Vol.14 (September 2014)

Special Issue on the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP)

The International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP) was held on 23–24 July 2014 in Yokohama, Japan. ISAP is a two-day forum held once a year with a timely theme to promote diverse discussions on sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. It also aims to provide opportunities to boost information-sharing and strengthen collaborative efforts with front-line experts and diverse stakeholders from international organisations, governments,

businesses and NGOs. Drawing upon the international/regional networks, ISAP2014 aimed to gather various key stakeholders and ensure that their voices can be linked with regional and international discussions that we hope will continue to 2015 and beyond. This edition of the LCS-RNet newsletter reports the discussions that took place during the ISAP. Further details regarding the conference are available here: <http://www.iges.or.jp/isap/2014/en/index.html>

Report from ISAP: “Promoting an Integrated Knowledge-Base System for Scientific Low Carbon Development Policymaking in Asia”

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will adopt a universal climate agreement for all nations to reduce GHG emissions, which will come into effect from 2020. It is predicted that, in a BAU scenario, GHG emissions from Asia will account for 50% of the global total, and countries in Asia therefore hold the key to climate stabilisation in terms of whether they can introduce science-based low carbon policies into their overall development policies. Recently, we have seen a positive change in Asia—its research communities are being strengthened, and linkage between research and policies is being promoted in a more effective manner, ensuring full ownership.

consideration of various problems while pursuing a development path. To achieve climate stabilisation, it will be necessary to continue to share wisdom and knowledge. Such sharing of knowledge is also necessary for South-South cooperation, and various activities are therefore being undertaken at the country and city level through this network. I deleted a sentence here because it repeats the same sentence that appears above.

This session aimed to show the audience and the world that countries and organisations in Asia have cooperated to form an effective sequential system for science-based low carbon development policymaking. This system comprises knowledge creation, education and capacity development, knowledge sharing, and dissemination. In order to evolve from a high carbon society to a low carbon society, it is vital to apply measures from a range of perspectives.

However, low carbon development is a challenging issue in Asian countries because it requires



The Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet) is a network for researchers who are working on policymaking process and aiming to develop their research capacity and improve the efficiency of their outputs.

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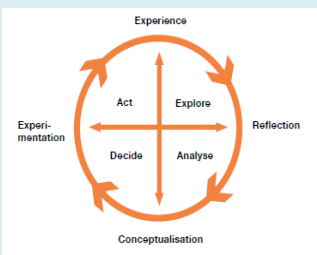
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Report from ISAP “Advancing Education as a Goal for Sustainable Development: On the Road to Nagoya – Moving towards Transformative Learning for Sustainable Lifestyles”

Dr. Robert J. Didham, Senior Coordinator for Capacity Development and Knowledge Management, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)



Against the backdrop of the UN World Conference of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) that will be held in Nagoya, Japan in November 2014, how to advance education as a key mechanism for achieving sustainable development and how aspects of quality education and transformative learning can be framed into the Global Action Programme on ESD that is expected to be launched at this conference? In the ISAP session on *Advancing Education as a Goal for Sustainable Development*, Dr. Urenje argued that experience-based education, critical reflection, reflective discourse, and applied learning and taking action are key elements to articulating a new paradigm in education aimed at transformative learning for sustainability which can be supported through an inquiry-based learning approach. This approach provides a cyclical learning process among multi-stakeholder teams that revolves around making inquiries, i.e. addressing questions that require reflection on real-world experiences and active experimentation to make changes on the ground, which finds equally relevant application in both formal and non-formal education settings.



