News from IGES

calendar

Dec.2(Thu.)-3(Fri.)

The third Meeting of the Urban Environmental Management Project (Shonan Village Center)

Dec.8(Wed.)-10(Fri.) Strengthening NGOs in International Projects : a Focus on Environmental Education (National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, Tokyo)

Dec.9(Thu.) Symposium on "New Deveropment Patterns and Environment toward the 21st century" (Lawyer's Association, Tokyo)

Dec.17(Fri.)-18(Sat.) Workshop on Environmental Education in Asia-Pacific Region (Mahidol University, Thailand)

Dec.22(Wed.) Affiliate Members Meeting (Yokohama)

Jan.14(Fri.)

Open Seminar / Seminar for Affiliate Members (Yokohama)

Jan.26(Wed.)- 27(Thu.) International Workshop on CDM (Shonan Village Center)

Jan.28(Fri.) Open Seminar / Seminar for Affiliate Members (Yokohama)

Feb.5(Sat.)-6(Sun.)

Meeting of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees (Shonan Village Center)

Feb.14(Mon.)-15(Tue.) G8 Forum on Future Environment (Shonan Village Center)

Feb.22(Tue.)-23(Wed.) nternational Workshop on Lona-term Prospective Project of ECO ASIA (Shonan Village Center)

Feb.28(Mon.)-Mar.1(Wed.) IPCC Expert Meeting (Sydney, Australia)

Middle of Feb.

Workshop on Comparative Studies of Material Recycling Societies in Japan, Koreg and Ching (Kitakyushu) <Subject to change>

Feb. Workshop on Media and the Environment (Shonan Village Center) <Subject to change>

Mar.2(Thu.)-4(Sat.)

IPCC Inventory Task Force Bureau Meeting (Sydney, Australia)

Mar.3(Fri.) Open Seminar / Seminar for Affiliate Members (Yokohama)

Mar.8(Wed.)-9(Thu.) nventory Workshop of the Specialists of Asia (Shonan Village Center)

Mar.9(Thu.)-10(Fri.) The second International Workshop of Environmental Governance in Asia (Shonan Village Center) <Subject to change>

Mar.17(Fri.) Open Seminar / Seminar for Affiliate Members (Yokohama)

Mar.31(Fri.) Affiliate Members Meeting (Yokohama)

Mar. The fourth Meeting of the Urban Environmental Management Project (Kitakyushu, Fukuoka) <Subject to change>

Mar. The second Seminar on Far East Russia Forest

Conservation Strategies (Shonan Village Center) <Subject to change> **Start of IGES Researcher Database System**

Besides conducting strategic research, one of mandates of IGES is to ||GES Tessarther Tableau System act as a point for dissemination and exchange of information. To serve this purpose, IGES began posting a "Researcher Database" on the Internet from June of 1999. The database lists information (names, contact addresses, papers, projects, web addresses, etc.) of researchers from all over the world, involved in environmental issues. It is aimed at promoting an exchange of opinions and information between researchers in different parts of the world, and to help them find themes or partners for joint research.

Please access the web site of IGES to look up data about researchers. You are also welcome to register yourself on the database as well!!

Publication of IGES book series begins

The first volume of the IGES Book Series was published in October, 1999. The title of the book is "The U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ) Pilot: Experiences and Lessons Learned", edited by Robert K. Dixon who was a member of IGES Climate Change Project between October 1998 and January 1999.

This book is the first comprehensive, in-depth review and summary of the U.N. FCCC AIJ pilot. Over 30 prominent players in the U.N. FCCC AIJ pilot, drawn from 12 countries, prepared the 16 peer-reviewed chapters in this book. Most chapters are extensively illustrated and the book contains a glossary of acronyms and a list of points of contact in the U.N. FCCC AIJ pilot. To help meet the technical and policy needs associated with the U.N. FCCC and complementary treaty negotiations, this book has three broad objectives: review, interpret and compile experiences of AIJ pilot participants and observers; based on empirical data and skilled observations, identify and document lessons learned from the AIJ pilot; and, interpret, summarize and translate lessons learned for future consideration by FCCC Parties.

