



VI

Other Activities



Establishment of IGES Bangkok Office

In the aim of extensive research activities in the Asia-Pacific region, and strengthened the cooperation with research institutions, international organisations, and government agencies in the region, IGES Project Office in Bangkok was set up within UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), located on the campus of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand in May 2003. To commemorate the establishment, IGES organised an inaugural symposium entitled "Environmental Challenges, Opportunities and Regional Cooperation in South East Asia" on 30 May 2003 at AIT Conference Center Auditorium with nearly 100 participants including the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thai government, the Minister, Embassy of Japan, Directors from UN agencies as well as researchers from several collaborative institutes.

As the first IGES office established outside of Japan, IGES Bangkok Office undertook various tasks beside its regular office operations. The tasks include

- (1) conduct collaborative research with Thailand Environment Institute on "Improving Environmental Performance of Small and Medium-sized

Enterprises"

- (2) provide technical inputs to the implementation of "National Performance Assessment and Subregional Strategic Environment Framework in the Greater Mekong Subregion" financed by the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), being part of the Project Secretariat
- (3) develop network and enhance collaboration with research institutes, government agencies, and international organisations located in Thailand as well as neighbouring countries
- (4) collect information and facilitate the information flow for the IGES headquarters
- (5) assist communications between IGES headquarters and those organisation located in Thailand
- (6) disseminate IGES activities and publications.

Moreover, further partnership with UNEP in Asia and the Pacific region had been sought and developed through daily communication as well as formal discussion. For example, IGES became a new Network Member of the UNEP's initiative "Collaborative Assessment



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Inaugural Symposium of IGES Project Office in Bangkok

Panel speakers (from left): Dr. Chaiyod Bunyagidj, Vice President of Thailand Environment Institute (TEI); Dr. Monthip Sriratana Tabucanon, Director General, Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Thai Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and member of IGES Board of Trustees; Mr. Ravi Sawhney, Director of Environment and Sustainable Development Division, UN ESCAP; and Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Regional Director and Representative, UNEP ROAP and Director of UNEP RRCAP.



Network (CAN)" and participated in the 4th Meeting held in November 2003. At the meeting, regional/subregional priority issues were discussed, as well as partnership among members was explored.

Further to the existing network, the Bangkok office has extended IGES network to the private sector in Thailand. In September, the Siam Cement Public Company Ltd. held "Total Quality Days" for awareness rising

on quality and environmental management system among about 300 managing staff of the company, and the Bangkok office exhibited IGES publications as well as materials to introduce IGES activities, especially related to "business and the environment." The contact with the company is maintained for possible future work with the private sector.



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IGES Booth for "Total Quality Days" at Siam Cement Co., Ltd. Bangkok, Thailand

Third Toyota Stakeholder Dialogue

The 'Third Toyota Stakeholder Dialogue' was held at IGES on the 28th-29th November, 2003, for which IGES served as Secretariat, for the third time.

The participants were taken from various interest groups and discussed topics on which there were diverse values and opinions. By sharing relevant information, the group tried to identify and understand any points of agreement and disagreement within their context, and then to reach a feasible consensus. This type of 'Participatory Conference' has come into the limelight as a strengthening force on decision-making mechanisms.

Participatory conferences were developed in the 1980s in Europe and America, in response to issues to which no simple solution could be found, such as the situation regarding the development of new technology, and sustainable towns, cities and transport. They were seen as a way to promote consensus-building based on discussion. Examples can also be found in Japan, such as the Consensus Conference on genetically modified foods, held by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The theme for this Third Dialogue was 'Environmentally Sustainable Transport'. In determining the theme, the characteristics of the conference were taken into

account and the aim was to 'share, among participants, the future vision that we should be aiming for in promoting environmentally sustainable transport in Japan, and to clarify, through discussion, the factors which have been hindering its materialization.' The following thought from the sponsor, Toyota Motor Corporation, was also a decisive factor in the decision. 'We must handle not only the car's positive aspects - offering people affluence and freedom of movement - but also its negative - the additions to the environment.'

