

Low Carbon Society Newsletter Vol.1

- Achieve a Low Carbon Society -

April 2013, LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretariat



On issuing the Low Carbon Society Newsletter

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The world is heading (LCS-RNet)/ Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet) while developed countries seek a way to break away from the current energy-intensive society, developing countries are exploring ways in which the path to a low-carbon society can be incorporated into their national development plans in the future. In order to promote a low-carbon future, it is necessary to integrate a wide range of knowledge, including technology systems, urban infrastructure and social systems. To foster a low-carbon world, we need to mobilize the wisdom of the world. Two networks known as LCS-RNet and LoCARNet have established themselves as networks for knowledge exchange among all stakeholders, including researchers and policymakers who are working to build a low-carbon society. The Secretariat of LCS-RNet/LoCARNet will update and transmit low-carbon related information while collecting the voices of researchers, policymakers and businesses internationally. I hope this newsletter can enhance research activities and information exchange for all who share common interests and aspirations.

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News from the Secretariat

LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretary General shakes hands with the Minister of Environment of Cambodia

23 April 2013, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretariat and the Japanese LCS research team from NIES and Kyoto University met with H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Senior Minister and Minister of Environment, to discuss research collaboration.



H.E. Dr. Mok Mareth, Minister of Environment of Cambodia (middle, right hand side) meets the LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretariat and Japanese LCS research team

LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretariat and Japanese LCS research team meet with researchers and policymakers in Vietnam in Vinh Phuc, a province in the Red River Delta in northern Vietnam

24 April 2013, Vinh Phuc, Vietnam

After visiting Cambodia for the LCS Cambodia workshop on 22 April 2013, members of the LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretariat, NIES and Kyoto University visited Vietnam to meet with governmental officials and researchers and hold a workshop in collaboration with the Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment (ISPONRE), Vietnam.

For the details: http://lcs-rnet.org/meetings_locarnet/2013/04/low_carbon_society_in_vietnam.html

LoCARNet secretariat held a Side Event on East Asia Low Carbon Growth Partnership Dialogue “East Asia Knowledge Platform for Low Carbon Growth”

For the details: http://lcs-rnet.org/meetings_locarnet/2013/05/east_asia_low_carbon_growth_2013.html

LCS-RNet 5th Annual Meeting and LoCARNet 2nd Annual Meeting to be held in Yokohama, Japan

21-22 July 2013 for LCS-RNet and 24-25 July 2013 for LoCARNet

Details of the meetings can be found on the LCS-RNet/LoCARNet website: <http://lcs-rnet.org/>

From Cambodia: Progress of low carbon development in Cambodia

A Cambodian workshop entitled “A Systematic and Quantitative Design of the Low Carbon Development Plan for Cambodia” was held on 22 April 2013 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This workshop was organised by the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia, Kyoto University (Japan), the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES; Japan) and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)/LoCARNet (Low Carbon Asia Research Network). Around 60 participants attended the workshop. They included participants from several Cambodian ministries, including the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Transportation, as well as researchers from universities and research institutes and practitioners from international organisations.



Ministry participants introduced the progress of Cambodian climate change policies and strategies along with related sectoral policies. The afternoon session introduced climate change related programmes at Cambodian universities and research institutes.

The workshop addressed the benefits of, and the capacity for, establishing a low carbon research network in Cambodia. Such a network would be expected to boost the integration of research in various sectors while facilitating the government's efforts to combat climate change. The meeting also highlighted the benefits of participating in a low carbon research network with a regional basis, such as LoCARNet, particularly because it will enable Cambodia to share information and learn from researchers in different countries.



Progress of Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan by the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia

At the Cambodian Workshop, the Deputy Director of the Climate Change Department in the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia made a presentation on progress concerning the Cambodia Climate Change Strategy Plan (CCCSP).