Specific topics covered in this book include an introduction to the AIJ pilot and the FCCC guidelines/ criteria, AIJ project development and finance, the project development community, an overview of energy and land-use and forestry sector projects, sustainable development, technology transfer, human and institutional capacity building, legal issues, and project monitoring, verification and reporting. This volume will be of interest to the generalists familiar with FCCC issues and negotiations but explores most topics in sufficient technical and policy depth to be must reading for policy analysts, diplomats, environmental protection specialists, scientist, engineers, project developers, attorneys, economists, development workers, foresters, and energy specialists.

The text is in English, and the price is USD 210.00

For orders, please contact Miya Iwase of IGES Climate Change Project at m-iwase@iges.or.jp **or** Kluwer Academic Publishers, Order Department, P.O. Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, the Netherlands Phone:+31-78-6392-392 Fax:+31-78-6546-474 E-mail:Orderdept@wkap.nl

Launching of **IGES Kitakyushu Office**

IGES opened a new office in Kitakyushu on October

1, 1999. It was set up to put into use the resources

accumulated over the past years in the Kitakyushu area

issues including urban environmental management.

3-9-30 Asano, Kokurakita-ku, Kitakyushu-city, Fukuoka,

6F Kitakyushu International Conference Center,

[Location]

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Climate Change: 0468-55-3810 Urban Environmental Management: 0468-55-3820 Forest Conservation: 0468-55-3830 Environmental Education: 0468-55-3840

Environmental Governance: 0468-55-3850

New Development Patterns: 0468-55-3860 [Fax Numbers]

Secretariat: 0468-55-3709

Research Projects: 0468-55-3809

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Fax: 03-3595-1084



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States of February

IGES What's New from IGES Institute for Global Environmental Strategies Phone:0468-55-3700 財団法人地球環境戦略研究機関 Facsimile:0468-55-3709 e-mail:iges@iges.or.jp Shonan Village Center, 1560-39, Kamiyamaguchi, Hayama, Kanagawa Nov. 1999 240-0198, Japan http://www.iges.or.jp/

IPPC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme Technical Support Unit begins activities

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was opened for signature at the Earth Summit held at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992. The Convention entered in a new phase of reducing greenhouse gas emissions after the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP3) held in Kyoto. Thus, we can conclude that the global community has embarked on unprecedented collaborated efforts to tackle the urgent question of global climate change. Needless to say, the preparation of inventories of anthropogenic emissions and removals in order to ascertain actual implementation of emission reduction is the most important base for these collaborative efforts.

Already in 1991, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) began work examining methods to measure greenhouse gas emissions. The COP3 affirmed to use the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories to estimate and report on anthropogenic emissions and removals.

The IPCC has been continuing its work, including elaboration of good practices for the

Outline of the IPCC Inventories Programme and its Technical Support Unit at IGES, Japan

Background

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to assess the available scientific, technical, and socio-economic information in the field of climate change. Since 1991, the IPCC has undertaken the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme (NGGIP), in close collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). The IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories were first approved in 1994 and published in 1995. UNFCCC COP3 held in 1997 in Kyoto reaffirmed that the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories should be used as "methodologies for estimating anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases" in calculating legally-binding targets during the first commitment period.

Objectives of NGGIP

The three objectives of the NGGIP are as follows: 1. to develop and refine an internationally-agreed methodology and software for the calculation and reporting of national GHG emissions and removals; 2. to encourage the widespread use of this methodology by countries participating in the IPCC and by signatories of the UNFCCC; and, 3. to establish a data management system for the collection, review and reporting of national inventory data.