Also, the public symposium 'Environmentally Sustainable Transport' was held as a type of trial run, in that the main priority was to give the participants of the dialogue the opportunity to offer information and to raise questions, and during the two days of discussions, lively debate unfolded between the thirty stakeholders. Due to time limitations, discussion on the actualization of environmentally sustainable transport could not be said to be entirely exhausted, but the view was put forward by the participants that much more effective use should be made of this type of inter-stakeholder dialogue - a very positive result. Also, there were many who called for the continued use of this type of conference and so expectations placed on this, and future dialogues are high.



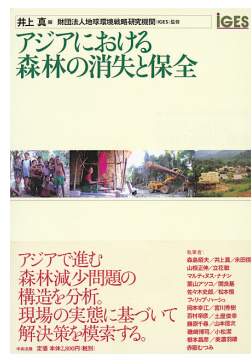
Information dissemination

IGES disseminates information about its strategic research, targeting various bodies such as other international organisations and research institutes, researchers, decision makers, the media, NGOs, and the general public. Further, towards the realisation of a fair and sustainable society, it collects information about discussion and policy trends regarding global environmental issues, starting with worldwide discussions. It then analyses this information from a local viewpoint in an easy-to-understand way, and disseminates it to the rest of the world.

Commercial Publications

1. *The Deforestation and Conservation of Forests in Asia* (Editor: Makoto Inoue, Publisher: Chuo Hoki)

Based on a global discussion and the local reality, the purpose of this publication was to clarify the structure of deforestation in Asia and to provide reliable source material for the consideration of future forest conservation policies. While this report is a product of the project research, it has not been prepared as a strategic research initiative. It is a report based on field research and surveys obtained in the First to Second Phase. This is valuable as a source of information directly from the people at the grass roots.



2. *Corporate Environmental Reporting in Japan* (Editor: Katsuhiko Kokubu & Kenjiro Hirayama, Publisher: The Energy Conservation Center, Japan)

This reports the status of Japanese Corporate Environmental Reporting (CER), examines the issues like increasing the number of disclosing companies,



upgrading CER for evaluating the businesses and responding to the readers' needs.

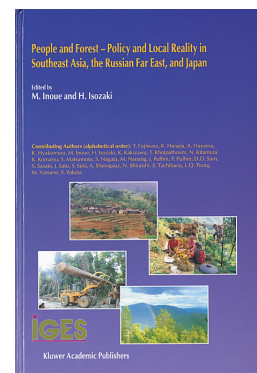
3. *Environmental Resuscitation and Information Technologies* (Editors: Prof. Tadahiro Mitsuhashi and IGES, Publisher: Toyo Keizai Shimposha)

This book aims to introduce the most advanced approaches in the application of Information Technologies (IT) to conquer the limit of the earth from the viewpoint of whether the ongoing IT Revolution can solve the pressing global environmental problems. This book, which was written by members of "Study Group on IT Revolution and the Environment" held by IGES, introduces specific efforts in local communities as well as those by environmentally advanced companies such as Fujitsu, NEC, Sony and IBM.



4. *People and Forest- Policy and Local Reality in Southeast Asia, Russian Far East, and Japan* (Editor: Makoto Inoue and Hiroji Isozaki, Publisher: Kluwer Academic Publishers)

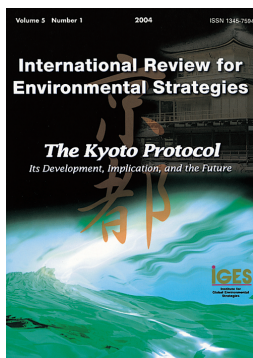
This book is based on the result of the first to second phase of IGES Forest Conservation Project and consists of three parts. Part 1 provides case analyses of the major causes of forest loss and degradation, examines necessary countermeasures, especially legal, administrative, economic, and political measures. Part 2 covers relevant policy and legislation on forest management in Asian countries. Part 3 illustrates the actual situation of the forests and the local communities around them from the local perspective.



Periodicals

1. *International Review for Environmental Strategies (IRES)*

An academic journal *International Review for Environmental Strategies (IRES)* is published with the aim of providing information about the newest trends in global environmental issues and introducing actual strategic essays for solving global environmental problems. In FY 2003, there were two issues published including one special issue "Environmental Education for Sustainable Development" (3000 issues each).



