**Third Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies**

**between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

*Tokyo, Japan / Online*

*20-21 July 2022*

*Side Event Summary*

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| **Event title**  |
| *Promoting synergies at local level: Why Local Governments are strengthening synergies between climate agenda and sustainable development?* |
| **Overview of event and key messages** |
| *Local and regional governments (LRGs) are actively working to localise climate and sustainability agendas. A growing number of cities have declared their intentions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050—and in many cases, even before that date—while also are deploying innovative strategies to localise the Sustainable Development Goals. This side event, moderated by Yatsuka Kataoka, Programme Director, City Taskforce, IGES, brought together a wide range of representatives from local and regional governments to discuss how they are strengthening synergies between climate action and the SDGs at the local level. Speakers remarked the crucial role of LRGs in implementing global agendas and materialising tangible actions. At the same time, they noted the need to overcome barriers to implementation, such as the current silo approach of much of local governance, in order to find additional synergies. One notable tool used to facilitate the conceptualisation of synergies is the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process, which helps to find synergies between different policy domains while also limiting trade-offs.* |
| **Speaker notes (including remarks by moderator)** |
| ***Professor TAKEUCHI Kazuhiko, President, IGES*** *discussed the role of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in strengthening multi-level governance as well as identifying synergies between different global agendas. He underlined that cooperative work between different departments and levels of governments is paramount to achieve the ambitious goals set by the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.* ***Mr. Vasco ALVES CORDEIRO, President, The European Committee of the Regions*** *shared the perspective from European regions. They stressed that local governments are the first line of defence against current and future crisis. It is important to amplify their voices in the global conversation on sustainable development, switching to a bottom-up approach.* ***Mr. UCHIDA Togo, Executive Director, ICLEI Japan Office*** *noted that in Japan, decarbonisation efforts are pursued through collaboration between local and national government and SDGs are at the core of these activities. Mr. Uchida also explained how the leading local governments under G7 countries are recognising the importance and working on synergies amongst key international agenda on sustainability such as the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.* ***Dr. Helmi GUNAWAN, Head of Conservation and Climate Change Control, West Java Environmental Agency, Indonesia*** *presented about the mechanisms implemented in West Java to promote synergies. For instance, West Java is connecting low carbon development and SDGs’ objectives in sectors such as solid waste or wastewater management. He also introduced key urban related discussion topics under G20 process.* ***Mr. NAKAMURA Yasuaki, Director for Development Cooperation Division, International Affairs Bureau, City of Yokohama, Japan*** *introduced integrated actions of Yokohama, an internationally recognised sustainable smart city. Yokohama developed its VLR in 2021 as a global communication tool, mapping the SDGs into municipal agendas while emphasising strategies on zero carbon development.* ***Ms. Roshanie DISSANAYAKE, Colombo Municipal Commissioner, Sri Lanka*** *introduced Colombo’s local actions to fight climate change and implement the SDGs. They stressed that even though, Sri Lanka successfully presented its first VNR in 2018, persistent systemic and structural issues limit actions from local governments—issues that need to be urgently addressed.* ***Ms. SHIMIZU Hitomi****,* ***Policy Promotions Department, SDGs Strategy Office, Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido, Japan*** *discussed Shimokawa’s experience on SDG localisation. Shimokawa, which was among the first local governments to present a VLR in 2018, is integrating social, economic, and environmental concerns in its municipal strategies, and has developed its own set of SDG indicators to measure progress.* ***Mr. SHIMIZU Hayato, Mayor of Saitama City, Japan*** *provided a final reflection and highlighted the way forward. They stressed the importance of increasing local efforts. Partnerships between the private and public sector as well across cities and regions were suggested as key elements to accelerate transitioning to a carbon neutral society.* ***Ms. Kobie BRAND****,* ***Deputy Secretary General and Regional Director of African region, ICLEI*** *provided the closing remarks. They highlighted that multilevel governance, a whole of government approach, and collaborative governance will be powerful drivers for change, and in this, LRGs play a leading role.*  |