

Clean Asia Initiative

NEWSLETTER



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The Second East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting



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Feature 1

The Second East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting [EAS EMM]/ The Ninth ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting [ASEAN+3 EMM]

- Toward promotion of environmental cooperation in East Asia -

In Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, the Ninth ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (ASEAN+3 EMM) was held on October 14, 2010, and the Second East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) was held on October 15, 2010. The meetings were chaired by Pehin Dato Hj Suyoi, Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam and joined by Kazuhiko Takemoto, Senior Adviser to the Minister of the Environment, from Japanese government. Ministers discussed the promotion of environmental cooperation between the ASEAN countries, and Japan, China and Korea in the ASEAN+3 EMM. The EAS EMM yielded results such as the agreement on further promotion of activities concerning Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC), which was a priority issue of the meeting. Such results were documented as "Summary of Outcomes of the 2nd EAS EMM" for the next meeting.

The Second East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting [EAS EMM]

EAS EMM aims to follow up on the Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment issued at the Third East Asia Summit held in Singapore, November 2007. The Inaugural EAS EMM was held on October 9, 2008 in Hanoi. This second meeting was attended by the representatives from the 10 ASEAN Member countries, -namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam-, and Japan, China, Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, and the ASEAN Secretariat.



Participants of the Second EAS EMM



Outcomes of the meeting

The second meeting focused on future environmental cooperation under the framework of EAS EMM. Japan introduced outputs of the First High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC), led by the Government of Japan, hosted by Indonesia in March 2010. Japan proposed the second seminar to be held in Kitakyushu City, Japan in the first quarter of 2011. Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia offered to co-host the seminar, and other countries showed strong interest to participate. Japan also proposed a new ESC partnership that engages countries and international organizations with a view to promoting such environmentally sustainable cities. The proposal was endorsed by EAS member countries.

In addition, Japan presented the progress of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia, Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST), trans-boundary air pollution, measures against asbestos, promotion of co-benefit approaches, and other environmental cooperation with EAS countries. These efforts were appreciated by EAS member countries.

A document "Summary of Outcomes" was adopted which compiled the outcomes of the meeting. The document contained outputs of Japanese initiatives such as the High Level Seminar on ESC, the *Satoyama* Initiative, Clean Asia Initiative (CAI), Asian Co-benefits Partnership, as well as cooperation towards the Regional 3R Forum in Asia, COP10, and other cooperative efforts against global warming.

Arrangements are being made to hold the next EAS EMM in Cambodia in 2011.



Participants in the Second EAS EMM

- **Summary of Outcomes of the Second EAS Environment Ministers Meeting:**
http://www.env.go.jp/press/file_view.php?serial=16400&hou_id=13043
- **East Asia Summit Environment Ministers Meeting [EAS EMM]:**
<http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/coop/english/dialogue/easemm.html>

Notice of the Second High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities [ESC]

In the Second EAS EMM, participants approved to have the Second High Level Seminar in Kitakyushu City, Japan in the first quarter of 2011. The First Seminar was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, co-hosted by Japan, Indonesia, Singapore and Australia on March 2-4, 2010. Cambodia, Thailand and Malaysia expressed an intension to co-host this Second Seminar.

The Second Seminar, the same as the First Seminar, is to be joined by high level officials from the environment

ministries of 16 EAS member countries (10 ASEAN member countries, Japan, China, Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand), and major cities, international organizations, aid agencies, inter-city networks, NGOs, research institutes and other bodies promoting ESC in these countries will be participating. In the seminar, wide-range of information and opinions are to be exchanged on ESC building, and involving new partnerships on ESC will likely to be discussed.

- **High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities:** <http://www.hls-esc.org/>



Participants of the High Level Seminar on Environmentally Sustainable Cities

The Ninth ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting [ASEAN+3 EMM]

ASEAN+3 EMM have been held every year since the first meeting in Vientiane, Laos in 2002. In the Ninth ASEAN+3 EMM, held on October 14, 2010 in Brunei, Japan remarked on the promotion of climate change countermeasures, joint activities of Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) and ASEAN Plus Three, and environmental cooperation with Southeast Asian countries.