2. *Top Environmental News in Asia*

This has been published every year since the establishment of IGES, using a network of researchers who deal with environmental issues in the Asia-Pacific region. In FY2003, this was compiled into a book with 92 news articles by researchers from 18 countries and 3 organisations in the Asia-Pacific region. Beginning with environmental issues from various Asian countries, it introduced important news relating to environmental issues which have global repercussions reaching further than the Asia-Pacific region. (English and Japanese: 1,200 issues)



3. Newsletter

The newsletter *What's New from IGES?* was



published. It introduces IGES' activities to a wide audience from various international and research organisations, researchers, NGOs, the media and the general public. English and Japanese: 2,000 copies each.

Dissemination of information over the Internet

1. Improvement of Website

The Website provided the up-to-date information not only about IGES activities but also international trends by actively introducing research outputs in a regular basis.

2. E-alert

The e-mail newsletter "E-alert" was published once a month or two. It not only provided the latest information about IGES' activities, but also transmits contents that has been analysed by the researchers so that trends on environmental issues can be quickly and easily understood. It was sent to about 2,300 registered readers.

3. IGES environmental information system

IGES environmental information system was launched on a test-basis. Users can retrieve the latest information, especially on sustainable development, not only from IGES' but also from Websites of registered organisations in the Asia-Pacific region. The system will also include all the IGES research papers, articles and books from FY2004.



Affiliate Membership-Seminars for Affiliate Members

The affiliate membership system is one part of the IGES aim to build collaborative and cooperative relations with governments, local authorities, the private sector, as well as NGOs and other public bodies.

Affiliate members benefit from invitations to IGES-sponsored symposiums and other events and receive free publications and other materials. In addition they are able to participate in the "Seminars for Affiliate members".

The aim of these seminars, which are open to the public, is to widely publicise the details of IGES activities and encourage registration of affiliate members.

In FY 2003, participants addressed the most pertinent global environmental issues, considering appropri-

ate measures from the various standpoint of governments, businesses and local citizens. The 1st and 2nd seminars were held jointly with the Kanagawa Foundation for Academic and Cultural Exchange (K-FACE) and the third was held independently by IGES. At each of the meetings, there were a large number of participants amongst whom extensive discussions developed.

As of March 31, 2004, the number of affiliate members stood at 20 corporate members, 2 NGOs, 83 individual members (of which 2 were associate members), and 2 student members, a small increase in all of the membership categories.



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	Date	Theme and Programme	Speaker · Presentation	Venue
Seminar 1	Jan 15 (Thurs)	'Measures for the prevention of Global Warming _ Towards the reduction of Greenhouse Gases'		Landmark Tower, 13F, The Yokohama Forum, Seminar Room 1
		Report on COP9	Yasushi Ninomiya : Researcher, IGES Climate Policy Project	
		Keynote Presentation 'Issues of Global Warming from a Business Perspective'	Naoki Matsuo : Representative Climate Expert	
		Report on Activities	Chikako Aizawa : Section Head, Kamakura City Environmental Policy Department	
		Exchange of ideas and opinions · Discussion		
Seminar 2	Feb 4 (Thurs)	'Creating links between society and the promotion of environmental education'		
		Report 1 'Environmental Education for the development of Ecotourism'	Akihiro Nakahata : Researcher, IGES Environmental Education Project	
		Report 2 'Let's work together to preserve "satoyama" _ reporting, experiencing and making it a part of our everyday lives.'	Mihoko Yoshitake : NPO 'Yokohama Satoyama Institute - NORA'	
		Report 3 'Footpaths on TamaKyuryo _ cooperation amongst local citizens, business and the government.'	Yukiko Kamiya : NPO 'Midori no Yubi'	
		Exchange of ideas and opinions · Discussion		
Seminar 3	March 9 (Mon)	'Urban Environmental Issues in Asia'		The Kanagawa Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Center, 13F, Conference Room 2
		Report 1 'The activities of the IGES Urban Environmental Project'	Hidefumi Imura : Project Leader, IGES Urban Environmental Management Project	
		Report 2 'International Cooperation regarding Environmental issues - Local Initiatives and the Kitakyushu Initiative'	Christine Pearson : Division Chief, IGES Kitakyushu Office	
		Report 3 'China _ rapid development and the environmental industry'	Chiang Miao : Researcher, IGES Urban Environmental Management Project	
		Exchange of ideas and opinions · Discussion		

