

Comments of the Meeting from Researchers in Thailand



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The first annual meeting of LoCARNet held in Bangkok ended with seven key findings that reflected the ASEAN approach to a low carbon society. Aiming at bridging gaps in knowledge between researchers and policy makers to promote low carbon activities, participants reaped benefits from both the plenary and the parallel sessions. The summary of the meeting, which took into account the different circumstances in various countries, has shown that different approaches can be used flexibly to create a low carbon society. The meeting also identified the fact that activities at the sub-national level or local level are essential for ASEAN countries. Therefore it is important to have appropriately designed activities within each country for the achievement of

LCS. The first LoCARNet meeting is a good starting point to share this information among ASEAN countries. Success stories in terms of actual implementation were discussed in addition to the context of the next annual meeting. One of the key factors impacting the success of LoCARNet is its local networking initiative. It is expected that good examples of networking among key players and stakeholders will be shared at the next meeting. The first step is always difficult but the second is easy to commit. The first annual meeting of LoCARNet has stimulated multidiscipline knowledge sharing while enhancing research collaboration, thereby paving the way towards the next meeting.



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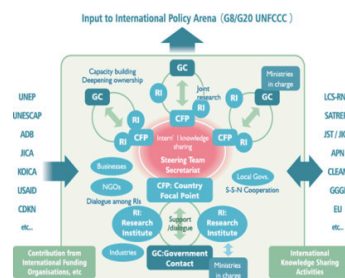
The first annual meeting and workshop of the LoCARNet was successfully held in Bangkok on 16-17 October 2012. This low carbon Asia research network is an open science-based network for researchers that will serve as a knowledge platform for low-carbon development in the Asian region. The LoCARNet network is also linked to national climate policy makers in order to recognize the low-carbon development among researchers in Thailand and Asia. The outcomes of this network will push Asian countries towards a sustainable

Asia for world-class low-carbon green growth.

I believe that this north-to-south and south-to-south cooperation among Japan and Asian countries will sustainably increase research capability in the area of low-carbon development in Asia while also serving as a low-carbon knowledge sharing network for a sustainable Asia. Aiming to positively impact the global climate, I will strongly support the future activities of LoCARNet in order to bring about low-carbon green growth in Thailand and Asia

What is the Low Carbon Asia Research Network?

An open network of research communities and stakeholders that facilitates the formation and implementation of science-based policies for low-carbon development in the Asian region.



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Linking People together through Low-Carbon Research (November 2012)

Asia Breaks Low-Carbon Future: Uniqueness of LoCARNet



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**Dr. Sirintornthep
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LoCARNet is an open network of research communities and relevant stakeholders that facilitate the formation and implementation of science-based policies for low-carbon development in the Asian region.

The main role of the network is to promote science and science policy dialogue. Therefore, LoCARNet needs to integrate a wide spectrum of knowledge, ranging from natural science and technology to economics, in order to structure a low-carbon society. In considering the urgency of the climate crisis, such wisdom should be directly reflected into ongoing low-carbon policies through the multilevel policy-making process. In this way, LoCARNet enables the provision of ample opportunities for dialogue among and between scientists and policy-makers.

LoCARNet respects the ownership of knowledge by countries. The decisions being made by policy-makers today will lock in each country's development path for

decades and beyond. LoCARNet encourages collaboration amongst researchers to develop their research capacities and scientific knowledge that will firmly serve as a basis for policies in their home countries.

LoCARNet also expects regional south-south-north collaboration. The network aims to increase research capacities in the Asia-Pacific region through knowledge sharing and information exchange not only through north-south cooperation, but also south-south regional cooperation.

In a "business as usual" scenario, Asia is expected to account for almost 50% of global GDP, energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Through its efforts to halve emissions by 2050 compared to current emissions levels, Asia holds the key to reducing global GHG emissions and will open a pathway to a low-carbon society.



First Annual Meeting of LoCARNet in Bangkok

The First Annual Meeting of LoCARNet was held 16-17 October 2012 in Bangkok. One hundred and twenty-four researchers and policymakers from 14 countries participated in the meeting.