In the meeting, cooperation among ASEAN Plus Three countries was reported. Opinions were exchanged over the outcomes and future plans of the ASEAN Plus Three Youth Environment Forum, the project for Taxonomic Capacity Building and Governance for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, and the project for Environmentally Sustainable Cities in ASEAN countries.

In addition, a review on cooperation among the ASEAN countries and Japan, China and Korea was presented.

Japan made reports on JAPAN-ASEAN Dialogue on Environmental Cooperation held in August 2010 in Ha-Noi, Vietnam and environmental cooperation based on the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). China made reports on the establishment of the China-ASEAN Environmental Protection Center and the progress of the China-ASEAN Strategy on Environmental Protection Cooperation. While Korea made reports on the progress of a restoration project for forest ecosystem devastated land in the Southeast Asian tropical area and the state of preparation to start the ASEAN Forest Cooperation Organization.

ASEAN member countries appreciated the cooperation of Japan, China and Korea to the ASEAN countries, and expressed further cooperation.

Tenth ASEAN+3 EMM will be held in Cambodia in 2011.





Feature 2

Launch of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative

- Towards promotion of socio-ecological production landscapes -

The launching ceremony of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) was held as a side event during the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP10) on October 19, 2010. More than 500 participants, including government delegates to the COP10, NGOs, the media, researchers, private sectors and diplomats, celebrated its launch making the event a great success.

The IPSI is an international platform for organizations dealing with the maintenance and rebuilding of human-influenced natural environments (socio-ecological production landscapes), that have been maintained sustainably over a long time, for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being. This ceremony announced and celebrated the launching of IPSI, and introduced its founding partners as well as its objectives and activities to the delegates of CBD-COP10 and other stakeholders and partners.



Launching ceremony of IPSI (introduction of founding partners)



Launching ceremony of IPSI (presentation by the United Nations University)

What is the Satoyama Initiative?

Protecting biodiversity entails not only preserving pristine environments, such as wilderness, but also conserving human-influenced natural environments, such as farmlands and secondary forest, that people have developed and maintained sustainably over a long time. These human-influenced natural environments are often inhabited by a variety of species adapted to and rely on these landscapes to survive, hence they play an important role in sustaining and enhancing biodiversity. But these landscapes – and the sustainable practices and knowledge they represent- are increasingly threatened in many parts of the world, due for example, to urbanisation, industrialisation, and rapid rural population

increase and decrease. Measures are urgently needed to conserve these sustainable types of human-influenced natural environments through broader global recognition of their value.

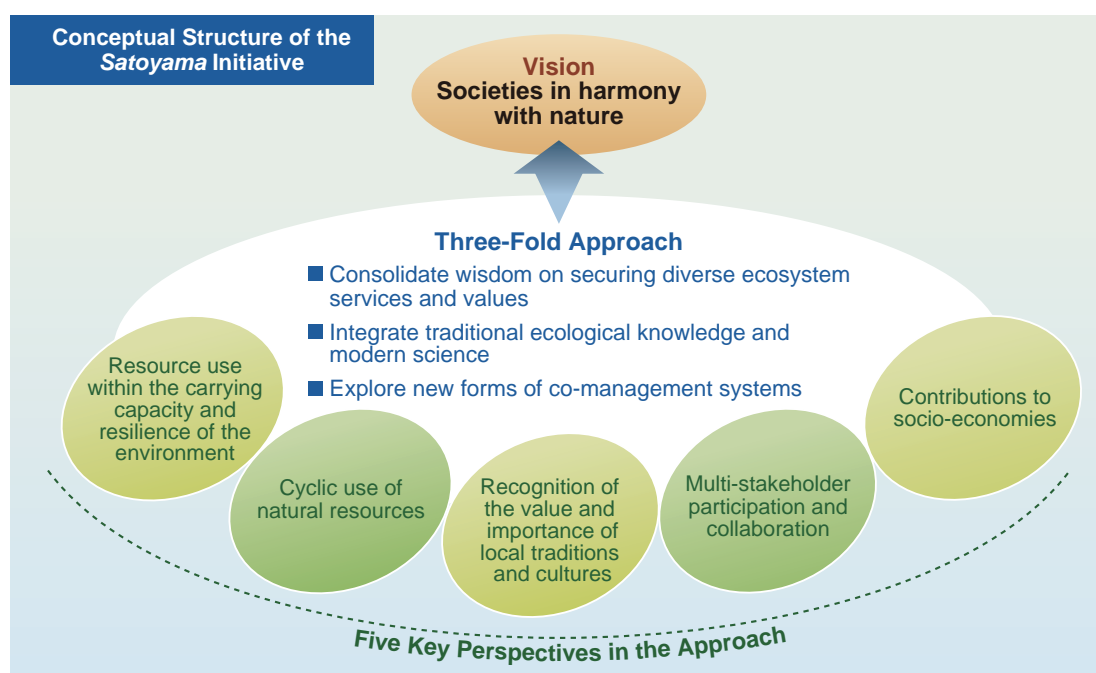
To tackle this critical issue, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) jointly initiated the Satoyama Initiative. This international effort promotes activities consistent with existing fundamental principles including the Ecosystem Approach. Our vision is to realise societies in harmony with nature, that is, built on positive human-nature relationships.

