

Foreword



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Chair, IGES Board of Directors

IGES, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, is an international research institute which aims for the realisation of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through practical and innovative strategic policy research. In 1998, IGES was established with the support of the Japanese government and Kanagawa prefecture.

Based on the project research method with a three year term, collaborative research has been conducted on practical research issues. FY2004 was the first year of the Third Phase and each project launched its research activity.

For the past six years, through the First (1998-2000) and the Second Phases (2001-2003), the projects cooperated with each other to pursue practical and problem-solving research for policy recommendations. Based on the outcome of the First Phase, IGES was pro-active in its efforts to work as an international research institute in the Second Phase. For instance, we tried to understand the policy needs and disseminate research output through dialogue in order to strategically meet the needs of targeted stakeholders. Meanwhile, we made links with international organisations and initiatives, and created mechanisms or networks so our research output could reflect the policies in a more effective way. In addition, we not only participated in major international conferences, such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), but also organised side events at these conferences. Throughout these activities, IGES has become widely and internationally known.

The Third Phase, starting from April 2004, sees the launch of 6 projects (Climate Policy Project, Forest Conservation Project, Urban Environmental Manage-

ment Project, Freshwater Resources Management Project, Business for Sustainable Society Project and Long-term Perspective and Policy Integration Project) and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Programme. Along with concrete and practical policy research for the policy needs in the region, we work very hard for outreach activities by making the most of our intelligent assets, such as research output and networks established in the past phases. In December 2004, the Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), with IGES as its secretariat, adopted the final report that included recommendations for sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. The report was officially launched at the 5th Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED 2005). Through our contributions and strong involvement of our researchers in the APFED discussion process, international recognition of IGES research activities has been enhanced. Moreover, the inter-governmental network secretariat "Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)" came under the administrative umbrella of IGES so that the network, with policy makers and research institutes in the region, has been strengthened.

In FY2004, the Information Dissemination and Outreach Programme was established to reflect the policy-making processes of national and local governments and the activities of businesses and local citizens. As a new challenge, in November 2004 IGES opened the website "IGES EnviroScope", where we disseminate the latest information about the environment and sustainable development in real time, including research output of IGES and other relevant organisations, as well as

environmental policy trends in various countries and regions around the world. By utilising this information and communication technology, we continue to enhance our capability for rapidly collecting and disseminating the latest information.

Based on this experience, IGES tries to promote higher standards of international strategic research and to influence policy and decision making by active outreach activities targeting various stakeholders. Throughout these activities, we continue to meet challenges from the Asia-

Pacific region for the realisation of global sustainable society.

Lastly, I would like to express my thanks to you and ask for your continued understanding of and cooperation with IGES research activities.



IGES Annual Report FY2004

Contents

I	Outline of IGES	6
II	Outcomes of Each Research Project/Programme	
	Climate Policy Project	10
	Forest Conservation Project	14
	Urban Environmental Management Project	16
	Freshwater Resources Management Project	18
	Business for Sustainable Society Project	20
	Long-term Perspective and Policy Integration Project	22
	Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Programme	24
III	Outreach Activities	
	ECO ASIA 2004	28
	International Symposium 2004 on Business and the Environment	28
	COP10 Side Event: Mainstreaming Adaptation in Development - Idealistic or Realistic?	29
	COP10 Side Event: The Kyoto Train - Where do we go next?	30
	COP10 Side Event: Next Steps for CDM - Gaps and Ways to Overcome	30
	Workshop on Collaborative Forest Governance	31
	The Third Plenary Workshop of Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options (RISPO)	31
	Integrated Capacity Strengthening for CDM/JI: Tokyo Meeting 2004	32
	MCED2005 Side Event	32
	Information Dissemination and Outreach	33
IV	IPCC-NGGIP Technical Support Unit (TSU)	36
V	Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)	40
VI	Other Activities	
	Toyota Stakeholder Dialogue	44
	Exchange with Affiliate Members	44
	Centre for Sustainability (CfS)	46
Appendix		
	◇ Financial Statements	50
	◇ Organisation (About IGES)	53