The Cambodian National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) update for 2009-2013 was adopted in 2010. The NSDP emphasizes the needs to ‘deal effectively with the implications of climate change, to strengthen the capacity of the institutions in the Royal Government of Cambodia to identify and develop strategies against the anticipated impacts of climate

change, and to strengthen disaster management capabilities.’

Cambodia does not have a comprehensive national level policy nor a strategy to address climate change. However, its recent progress includes the development of the CCCSP. This plan includes a strategy direction for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Cambodia and also addresses the needs for global funding support for implementing climate change countermeasures. The CCCSP was formulated in accordance with the policy direction of a government council for a strategic plan in Cambodia. Prior to the

development of the CCCSP, MOE Cambodia analysed existing policy papers, including strategies and sectoral policies.

In the process of developing this strategic plan, the government started identifying prioritized sectors. Prioritized sectors include agriculture and water in the area of adaptation and energy in the area of mitigation. After the government clarified the prioritized sectors, it organized a series of stakeholder workshops, including technical workshops.

The policymaking process

The CCCSP is now in the process of consulting with stakeholders at the sectoral level and holding discussions to develop the strategic action plan and demonstration activities. Each ministry is charged with preparing a sectoral plan, while the Ministry of Environment is tasked with integrating and synthesising those sectoral plans.

The CCCSP is still at the stage of drafting and identifying its vision and missions, along with the accompanying time frames. Nine strategies and multiple objectives have been identified, but the number of objectives needs to be reduced. In order to improve the draft and create a sustainable knowledge based strategy, both capacity and knowledge are required. Moreover, the government needs to place particular focus on the legal framework and the financing scheme and make use of cooperative efforts

with private sector entities.

Currently the government is consolidating all the comments and preparing to formulate a second draft. After compiling the second draft, a political review will be conducted and the strategic plan will be launched. To implement the strategy after launching the CCCSP, the government will develop an action plan, conduct pilot projects, and implement activities. As a way forward, the CCCSP is expected to be mainstreamed into the next NSDP (2014-2018) as well as the Sub-National Plans (NCDD-S), and work will be done to develop a climate change financing framework. Further expectations include the development of a climate change monitoring and evaluation framework and the development of a climate change legal framework through collaboration with development partners, civil society organizations, private sector entities, universities and research institutions, and government agencies to facilitate the implementation of the CCCSP.

The workshop served to enhance Cambodia's ability to develop actions to combat climate change while identifying its capacity needs related to making a policy plan in collaboration with Cambodian researchers.

For the details of the workshop:

http://lcs-rnet.org/meetings_locarnet/2013/04/cambodia_a_workshop_a_systematic_and_quantitative_design_of_low_carbon_development_plan_for_cambodia.html

A visit to the Royal University of Agriculture

The LCS-RNet/LoCARNet Secretariat visited the Royal University of Agriculture of Cambodia on 23 April 2013 to discuss and find out greater detail about the research capacity in Cambodia and the potential for collaboration on climate change-related research in Cambodia.

RUA was established in 1964 with support from the French government to provide higher education in the field of Agriculture. Between 1975 and 1979, the university was closed under the Khmer Rouge regime. The university re-opened in 1980 as the Institute of Agricultural Education and on 27 December 1999, the

university was declared a public administration institute.

RUA has been conducting climate change-related research projects as part of its recent research endeavours, with particular focus given to adaptation issues rather than mitigation. In the area of mitigation, it works to develop a variety of trees that will assist in reducing emissions. RUA enjoys a close relationship with Ministry of Agriculture. Since Ministry of Agriculture is involved in establishing the CCCSP in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, RUA also contributes to the knowledge and research from an agricultural perspective. Insufficiencies in data availability and analytical capacity remain an issue in Cambodia. Therefore, the country needs capacity development through support from other countries. In

terms of modelling and forecasting, RUA does not have its own model for economic impact analyses. Therefore, in forecasting, regional data and analyses are applied to domestic analyses. Currently, prioritization of climate change-related research areas is placed on demonstrations and on collecting climate data at the local level to assist with future forecasting efforts. The latter is done through setting up satellite stations and training local people to collect the data, rather than developing a simulation model.