The vision and the approach

The vision of the *Satoyama* Initiative is to realise societies in harmony with nature, comprising human communities where the maintenance and development of socio-economic activities (including agriculture and forestry) align with natural processes. By managing and using biological resources sustainably and thus properly maintaining biodiversity, humans will enjoy a stable supply of various natural benefits well into the future. Through the *Satoyama* Initiative, we will review, with social and scientific points of view, how relationships between humans and nature should function in what are now referred to as socio-ecological production landscapes (SEPL).

Our three-fold approach is intended to maintain and rebuild landscapes in which land and natural resources are used and managed in a more sustainable manner:

- Consolidating wisdom on securing diverse ecosystem services and values
- Integrating traditional ecological knowledge and modern science to promote innovations
- Exploring new forms of co-management systems or evolving frameworks of “commons” while respecting traditional communal land tenure



Outcomes of the *Satoyama* Initiative

The International Experts Meeting on the *Satoyama* Initiative was held in Paris, France on January 29-30, 2010 joined by government officials, researchers and experts from around the world. The Meeting was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), and co-organized by UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). In the Meeting, an active discussion was exchanged on development policies of the *Satoyama* Initiative for the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP10). The Paris Declaration on the “*Satoyama* Initiative” was adopted, which summarized benefits and outlines of the Initiative, and what to note in promoting activities.

The IPSI was launched as an international platform for organizations engaged in maintenance and re-building socio-

ecological production landscapes at a side event during COP10 held on October 19, 2010 with 51 founding partner organizations.

A decision on the Sustainable use of Biodiversity (X/32), which specifically recognizes the *Satoyama* Initiative as a potentially useful tool to better understand and support human-influenced natural environments for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being, was adopted at COP10. The decision also invited parties, other governments and relevant organizations to participate in the IPSI for further promote this Initiative.

The first Global Conference of IPSI will be held in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan from March 10-11, 2011.

- **Satoyama Initiative:** <http://satoyama-initiative.org/en/>



Follow up of the Tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting [TEMM]!

- Promotion of environmental cooperation among Japan, China and Korea -

Japan, China and Korea are closely linked both geographically and historically. Therefore, the three countries share environmental problems in the air and ocean. To exchange straightforward views and to strengthen cooperation on environmental issues not only for the region but the entire globe, the tripartite Environment Ministers Meeting (TEMM) has been held every year since 1999. Based on the Tripartite Joint Action Plan adopted in the TEMM 12, held on May 22-23, 2010, the three countries are to further promote environmental cooperation.

The three countries implement specific projects within a framework of TEMM. Some of them are stated below.

Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry

The roundtable meeting aims at promoting cooperation through information exchange on environment related industry, technology, and development. The roundtable is held every year in order to achieve economic growth in harmony with the environment through cooperation of the three nations. Experts, institutions and government officials exchange information and experiences of policy implementation and pursue joint projects.

Most recent activities: The Tenth Tripartite Roundtable Meeting was held in Seoul, Korea, on December 1-2, 2010. In the meeting, activities on four themes, namely environmental labels, green purchasing, environmental management and environmental technology were reported, and information and opinions were exchanged on these themes. It is expected that these activities will promote positive joint efforts in every field and continue to exchange opinions.