The UNFCCC'S Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) encouraged IPCC, at its 8th session (June 1998), to "...give high priority to completing its work on uncertainty, as well as to prepare a report on good practices in inventory management and to submit a report on these issues for consideration by SBSTA, if possible by COP5." The current work plan of the IPCC Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme (IPCC-GIP) includes activities in response to this request from the SBSTA.

implementation of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines and management of uncertainties. In view of the importance of the Programme, the IPCC decided last year to establish a Task Force on Inventories to plan and promote the Inventories Programme: It welcomed a proposal and invitation by the Government of Japan, and decided to establish the Technical Support Unit (TSU) for the Inventories Programme at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

Thanks to the constructive collaboration of many international colleagues, the recruitment of TSU staff is now complete, and we have secured four international experts in addition to the staff from IGES itself. Furthermore, the second session of the Inventory Task Force Bureau, in fact its first meeting in Japan, was successfully convened at the Shonan Village Centre on 23, 24 and 25 September 1999. Success of this meeting is due largely to the support by individuals and organizations, in particular the Japanese

Establishment of TFI

To meet the extended objectives of the IPCC-NGGIP, the 14th IPCC Plenary meeting (October 1998) established a Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (TFI) to oversee the IPCC-NGGIP. The TFI has a Bureau to provide guidance to the IPCC-NGGIP and to develop it as required. The Task Force Bureau (TFB) has a Technical Support Unit (TSU), which was set up and began full operation at IGES from October 1999, with funds from the Government of Japan. The TSU is accountable to the TFB, which in turn is accountable to the Plenary of IPCC.

Current IPCC-NGGIP Activities

The IPCC Task Force Bureau has met twice since its members were confirmed by the IPCC Bureau in February 1999. Proposals for a working programme for 1999/2000/2001 and the budget were agreed upon at the 15th plenary meeting of the IPCC in April 1999 at San Jose. The working programme covers the following four points:

1. definition of guidelines on good practice in national inventory preparation based on the Revised 1996 Guidelines, and on management of uncertainties;

2. improvement of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories taking into account of the assessment of national feedback on the Revised Guidelines

3. dissemination of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines as well as the relevant information particular to the developing world: and

4. contribution to drafting and completing the Special Report on Land-Use Change and Forestry

such as; 1. technology and experts about environmental issues of the region; 2. well organized **Research Projects** academic and research institutions; 3. advanced approach in building resource-recycling system; and 4. networking of Asian cities in building up international cooperation for environmental issues. IGES hopes to make this office one of the East Asian centers for political research and resources development on environmental

Taka Hiraishi Co-Chair, IPCC Inventory Task Force Bureau



The session in September, 1999

Environment Agency. We sincerely hope that there will be wider recognition of the importance of the IPCC Inventories Programme, and in particular, its role as a basis for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Let me conclude my remarks with a sincere request for your continued support of IPCC's work in the future.

and the IPCC Third Assessment Report.

Plenary session in May 2000.

IPCC-NGGIP is currently undertaking its work in

response to the SBSTA request as described earlier.

Four sectoral experts workshops as well as an expert

workshop on management of uncertainties have

been held in 1999. After the concluding "wrap-up"

experts workshop is held in February 2000 in

Australia, a final draft report from IPCC-NGGIP

will be prepared for formal acceptance by the IPCC

The establishment of TSU at IGES has now been

completed with very substantive co-operation from

the IPCC, OECD, IEA, Government of Japan and

other related institutions. Seven staff members,

including four who have been internationally

recruited, are now working in the TSU at IGES.

Technical Support Unit (TSU) at IGES

Organizational Chart of the IPCC United Nation ironment Progr World Meteor Organiza (WMO (UNEP IPCC Plenary Chair: R. Watson (USA) **IPCC** Secretariat Vice-chairs: (in Switzerland) (Brazil, India, Japan, Kenya, Russian Federation) Working Group I (Science) Working Group II (Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability) Working Group entory Task Force **Co-chairs:** Co-chairs: reau Co-chai m The Netherlands From UK, Chind om Japan, <u>Tanza</u> Co-chairs: Vice-chairs: om USA, Argen reau Membe Vice-chairs: From 6 countries Vice-chairs rom 15 countrie From 6 countries From 6 countries Technical Supp Unit (The Netherlands Technical Supp Technical Supp echnical Sur Unit (UK) Unit (USA) Unit (Japan

IGES hosts the 1999 Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community

On June 24, 25 and 26, 1999, IGES hosted the 1999 Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community (hereafter the 99 Open Meeting), at Shonan Village Center. This bottom-up style meeting aims to stimulate an exchange of recent study results between researchers and research groups involved in the Human Dimension aspect of environmental studies. The meeting is held every other year in different regions of the world, attended by researchers from different nations, generations, academic fields or groups.

