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Policy Design and Evaluation to Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns in Asian Region

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The Asian region has grown economically to become a consumption and production center. To avoid unsustainable consumption and production patterns where the environmental burden increases with economic growth, we have to find a transition path to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, as shown in Fig. 1.

In this project, named PECoP-Asia, we aimed to develop a policy design framework for achieving SCP in the Asian region using various stakeholders' practices and considering characteristics of respective areas, including their economy and lifestyles.

Through various field studies and workshops in collaboration with local stakeholders, we identified four strategic directions as guides and 13 opportunities as entry points for SCP policymaking, as shown in Fig. 2. The four directions are: 1) SCP policies are expanding from the environmental domain to the socio-technology domain, 2) Strengthening linkages between consumption and production is a key emerging trend, 3) Transition to SCP is a socio-technical regime shift requiring successive changes in social practices, technology use in daily life, and associated infrastructure, and 4) Bottom-up approaches are necessary to enhance the effectiveness of SCP policies. These directions have brought about a new policy design framework for inducing the needed socio-economic transition considering the multifaceted policy domain. We enumerated the 13 opportunities to deliver different viewpoints in the framework.

We summarized more than 40 practices in Asia and developed indicators and tools for practical use of these opportunities, such as a locally-oriented product design tool for manufacturers, a new workshop method for co-creation and envisioning of regional SCP patterns, the inclusive wealth index for evaluation of wellbeing-oriented policy evaluation, and a new board game for students to learn life cycle thinking.

These entry points, tools and indicators shall be supported through two means. Firstly, they should be linked to a new policy design framework called "Envisioning-based Policy Making (EnBPM)" emphasizing co-design of future social visions. To obtain outcomes tackling a wide range of SCP targets, comprehensive efforts will be necessary. Secondly, it is essential to have facilitation mechanisms at the regional level. Existing regional policy platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP), regional business entities, expert networks such as the PECoP-Asia, and leading national and local governments can put forth an effort to network different initiatives at the regional level.

The outcome of this project will contribute to the designing and implementation of SCP policies in Asia, including Japan, and to policy dialogues with Asian countries.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

To achieve socio-economic sustainability within planetary boundaries

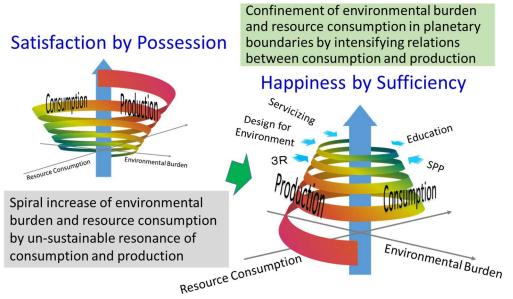


Fig. 1 Transition path to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns.

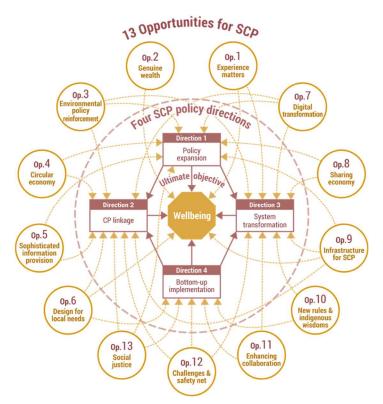


Fig. 2 Four strategic directions as guides and 13 opportunities as entry points for SCP policymaking.