The Tenth Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry

Tripartite Policy Dialogue on Chemicals Management among Japan, China and Korea

The aim of this dialogue is to proceed information exchange regarding current policies and appropriate regulations on chemicals management among the three countries, and to discuss the ways for future co-operation on chemicals management among them. The dialogue has been held on a yearly basis since 2007.

Most recent activities: The fourth dialogue was held in Tokyo during September 8-10, 2010. In the dialogue, following meetings and seminars were held:

[1] Fourth Japan-China-Korea working level meeting

Information and views were exchanged with regard to the latest trend in chemicals management. Agreement was made on cooperation to be strengthened in the fields of test guidelines, Good Laboratory Practice (GLP), and risk assessment. In addition, opinions were exchanged with regard to necessary matters for more specific activities.

[2] Seminar on chemicals management of Japan, China and Korea

Government officials reported the latest trend in the chemicals management of each country, compliance with the POPs Convention, good practices of chemicals management,

and JICA's activities. Seminar participants exchanged information and opinions with regard to these reports.

[3] Experts meeting on guidelines for chemicals ecotoxicity test in Japan, China and Korea

Information was exchanged with regard to the present situation and problems of chemicals ecotoxicity test guidelines in Japan, China and Korea. The test guidelines of the three countries are being summarized, while it was agreed that more detailed examination should be continued in order to seek the possibility of harmonizing the three countries' guidelines.

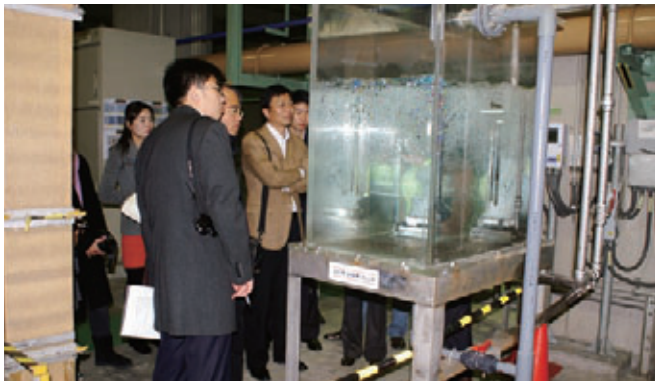


Seminar on chemicals management of Japan, China and Korea

Joint Environmental Training Project

Since 2001, joint training projects have been carried out every year with the objectives of learning common environmental problems in Northeast Asia and to explore ways of cooperation to solve them, promoting exchange of environmental policies in Korea, China, and Japan, and establishing an international network for environmental information exchange.

Most recent activities: The Tenth Training Project was conducted in Tokyo from November 22-27, 2010. At the project, with the theme "Water Environment Protection", experts of fresh water quality conservation and groundwater pollution were invited as lecturers. The administrative officials from the three countries engaged in lectures and site visits. Opinions were exchanged among these officials.



A site visit (Ariake Water Reclamation Center)



Presentation of discussion outcomes

Joint Research on Dust and Sandstorms (DSS)

In recent years, due to the increase damage caused by Dust and Sandstorms (DSS), the Joint Research on DSS is carried out with a view to promoting regional cooperation to combat DSS in North East Asia. A DSS Joint Research Group Meeting has been held annually since 2007. Two working groups are implementing the research activities.

Major activities of each working group

Working Group 1:

"The establishment of DSS monitoring and early warning system"

- Sharing of observed data and comparison on the outcomes of model estimate of one DSS incidence (March 29 - April 3, 2007)
- Addition of a new case study (May 24 - June 4, 2008) and enhancement of shared data
- A joint field campaign was implemented in April 2009 (Baicheng, Jilin, China)
- Summary of outcomes (joint contribution to academic journals)

Working Group 2: "Prevention and Control of DSS"

- Collection of ecosystem restoration technologies
- Knowledge creation through international seminars (case study on latest technologies, traditional techniques)



The Fourth DSS Joint Research Group Meeting

TEMM Website

The objectives of TEMM Website are to widely raise public awareness about philosophy and significance of TEMM and to present the results of TEMM to the world.

