**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** |
| *Applying Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES) Concept for Placing Urban Rural Linkages at the Core of Localization of Climate and Sustainable Development Actions* |
| **Overview of event and key messages** |
| *The session was co-organised by Ministry of Environment of Japan, IGES, START International, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT) and Thammasat University. The purpose of this session was to provide a platform to exchange views on importance of integrated actions for localization of global and national goals and targets through applying Circulating and Ecological Sphere approach. This session shared the concept of CES and its application in Japan, South and South-East Asian city-regions. The panel discussed the key success factors of CES application in Japanese city region and global application of CES, and recent collaborative efforts to promote CES in South and South-East Asia. Key messages from the session are the following;*   1. *It is urgent to take integrated and collective actions at local level to realise climate and SDGs synergies* 2. *CES approach offers opportunities to consider urban and rural systems in a collective manner to optimise resource circulation and consumption that contribute to economic, social and environmental sustainability simultaneously* 3. *Co-development approach should be placed at the core of CES framework to realise spatial and sectoral partnerships between urban and rural*   *Moderated by* ***Dr. Eric Zusman, Research Leader, Integrated Sustainability Center, IGES*** |
| **Speaker notes (including remarks by moderator)** |
| ***<Opening remarks>***  ***Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President, IGES,*** *in his welcome speech shared the overview of the concept of CES. He highlighted that living in harmony with nature should be the key principle of localisation of climate and SDGs goals that need urban and rural collective actions.*  ***Mr. Takao Shiraishi, Director-General for Regional Decarbonization Policy, Ministry of Environment of Japan,*** *shared that the basic Environmental Plan of Japan integrated the CES concept as a strategic approach for localisation of SDGs and decarbonisation.*  ***<Presentation Session>***  ***Dr. Bijon Kumer Mitra, Deputy Director, Integrated Sustainability Center, IGES,*** *shared application of CES approach in various local contexts taking the good example from Japanese city-regions.*  ***Mr. Kazuaki Takahashi, Head of climate policy section, Yokohama City,*** *talked about Yokohama city’s efforts to achieve decarbonisation through cooperation. He introduced the city’s projects focusing on city-to-city and inter-regional collaborations to achieve Net-Zero. Also, he highlighted the need for changes towards lifestyles that is based on local resources.*  ***Mr. Toshio Tomioka, President, Aomori Kenmin Energy,*** *stressed the**importance of community-based renewable energy cooperatives that can promote local production and consumption of renewable energy and accelerate the CES concept forward.*  ***Dr. Sameer M. Deshkar, Coordinator, IRDR ICoE Resilient Communities & Settlements, VNIT,*** *presented a case study in the Nagpur city region in India. Based on the study, he introduced the five entry points for the application of CES; policy coordination, stakeholder engagement, urban-rural partnership, community awareness and technological interventions.*  ***Dr. Wijitbusaba Ann Marome, Head of Urban Futures and Policy Research Unit, Thammasat University, Thailand,*** *introduced a case study in the Udon Thani city region. She reported that the study conducted analysis of urban-rural natural and socio-economic resource flows, stakeholder engagement workshops and in-depth interviews with local governments and approaches to translate knowledge into local actions led by the province.*  ***<Panel discussion>***  ***Ms. Hitomi Shimizu, SDGs Ambassador, Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido, Japan,*** *talked about Shimokawa town’s approach on applying CES concept with people-centred activities. She introduced how her town uses the SDGs idea by connecting it to the town’s culture such as a community’s event.*  ***Mr. Wanchai Chanporn, Deputy Governor, Udon Thani, Thailand,*** *talked about his vision to become the best model of CES application in the next five years. He intends to make the region’s comprehensive plan greener mainly by supporting electric vehicles, reducing agricultural wastes and establishing “BCG (Bio-Circular-Green) economy” more concretely.*  ***Professor Rajib Shaw, Keio University, Japan and Coordinating Lead Author for Asia chapter of IPCC’s 6th Assessment Report,*** *mentioned the key perspectives in the application of CES – governance, technology, local knowledge and citizen’s approach. On the importance of citizen’s initiatives, he suggested to make “the last one mile the first mile” in order to co-design and co-deliver the solutions.*  ***Mr. Yasuo Takahashi, Executive Director, IGES,*** *highlighted the importance of international efforts to advance the CES approach for localisation of SDGs and decarbonisation. In this regard, he introduced CES-Asia initiative by IGES, START and other key partners that aims to promote bottom-up approach to develop CES model in the local contexts. He also pointed out that bottom-up approach will lead to the national policy process as well as global agenda development process.*  *The moderator,* ***Dr. Eric Zusman, Research Leader, Integrated Sustainability Center, IGES****, summarised the event that it brought together examples in different contexts and views from different positions, which made this event itself a place to share knowledge and co-design solutions.* |