**Third Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies**

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

*Tokyo, Japan / Online*

*20 July 2022*

*Side Event Summary*

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| **Event title** |
| How to synergize the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? |
| **Overview of event and key messages** |
| This side event moderated by Nandakumar Janardhanan from IGES showcased the [Energy Policy Tracker](https://www.energypolicytracker.org/) (EPT), which tracks government response measures in the energy sector since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and inform on policy instruments for governments to increase climate action (SDG 13) and offset rising inequality (SDG 10). The event also revealed Japan's efforts to synergize the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by encouraging local municipalities to promote renewable energy and a circular economy. The side event followed with presentations from Lourdes Sanchez (Senior Policy Advisor and Indonesia Lead at IISD) on the [Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker](https://fossilfuelsubsidytracker.org/) and the importance of reporting, measuring, and monitoring fossil fuel subsidies, and from Claire Potdevin (Fiscal Policy Expert at UNEP) on SDG indicator 12.C.1. |
| **Speaker notes (including remarks by moderator)** |
| **Welcome and Introduction**[***Nanda Kumar Janardhanan***](https://www.iges.or.jp/en/about/staff/janardhanan-nanda-kumar)***, Research Manager Climate and Energy, Regional Coordinator South Asia, IGES****, introduced the focus of the webinar – government climate actions and their synergies in meeting the Paris Agreement goals and the SDG’s and introduced the panelists.***Trends From the Energy Policy Tracker in Relation to SDG 10 and 13**[***Joachim Roth***](https://www.iisd.org/people/joachim-roth)***, Policy Analyst, IISD***, *showed the evolution of public money commitments from the Energy Policy Tracker and also presented the Inequality and Poverty dashboard. He showed both key recommendations on how to increase climate ambition and how to address the social impacts of energy policies.***Case study—Japan: Efforts at the municipal level to promote renewable energy and circular economy**[***Satoshi Kojima***](https://www.iges.or.jp/en/about/staff/kojima-satoshi?page=%2C13)***, Program Director (Kansai Research Centre), Senior Policy Researcher (Climate and Energy), IGES****, provided a case study of Japan which is facing a depopulation in rural areas and an aging population. He also presented the results of an AI study led by (Hiroi and Fukuda 2021) which provides recommendations on how to support a regional decarbonisation roadmap.***Reporting, Monitoring, and Evaluating Fossil Fuel Subsidies**[***Lourdes Sanchez***](https://www.iisd.org/people/lourdes-sanchez)***, Senior Policy Advisor and Lead, Indonesia, IISD****, presented findings from the Fossil Fuel Subsidy Tracker and explained how reforming fossil fuel subsidies can reduce global emissions. Using revenues from fossil fuel subsidies to support renewable energy can reduce emissions even more.***SDG Indicator 12.C.1**[***Claire Potdevin***](https://www.linkedin.com/in/claire-potdevin-44166593/)***, Fiscal Policy Expert, UNEP****, presented SDG indicator 12c.1. National statistics offices report on the SDG 12c.1 indicator, and international or intergovernmental coordination are usually needed. As of now there are still gaps in fossil fuel subsidy data as some countries do not yet have the resources to build such inventories.* |
| **Q&A** |
| *Are there any studies on the impacts of the Ukraine crisis on fossil fuel subsidies?** *Yes there are several, including specific roadmaps developed by the EU (Repower EU) and the IEA 10 point plan on how to reduce dependence on Russian gas*
* *Some studies such as this one also show at the EU level some of the ways in which governments are responding to the energy price crisis:* [*https://institutdelors.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20220530\_AMO\_United\_in\_diversity-3.pdf*](https://institutdelors.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/20220530_AMO_United_in_diversity-3.pdf)
* *It is very likely we will observe higher fossil fuel subsidies in 2021 due to the energy price crisis but OECD estimates are not yet available and will be at the end of the year*

Is Dr Kojima’s research also applying to other countries beyond Japan?* So far no there may be some interest in the United States
* The idea is to promote the circulating and ecological sphere concept to various policymakers

How are country submissions for SDG indicator 12.c.1 cross-checked? * The aim is to make sure that the data we receive is aligned with the methodology requirements
* If we find very large discrepancies between estimates produced by other sources (OECD fossil fuel subsidy data for example) and the data submitted during country submissions, this is also something we double check.

Is it responsible for governments to remove fossil fuel subsidies given the current energy price crisis and can carbon removal technologies address the climate crisis?* Fossil fuel subsidies are often regressive, meaning they benefit higher income groups who consumer more fuel the most and also tend to be non-targetted so they are not an effective way of addressing rising energy prices for consumers
* As the analysis from the inequality and poverty dashboard shows that are other ways to support consumers via targetted cash transfers and support for clean energy alternatives
* The latest IPCCC report shows that CCS and other carbon removal technologies are quite costly and not cost effective in their mitigation impact. It is therefore questionable for governments to invest a lot of money into these technologies. The opportunity cost is high when other more suitable options are available such as investing in renewables.
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