- **TEMM Website:** <http://www.temm.org/>





Launch of the Asian Co-benefits Partnership

- Promotion of a co-benefits approach in Asian countries -

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan promotes a co-benefits approach which achieves environmental pollution control measures simultaneously with reduction of GHG emissions (e.g. improvement of the efficiency of thermal power plants, and methane recovery and power generation in wastewater treatment). Environmental pollution, such as air pollution and water contamination, is a pressing issue for developing countries.

Launch of an Asian Co-benefits Partnership was announced in the Better Air Quality (BAQ) 2010 Meeting held in Singapore on November 9, 2010, hosted by the Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia). The Partnership aims to support the mainstreaming of a co-benefits approach into sectoral development plans, policies and projects in Asia.

Goal	The goal of the Partnership is to support the mainstreaming of co-benefits into environmental policies and development plans and promote co-benefits projects in Asia
Partnership members and target audiences	Partnership members may include various stakeholders working on co-benefits in Asia, including government agencies, international development organizations, academe, civil society and the private sector etc..
Major activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Information sharing and knowledge dissemination Gather and manage information of co-benefits approach in Asia and promote co-benefits projects. 2 Development of co-benefits policies and projects in Asia Develop methodologies to quantify co-benefits through joint research, develop and disseminate guidelines and manuals for co-benefits projects, implement capacity building for policy makers, and carry out co-benefits projects. 3 Promoting cooperation among Asian countries and organizations Identify organizations that are interested in co-benefits policies and projects, invite them to join the Partnership, and contribute to and promote their activities. Hold seminars and workshops to exchange experiences and views on a co-benefits approach. 4 Strengthening of regional cooperation in Asia Make efforts to raise awareness on co-benefits among high level policymakers in Asia through appropriate regional and international meetings. Explore an appropriate funding scheme, as well as better use of existing funding schemes to promote co-benefits policies and projects in Asia. 5 Implementation arrangements <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretariat Secretariat: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) Roles: Preparing documents including the Partnership work plans, confirming the progress in the work plans, holding meetings and seminars for Asian countries and organizations, etc. 2. Advisory group Members: Representatives of the Asian countries, international organizations (the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, CAI-Asia, the Global Atmospheric Forum (GAPF)), transport and energy related organizations Roles: Prioritize and review activities, review the work plans and proposals for cooperative framework



Announcement of the launch of the Partnership

- **Asian Co-benefits Partnership Work Plan [2010-2011] (English)** : http://www.iges.or.jp/jp/news/press/pdf/10_11_15.pdf
- **The Secretariat [IGES] website**: http://www.iges.or.jp/jp/news/press/10_11_15.html
- **CAI-Asia website**: <http://baq2010.org/node/1432/>



The Second Meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia

- To promote the 3Rs in Asia -

The Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) hosted the second meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia on October 4-6, 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The theme of this meeting was “3Rs for a Green Economy and Sound Material-Cycle Society.” Participants include the representatives of the 22 governments of Asian countries and Pacific island countries, international organizations, aid organizations, the private sector, research institutions, and NGOs. The participants from Japan include the Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment, Mr. Hidaka. The results of the meeting were summarized in the chair’s summary.

This meeting is recognized as the intersessional meeting of the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

History of the Regional 3R Forum in Asia

The Regional 3R Forum in Asia was jointly initiated by UNCRD and the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan with the launching of the Inaugural Meeting of the Regional 3R Forum in Tokyo in November 2009. The objective of the forum was to establish the base for cooperation among a wide range of related organizations including the governments of Asian countries, international organizations, aid organizations, the private sector, research institutions, and NGOs aimed at the creation of Sound Material-Cycle society in Asian countries by promoting the 3Rs. At the inaugural meeting, it was decided that Malaysia would host the second meeting.

In response to the findings and recommendations of CSD-18 on the importance and benefits of 3Rs, the Second Forum served as a venue to further deepen the discussion and understanding on 3Rs as the basis for sustainable waste management, and to provide a consolidated view from the region as an input to CSD 19. The Second Forum also contributed to enhanced understanding on the role of 3Rs in the context of green economy, the overarching theme for UNCRD/Rio+20.