The main research areas discussed at the meeting were: the policy making process and the use of integrated assessment models; land use and forestry; GHG inventories; technology needs & enabling policies in Asia; low carbon cities; local level practices and the institutionalisation of low-carbon green growth. On the second day, a dialogue with researchers and policymakers was held to exchange opinions in an open manner on the findings of the previous day. Issues involved in "networking," "regional cooperation in Asia" and "the future of LoCARNet" were also discussed in a session devoted to dialogue with researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

LoCARNet First Annual Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand

Key Findings From the Meeting

The following list contains major findings arising from the First Annual Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet) Meeting held on 16-17 October in Bangkok, Thailand. LoCARNet was launched as a knowledge-sharing network of researchers and relevant stakeholders who are deeply involved in domestic policy-making processes, being aware of the importance of facilitating the realisation of a low-carbon and sustainable society, as well as looking at the formulation and better enabling implementation of science-based policies for low-carbon development in the region. Seeking to contribute to sound science-based low-carbon policy in the region, the annual meeting aims to exchange up-to-date scientific knowledge on common low-carbon growth research topics in this region.



Asia's potential role in climate stabilisation

Asia has succeeded in achieving rapid social and economic development. Asia can play an important role in the stabilisation of climate and will contribute to global GHG mitigation by applying well-designed countermeasures grounded in science. In this way, Asia enjoys sufficient potential to become a global leader if Asian countries can opt for sustainable low-carbon development paths compatible with their own particular conditions. A low-carbon society in Asia should be developed by utilising “hardware” based on scientific and technological efficiency together with the “software” of social factors, traditions, cultural elements and creativity found in the rich Asian heritage and background.

Common approaches and methods but differential solutions

Asian countries need to delineate common processes and methodologies that will enable them to successfully transition from a planning phase to an implementation phase. While solutions will necessarily differ in accordance with the socio-economic and political circumstances of each country, comparative analyses and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned will be key in promoting low-carbon activities. Traditional uniquely Asian values and social patterns held widely across the Asian region could be shared as common approaches, processes and methods.

Stakeholder driven policy research

The importance of LCSR (Low-carbon Societies Research) activities in formulating and better enabling the implementation of science-based low-carbon policy is gradually gaining recognition in the Asian region. Interaction between researchers and policymakers would likely enhance evidence-based planning, implementation approaches and mutual understanding while also contributing to the formulation of a consensus among stakeholders. Researchers need to further demonstrate the feasibility of both long-term planning and short-term actions in order to align the often dynamic nature of policy decisions with long-term policy-making by the government and short-term decision-making by the private sector.



Managing countermeasures at local and sector scales

GHG emission reductions can be managed by addressing crosscutting and practical issues at different geographical scales such as at the city or local levels as well as at a sector scale in energy, agriculture, forest and land use change, among others. Cities often serve as good demonstration sites for implementing innovative local actions while sectors play a principal role in defining technologies and approaches to be used in reducing GHG emissions.

For instance, cities can offer to implement measures addressing structural and cross-sectoral issues with high mitigation potentials while introducing key countermeasures locally. Cities can improve the quality of life of residents and offer places which make it easy for people to live, work and play. Low-carbon cities will be a main engine as well as a solution for improving liveability and sustainability within future urban development. Simultaneously, changes in the agriculture, forestry and land use sectors are expected to play an important role in GHG emission reductions in Asia at least over the next 15-20 years. These changes are also expected to comprise valuable knowledge-sharing contributions from developing countries in future years, as specific and comparative experiences.

Technology and capacity development and beyond for low-carbon initiatives

Government investment and private sector leveraging in domains such as research and development (R&D) and demonstration provide key avenues for policies to promote low-carbon and also “resilient” development

strategies, including low-carbon technologies. Awareness raising, market development and capacity development are also important elements for successful policy strategies. As climate change is a multi-faceted and complex issue, it cannot be sufficiently addressed by a technology-based approach alone.

Multi-stakeholders and regional cooperation to emphasise co-benefits

A comprehensive set of actions can be put into practice through multi-stakeholder and regional cooperation while emphasising common co-benefit approaches at both the national and local levels. North-south and especially south-south mutual learning and co-operation are vital in enhancing the mobilisation and dissemination of available resources, technologies and knowledge in region-specific, yet commonly-shared social, economic and environmental contexts.

Role of LoCARNet

LoCARNet is expected to promote capacity development, provide a platform to support research by enhancing research collaboration in Asia and support dialogue sessions amongst researchers, policymakers, and other like-minded relevant stakeholders. The participants in the meeting also expect that the process of sharing interdisciplinary knowledge and expanding networks in different sectors will facilitate north-south/south-south cooperation, leading to technology transfer and low-carbon infrastructure development, thereby enabling a leapfrogging in development to transitions to low-carbon societies (LCS) and low-carbon cities in Asia.