Hayama* letter (From the Secretariat)



Shuzo Nishioka

Secretary General of LCS-RNet and LoCARNet

Tokyo, one of the cities bidding to host the 2020 Olympic Games, boasts one of the world's most effective and efficient transportation systems in the world, where people can easily and freely move around without relying on automobiles. I myself travel from my



home in Shinjuku, which lies in the heart of the Tokyo metropolis, to the IGES Tokyo office by subway. It takes 45 minutes, including connections. It was 80 years ago, a time when people could not afford to own their own car, that the first "metro line," or subway line, opened in Tokyo. In the 1960s when the automotive age came to Japan, the subway system had already spread throughout Tokyo. Compared with the traffic jams on Tokyo's roadways, people can move much more quickly, cheaply and safely by subway. Therefore, people use the subway for commuting from their homes to their workplaces. Trains' carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are only one-tenth those of a car. In most cities in Asia, the automobile era began before public transport systems were constructed, resulting in enormous challenges in the areas of air pollution and traffic congestion. On the other hand, Asian cities have demonstrated clear progress in this area in recent years with the development of BRT, subways, monorails and other forms of public transportation. When we consider the length of a century, from the perspective of a low-carbon society, Tokyo was fortunate in having already established public transportation systems before car ownership became widespread. The Fifth Annual Meeting of LCS-RNet and the Second Annual Meeting of LoCARNet will be held in Yokohama this coming July. I hope participants from abroad enjoy the public transportation that seamlessly links many places to enjoy during their visit to Japan.

**Hayama is a beautiful Japanese town well-loved for its beaches and hills with spectacular views of Mt. Fuji. The LCS-RNet and LoCARNet Secretariat is located within the offices of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Hayama. LCS news will be updated from Hayama and transmitted to the world.*

Message from the Editor

Our recent mission to Cambodia was our third since we began in 2010. Every year when we meet in Phnom Penh to discuss the progress of low-carbon policy and research in Cambodia, we find new progress in low-carbon related policy initiatives as well as tremendous changes in the development of the city of Phnom Penh itself, with many newly-constructed buildings and infrastructure. Against this backdrop of dramatic changes, Cambodia needs to develop and enhance its research capacity to support policy planning with scientific evidence. When we first visited Cambodian universities in 2010, not many researchers were working on domestic climate change issues. At the time, the focus was typically air pollution or agricultural issues. Only two years after our first visit, we found that the number of climate change-related research projects had increased, notably in the area of the relationship between climate change and pollution and agricultural issues. Climate change research in Cambodia focuses primarily on adaptation issues rather than mitigation issues. However, a casual observation of the quick pace of development taking place in the capital suggests that in the future Cambodia is likely to need more research on mitigation and capacity in order to be able to analyse future CO₂ emissions and their impacts. We look forward to even further progress regarding climate change issues when we visit Cambodia next year.

Takako Wakiyama, Researcher, Green Growth and Green Economy Area, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)/ Secretariat of LCS-RNet/LoCARNet

About LCS-RNet and LoCARNet**LCS-RNet**

LCS-RNet is a practical platform of researchers/research organisations that are making close contributions to individual countries' low-carbon policy-making processes. The basic nature of LCS-RNet is a platform to support and encourage information sharing and voluntary cooperation among research institutions, specifically in the field of LCS research. LCS-RNet also facilitates interactions between researchers and various stakeholders and delivers its findings to policy-makers to assist in science-based policy making during transitions to low-carbon societies.

LoCARNet

LoCARNet is a network of researchers that facilitates the formulation and implementation of science-based policies for low-carbon development in the Asian region. The aim of LoCARNet is to facilitate science-based policies in order to realise a sustainable future based on a stabilised climate. To this end, the network endeavours to establish research capacity in the region based on South-South-North cooperation, and to reflect research findings into actual policies to achieve low-carbon growth.

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