Results of the Second Forum

The theme of the Second Forum was “3Rs for a Green Economy and Sound Material-Cycle Society” and, opinions on various issues such as 1) the transition to a green economy and the role of the 3Rs, 2) partnerships to create low-carbon societies where resources are used efficiently, 3) the roles of small and medium-sized companies and the informal sector, and 4) pursuing 3R programs and strategies at regional, national, or community level were exchanged. The results were summarized in the chair’s summary under the chairmanship of the Minister of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia Chor Chee Heung. The results of this forum will be utilized as an input to “International Conference on Building Partnerships for Moving towards Zero Waste (CSD19 Intersessional Meeting)”, to be held in February 2011 in Tokyo under the joint auspices of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and UNCRD. Additionally, these proposals will be used as an input towards CSD19 in the waste and the Sound Material-Cycle sector as well.

The next forum will be held in Singapore next year.



Participants of the Second Forum

The followings are the main points of the chair’s summary.

1. Policies and strategies in Japan such as Sound Material-Cycle Society and similar policies and strategies in China and Korea could serve as models for the region to follow.
2. Introducing economic instruments regarding products and wastes, extended producer responsibility (EPR), eco-labelling could lead to improved and cost-effective compliance, creation of new market and employment opportunities.
3. In order to strengthen the information and knowledge base on waste quantities and composition, and their linkages with economic growth (such as GDP), countries should actively consider inventoring waste generation and creating key performance indicators (KPI). The KPIs could assist each national government to track progress, especially decoupling between economic growth and environmental degradation and allow inter-country benchmarking.
4. To achieve success in the transfer of 3R technology, it is important to consider the social conditions that differ according to regions as well as technological conditions.
5. MSMEs in the informal sector play a crucial role in the business of 3Rs in developing countries. Capacity building through technological support and micro financing is effective to improve recycling rates.
6. The concept of 3R is linked to various global issues such as climate change, phase-out of harmful Substances. Efforts in the waste sector provide advantage in CDM projects.
7. Countries are encouraged to develop national 3R strategies. National governments must be clear in their strategy with regards to greening of their economies.
8. Bilateral cooperation is equally important. The Forum is expected to foster collaborations and partnerships and assist in enhancing knowledge about 3Rs, especially its economic and environmental benefits.

● Regional 3R Forum in Asia:

http://www.env.go.jp/recycle/3r/en/forum_asia/index.html
http://www.uncrd.or.jp/env/spc/regional_3r_forum_f.htm





2nd Annual Meeting of the International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies [LCS-RNet]

- Transition to low-carbon societies -

The second annual meeting of the International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet) was held in Berlin, Germany on September 20-21, 2010. There were 88 participants from 57 research institutions from 23 countries, the EU, an international organization, and an UN body. Based on the research reports on low-carbon societies, discussions were exchanged on promotion of a transition to low-carbon societies at the national, municipal and individual level, and the role of science for the realization of the transition.

The outcome of the meeting was reported at a side event of the 16th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP16).