This was the third such meeting, following two successful meetings held at Duke University in the USA in 1995 and at the Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Austria in 1997. The meeting this year was co-sponsored by IGES, the Japanese Environment Agency, and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change (APN). Other sponsors and supporters included: International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), US National Science Foundation (NSF), and Science Council of Japan (SCJ). It ended successfully with a record number of more than 300 participants from 41 countries, and 184 presentations being made. The program started with an Opening Ceremony, followed by six sessions, and concluded with the Closing Session held on the third day. Each session consisted of two parts: a Plenary Talk, followed by seven or eight parallel sessions. (Except in the fourth Session, where a Poster Session was held instead of a Plenary Talk.)

The outline of the 99 Open Meeting is as follows: (IGES is currently editing a report of the meeting, which will be posted on the IGES web site after completion.)

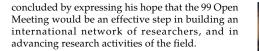
Opening Ceremony

The chair of the Opening Ceremony was Dr. Shuzo Nishioka, a co-chair of the International Scientific Planning Committee (ISPC), which planned the 99 Open Meeting. In the ceremony, three speeches were given.

The first speaker was Dr. Jill Jaeger who was also co-chair of the ISPC. She emphasized that the some 200 presentations to be made during the meeting were selected from more than 500 submissions, and that the increase in both quality and quantity of the submissions shows the increase of interest in the field. She also thanked IGES, the hosting organization, and to the Environment Agency, the APN, and the other sponsoring organizations.

The second speaker was Prof. Akio Morishima, who is the Chair of the Board of Directors of IGES, the host of the 99 Open Meeting. After introducing the content of research carried out at IGES, he thanked the members of the ISPC and sponsoring organizations.

Lastly, a speech was given by Mr. Hironori Hamanaka representing two sponsors of the 99 Open Meeting. He is the Director General of the Global Environment Department of the Japanese Environment Agency, and also the Chairman of the Inter-Governmental Meeting of the APN. Mr. Hamanaka explained the active involvement of the Japanese government in urgent environmental issues and pointed out the importance of the role of science and technology in making various policies. He went on to explain the tendency in recent studies of the global environment, which emphasizes the importance of combining natural and social scientific approaches. Mr. Hamanaka



Plenary Talks

Plenary Talks were held in all sessions except Session 4, and were held in Dazai-Hall of Lofos Shonan. Each talk was on one of the five major themes of the 99 Open Meeting: 1.Land Use and Land Cover Change, 2.Demographic Change and the Environment, 3.Decision-making Processes in Response to Global Environmental Change, 4.Conflict and the Environment, and 5.Valuation of Ecosystem Services. Each Plenary Talk consisted of a speech followed by comments on the speech, made by leading scholars of the field. (Content of Plenary Talks will be posted on IGES web site)

Parallel Sessions

A total of 47 parallel sessions were held in eight rooms at Shonan Village Center and Lofos Shonan





Parallel Sessions

during the three days of the 99 Open Meeting. Each session comprised two to four presentations on the most recent research results, with a total of 172 presentations being made in all. There was an active exchange of opinions between the presentators, and between the presentators and the audience. (A summary of each presentation will be posted on the IGES web site)

Poster Session

Throughout the meeting, posters by twelve authors were exhibited in the lobby of Shonan Village Center, and the authors had a chance to talk about their posters on the afternoon of the second day. A computer demonstration was also conducted at this time. There was a large audience in the lobby during this period, and the authors of each poster answered questions and exchanged opinions with the audience. (Abstracts of the posters will also be posted on the IGES web site)

Closing Session

The Closing Session was chaired by Dr. Jill Jaeger,

Contributing to ECO ASIA '99 towards sustainable development", and

The eighth meeting of the Environmental Congress for Asia and the Pacific (ECO ASIA '99) was held on September 4 and 5, 1999, and opinions were exchanged between environmental ministers and high-level government officials from the Asia-Pacific region. It was held in the city of Sapporo in Hokkaido, Japan, and was hosted by the Environment Agency of Japan and by the Hokkaido Prefectural Government and the Municipality of Sapporo. IGES made various contributions to the success of the congress, including a keynote speech made by Kazuo Matsushita, Acting Vice-President of IGÉS.