Inquiry-Based Learning Cycle

Interview with Dr. Shepherd Urenje, Senior Programme Specialist, Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD)

The activities of SWEDESD and their efforts to advance transitions towards low-carbon societies and sustainable lifestyles drawing on their expertise in education, capacity building and multi-stakeholder facilitation. SWEDESD is a centre based at Uppsala University, Gotland Campus in Sweden and is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). It comprises a community of practitioners on ESD who serve as a focal point for a social network of practitioners and implementers on transformative and social learning processes. Together with partners in Sweden, Africa and Asia, SWEDESD is developing and implementing programs and activities related to (a) transformative teaching and learning on innovative ESD, (b) research and development on ESD and its components, and (c) communication and knowledge exchange on ESD practice and policy. With regards to supporting the movement towards low-carbon societies, this community of ESD practitioners and thinkers supports initiatives aimed at decarbonisation through:

1. Persuading communities and smaller businesses to adopt low carbon activities and actions,
2. Participating and supporting low carbon energy policy – including use of more locally produced energy mostly from renewable sources,

3. Encouraging increased innovation and investment in clean technologies and low- or zero-carbon energy sources,
4. Raising awareness on energy use reductions and energy efficiency as key drivers for the low-carbon transition.

SWEDESD is actively involved in leading policy discussions with senior government officials as well as multi-stakeholder groups. They offer practical opportunities to create dialogue among diverse stakeholders and to communicate on transformative experiences in a manner that links them to practical policy opportunities at regional, national and institutional levels. In Southern Africa, SWEDESD has made use of “cluster workshops” to engage with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the national ministries of education and the leaders in teacher education from 42 universities across 14 countries. The aim was to translate regional policy on ESD to national and subsequently to institutional levels. At present, the task for SWEDESD and partners in Africa is supporting institutions on exploring different ways by which they can implement the policies – this is being done through ESD Change Projects.

“Blending the mentor/facilitator and participants/students into a learning partnership for mutual inquiry and transformation creates a fertile ground for multi-stakeholder collaboration towards achieving a low-carbon society”.

In closing, Dr. Urenje was asked to explain what he views as the key conditions necessary to create understanding and momentum for achieving transformation to sustainable, low-carbon societies? He explained that blending a mentor/facilitator and participant/learner approach (in contrast to a traditional teacher/student approach) to establish a partnership for mutual transformation can create fertile ground for multi-stakeholder collaboration and cooperation towards the achievement of a low-carbon society. This type of “relationship-based” learning process has the potential to foster mutual personal development for the overall benefit of the group or community. Through collaborative and inquiry-based learning, SWEDESD hopes to:

- Persuade society and smaller businesses to view low carbon activities and actions favourably and to feel compelled to act (we call this agency),
- Make it easier and more convenient for householders and smaller businesses to take up sustainable energy products, services, and solutions,
- Ensure that society visibly supports low-carbon lifestyles through appropriate levels of commitment, leadership and exemplary actions.



SWEDESD – Transformational Learning in Practice

Report from ISAP “ Making Cities More Sustainable in Asia: Bridging Theory and Practice



Simon Gilby, Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan

City government strategies are needed to address the challenges caused by rapidly urbanizing Asian cities, which is leading to strain on the environment through high rates of energy and resource consumption, and exacerbating pressures on the management of solid waste, wastewater, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

In the session “Making Cities More Sustainable in Asia” in ISAP, representatives from the OECD and Wuppertal Institute as well as panelists from Japanese local government shared insights on how to design and implement local sustainable development strategies, and discussed how Japan’s Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) can help balance economic and environmental priorities.

In this session, Dr. Venjakob from the Wuppertal Institute presented on the InnovationCity Bottrop programme which has facilitated approximately 200 projects from retrofitting to renewable energy to electric mobility as well as broad urban development schemes. The programme was designed following Wuppertal’s transition framework which aims to create targeted programmes based on research into the target area’s social-technical systems in their natural environment. Dr. Matsumoto from OECD presented on the recent OECD Green Growth city programmes which started with an initial study on four cities – Chicago, Kitakyushu, Paris and Stockholm. This programme has now expanded into Asia with the release of a concept paper in June 2014 with case studies of Bangkok, Hai Phong and Johor Bahru to be completed during 2014-15.

The session resulted in several key messages;

- Action cannot be sustained without the backing of the citizenry;
- Action must be part of an agreed long-term strategy; and
- Examples from research as well as from national and international city networks must be considered to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