Participants of the 2nd Annual Meeting

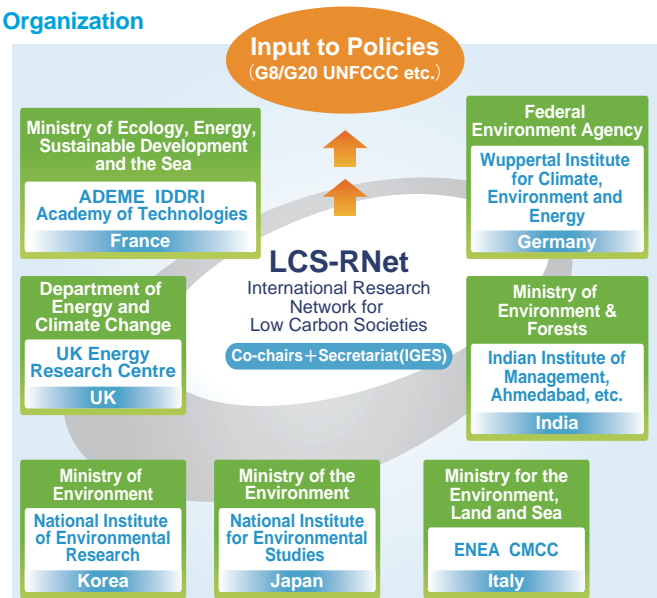
Outline of LCS-RNet

Developments before foundation: The agreement on LCS-RNet foundation was based on a Japanese proposal at the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in Kobe, Japan held from May 24-26, 2008. In April 2009, LCS-RNet was officially launched by research institutions representing their countries. These research institutions engage in research on how to accomplish low-carbon societies in their country. At the same time, LCS-RNet was asked to report its activities periodically by the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting held in April 2009. The first annual meeting was held in Bologna Italy, in October 2009. LCS-RNet is currently joined by 15 research institutes from France, Italy, Korea, the UK, Germany, India and Japan.

Objectives:

1. Contribute policy-making processes on climate change including G8 and Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by providing scientific knowledge
2. Promote research on low-carbon societies and information exchange on various research
3. Promote dialogues between researchers and various stakeholders including policy-makers, NGOs and citizens

Organization



Outcomes of the Second Annual Meeting

In the second annual meeting, there were panel sessions presented on the issues of request for the LCS-RNet from the policymakers, scenarios and models, developed and developing countries' perspective of green growth, to overcome the barriers for the LCS policies and LCS transition to be accepted in a changing society, sustainable consumption and production regarding behavioral change, and innovative governance towards a low-carbon society at various levels. 43 presentations were made by research institutions and policy-makers from 20 countries such as UK, Germany, Denmark, China, India, Brazil and Canada. Major findings are listed below.

- [1] Incorporating different types of knowledge is indispensable to a rapid transition of low-carbon societies. It was also pointed out that the researchers have a role in making changes by delivering scientific knowledge to policy-makers and the industrial sector, and helping them understand this knowledge.
- [2] A mechanism to effectively obtain good practices and research information from other countries is necessary for not only developed countries which are already in the implementation stage but also for developing countries which are now establishing LCS policies. Participants hold high expectations for the information sharing function of LCS-RNet.
- [3] As the framework for LCS, building social consensus, setting mid- and long-term goals, proposing and implementing policies, evaluating scenarios and policy options, developing technology and investing timely according to the transition stage, and pioneering field trials in cities are noted. Research needs should be clarified for above mentioned process, and research sector should fulfill these research needs and should collaborate with policies.

See the website below for details of the meeting, a Synthesis Report, reports on strategies and research towards LCS in the seven member countries. http://lcs-rnet.org/meetings/2010/09/20-21_sept_berlin.html

- **International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies [LCS-RNet]:** <http://lcs-rnet.org/>





Eighth Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants [POPs] in East Asian Countries

- Promotion of POPs control in East Asia -

The Eighth Workshop on Environmental Monitoring of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in East Asian Countries was held in Yokohama on September 21- 22, 2010. Government officials from 11 countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Japan), representatives from international organizations, and experts from Japan participated in the Workshop for further promoting POPs monitoring in East Asian countries.



Participants of the Eighth Workshop

Background and Purposes of the Workshop

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (hereinafter referred to as the POPs Convention) was adopted in 2001 and entered into force in May 2004 with a view to protecting human health and the environment from the harmful impacts of POPs such as Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) at a global level.

Under the Convention, parties are restricted of POPs production, as well as are required to conduct the environmental monitoring at the national and international levels to reveal

POPs current status in humans and the environment (Article 11) and evaluate the effectiveness of this Convention based on monitoring data (Article 16).

Ministry of the Environment of Japan has been holding workshops since FY2002 to establish a monitoring framework in East Asia based on international cooperation and to implement continuous data collection which contribute to Effectiveness Evaluation of the POPs Convention.

Outcomes of the Workshop

In the Eighth Workshop, countermeasures against the new POPs were reported. The data obtained in FY2009 from prioritized areas in East Asia (Hedo-misaki (Japan), Jeju Island (Korea) and Tam Dao (Viet Nam)) and that in Malaysia were reviewed. Future POPs monitoring activities in East Asia after FY2010 and the way to hold the future workshops were discussed.