ECO ASIA has been held almost every year since 1991, to promote cooperation among countries and the realization of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. This year's congress was attended by 111 participants from 17 countries and 11 international organizations, including eight environmental ministers from countries including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Korea. Active discussions took place on main themes such as "Climate Change", "Regional cooperation

"Contributions of the Asia-Pacific region to the comprehensive review of Agenda 21 in the year 2002 ("Rio + 10"). On the morning of the first day, Mr. Matsushita made the keynote speech entitled "Realizing Sustainable Society in the Asia-Pacific Region in the 21st Century." in a session open to the public. Mr. Matsushita described current trend in the Asia-Pacific region based on projections of environmental indicators made by the AIM model developed by Tsuneyuki Moriya (director of Environmental Economics Section of the Environment Agency). He highlighted major recent environmental episodes such as the flooding of the Yangtze River in China, the haze issue in the Southeast Asia, and urban air pollution. He also pointed out that there have been new developments in environmental governance, such as the monitoring network of acid rain in a number of countries in this region. He then went on to talk about the financial crisis in East Asia, and emphasized that the process of economical recovery in Asia will be a good chance to unify environmental and economical matters. He suggested means of promoting effective policy

reform, such as incentive systems, legal frameworks, information disclosure and cooperation with the private sector. With regard to policy directions, Mr. Matsushita noted a trend towards local efforts in dealing with environmental issues and expressed the view that international environmental cooperation can lead to increased peace and stability in the region. In closing, he noted the opportunity for ECO ASIA to propose concrete strategies for consideration at the "Rio + 10" Conference. Mr. Matsushita's speech was followed by discussions on three themes, a summary of which is listed below.

Session 1: Climate Change

Regarding international negotiations concerning climate change, common sentiments were expressed that the main priorities should be an early entry enforcement of the Kyoto Protocol and assuring the success of COP5 and COP6. To realize the provisions of the Protocol, emphasis was placed on exercise of strong political leadership, clarification of the rules of the Kyoto Mechanism and the importance of promotion of discussion between industrialized and

1999 OPEN MEETING OF THE HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE RESEARCH COMMUNITY



Poster Session

a co-chair of the ISPC. Speeches were given by Prof. Uno Svedin of the Swedish Council for Planning and Coordination of Research, and by Dr Eckart Ehlers, the Chair of the Scientific Committee of the IHDP. After the speeches, the chair solicited opinions from the audience, and an active exchange of opinions followed. The meeting ended with a closing speech by Dr. Shuzo Nishioka, the other cochair of the ISPC.

The first speech was given by Prof. Uno Svedin, who started by praising the success of the 99 Open meeting, and noted the increase in both themes and participants at the Open Meeting. He then indicated seven points that should be considered for future meetings.

The second speech was by Dr. Eckart Ehlers. He began by expressing his appreciation for all parties, and commented on the future of both human

Session 1

Plenary Talk: Land Use and Land Cover Change Chair:Lisa Graumlich (University of Arizona / ĬSPC)

Speaker:Diana Liverman (Latin American Area Center, University of Arizona) Commentator: Shidong Zhao (Chinese Academy of Sciences)

Session 2

Plenary Talk: Demographic Change and the Environment Chair: Ronald Rindfuss (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill / ISPC) Speaker: Wolfgang Lutz (IIASA)

Commentator: Nachiro Ogawa (Nihon University Population Research Institute, lapan)

Session 3

Plenary Talk: Decision-making Processes and Global Enviornmental Change Chair: Elena Nikitina (Russian Academy of Sciences / ISPC) Speaker: Akio Morishima (IGES) ntator: Elinor Ostrom (Indiana University)

developing nations.