Major outcomes are stated below.

1. Information were shared on Effectiveness Evaluation of the Convention and global monitoring plans correspond to the new POPs, countermeasures against new POPs in Japan, and the monitoring results in the Arctic.
2. Monitoring results (FY2009) from prioritized areas in East Asia (Hedo-misaki (Japan), Jeju Island (Korea) and Tam Dao (Viet Nam)) and those of Malaysia were reviewed. The data, except for some of them, were accepted as the data of the project for the next Effectiveness Evaluation on the POPs Convention.
3. As the supplemental monitoring area of the prioritized areas, the participants agreed that the monitoring will be conducted in the Philippines in FY2010 and in Lao PDR in FY2011.
4. With regard to the future monitoring activities in East Asia after FY2011, participants discussed the monitoring plan, the roles of participating countries in capacity building on POPs monitoring, and the UNEP (United Nations Environment Plan)/GEF (Global Environment Facility) project in which Viet Nam plays as a leading role. As a result, it was agreed that the Secretariat will develop detailed monitoring plans by the next workshop based on the comments from the participating countries.

The next workshop will be held in later half of 2011 to discuss the details of future monitoring plan. The participating countries other than Japan were invited to consider the possibility of hosting the next workshop.

● **Chairperson's Summary [2010]** (original text): http://www.env.go.jp/press/file_view.php?serial=16394&hou_id=12961





International Symposium on Biodiversity and COP10

Poverty Reduction and Biodiversity in Developing Countries

— What roles should NGOs play? —

The International Symposium on Biodiversity related to COP10 entitled “Poverty Reduction and Biodiversity in Developing Countries - What roles should NGOs play? -” was held in Tokyo on October 23, 2010. This symposium was hosted by Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), supported by the Ministry of the Environment, and afforded cooperation from the Working Group on Biodiversity and Development: poverty, human rights and community development, Japan Civil Network for Convention on Biological Diversity. Around 150 persons attended this symposium. Participants from abroad who had come to Japan to attend in the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10), held in Nagoya, were also invited to this symposium. These guests and representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, JICA, and NGOs discussed various issues on the conservation of biodiversity in developing countries.

Poverty reduction and biodiversity in developing countries

In developing countries, many people are directly dependent on the ecosystems for their livelihoods, and the loss of biodiversity will exacerbates poverty, and the poverty further destroys the ecosystems, which results in a vicious circle. In this symposium, the foreign guests whom strive to create sustainable communities in Southeast Asia reported on the present circumstances of the conservation of biodiversity in various localities.

Following are the examples of the reports. In Laos, the government’s policies to promote development and to eradicate poverty caused forest destruction. In the Philippines, mangrove forests were destroyed but residents in the locality have strived to restore the forests. Indigenous people in Thailand lead a traditional lifestyle and have the abundant wisdom to conserve biodiversity. These examples made it clear that the conservation and management of biodiversity in developing countries requires the creation of sustainable communities under the initiative of the local residents.

Cross-sectional cooperation among NGOs

In the second half of the symposium, a panel discussion was held on the theme, “What is required for the creation of sustainable communities and fair allocation of resources?” To prevent losing biodiversity and to ensure fair allocation of resources and an equitable division of profits, efforts by conventional methods are insufficient. In the future, it will be further required to focus on the viewpoint of social development, “establishing a sustainable society,” and on the viewpoint of human rights, “securing the rights of all people, including the poorest and indigenous people”. It was pointed out in the symposium that what is required is not only the efforts of environmental NGOs that have played a leading role in the conservation of biodiversity, but also cross-sectional cooperation among these environmental NGOs and NGOs related to development and human rights. JANIC will be committed to hosting follow-up meetings for NGOs, promoting cross-sectional cooperation among NGOs, and facilitating local activities from the viewpoint of the conservation of biodiversity and the creation of sustainable communities.



Participants reporting examples in developing countries



A view of the symposium hall



Panel discussion

- **Report on the symposium (On the JANIC website, including videos):** http://www.janic.org/news/1023cop10_3.php
- **Japan Civil Network for Convention on Biological Diversity:** <http://www.cbdnet.jp/>

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