Session 2: Regional Cooperation towards Sustainable Development

Specific examples of regional cooperation were introduced: technology transfer in the business sector, extensive domestic efforts and regional cooperation regarding sustainable development, capacity building for acid deposition monitoring involving intergovernmental and scientific fora, and efforts by international organizations in the area. Participants expressed hopes for concrete promotion of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, and shared the opinion that regional cooperation for sustainable development should be positively promoted.

Session 3: Contribution to the Comprehensive Review of Agenda 21 in the Year 2002 ("Rio + 10")

This session discussed how ECO ASA can contribution to the Comprehensive Review of Agenda 21 ("Rio + 10"), planned for the Year 2002. Under the title of "Search for New Development Patterns: Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Region in the 21st Century", three project leaders from IGES (Shuzo Nishioka from CC, Hidefumi Imura from

UE, and Makoto Inoue from FC) introduced strategies for dealing with the issues of climate change, urban environment, and forest conservation. Views were then expressed that ECO ASIA should play an important role as a source of input for "Rio + 10", and that it should strengthen its activities for effective preparation. ECO ASIA '99 closed with the adoption of Chair's Summary. (Press release and the Chair's Summary are posted at http://www.eic.or.jp)

The participants welcomed a continuing role for IGES as an international think-tank for ECO ASIA and expressed the hope that IGES conduct a Long-Term Perspective Project in collaboration with participating countries





dimensions research in the field of global environmental change in general, and the role of the IHDP in the Pacific, from the points of view of organization and science. Prof. Ehlers concluded his speech by outlining his hope for the future. He said he believed that the future consolidation of both the natural and social sciences will contribute not only to a better understanding of the eco system, but also to its maintenance and improvement.

Dr. Shuzo Nishioka made the final speech in which he stressed the importance of unifying the knowledge of individual researchers to achieve productive results. He said this unification should not be a result of controlled centralization, but should be based on a network of individual research. In a summary of the meeting as a whole, Dr. Nishioka expressed his gratitude that the 99 Open Meeting was such a success and hoped that the success would continue with the fourth meeting



Opening a barrel of sake

Session 4

Poster Session

Session 5

Plenary Talk: Conflict and the Environment Chair: Roberto Sanchez (University of California Santa Cruz / ISPC) Speaker: Michael Redclift (Keele University, UK)

nmentator:Eduardo Viola (University of Brasilia)

Session 6

Plenary Talk: Valuation of Ecosystem Services

Chair: Youba Sokona (Environnément et Developpement Programme Energie, Dakar / ISPC)

Speaker: Leena Srivastava (Tata Energy Research Institute, India) Commentator: Hans Opschoor (Institute of Social Studies, the Hague, Netherlands)

The Third IGES International Workshop on Forest Conservation Strategies for the Asia and Pacific Region

Forest Conservation Project of IGES held a workshop at the University of Tokyo on September 7, 8, and 9, 1999, to clarify the direction of its future strategic research, based on the research results from the FY 1998. The workshop was attended by about 70 participants from research institutes, NGOs, governmental bodies, and those invitees from abroad. There were many fruitful discussions, and opinions were exchanged about how research strategies should be set up in the future

A report of this workshop is due to be compiled and published in the near future.



to be held in 2001 in the Southern Hemisphere. He announced to the participants that a Transition Committee had been established to prepare for the fourth Open Meeting, and that the Committee would be responsible for recruiting a host organization and selecting a new ISPC. He ended by thanking the host and the sponsoring organizations, and hoped that everyone would meet again at the fourth Open Meeting in 2001.

Informal Parties

In order to encourage participants to make new acquaintances, three parties were held: the Icebreaker on June 23, the Welcome Party on June 24, and the Farewell Party in June 26. There were attractions including an elegant recital of "koto" (Japanese harp) at the Welcome Party, the breaking open of a barrel of "sake" (Japanese rice wine), and a dramatic performance of Japanese drums at the Farewell Party. During the evening parties, participants enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere where they could make new friends away from the heated discussions of the day.

Considering the nature of research on human dimensions of global environmental change, it is important to build a closely-knit cooperation system and various networks in the fields of both human/social science and natural science. From this aspect, we hope that the 99 Open Meeting stimulated a world-wide "network of knowledge" about global environmental issues.