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The Business for Sustainable Society (BSS) Project at IGES Kansai Research Centre organised an international symposium "Towards Sustainable Lifestyle and Business Model: Policy Trends of Sustainable Consumption and Production" in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, on 17 January. The symposium highlighted the socio-economic system which can lessen environmental impacts through the collaboration between consumers and corporations and discussed the most recent policies and future development from a global point of view.

The first keynote speech by Mr. Michael Kuhnelt (The Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production) suggested an approach called "Human Development through the Market", which can successfully realise poverty reduction and creation of business opportunity along value chains. The second keynote speech by Prof. Ikujiro Nonaka (BBS Project) started by introducing the basic concept of "system innovation," followed by reporting on the initial findings of on-going research at BSS project including "Low carbon solution business model" and "Environmentally- sound business model of Product Service Systems (PSS).

The Panel Discussion included four presentations from Mr. Hidefumi Ikeda from the Ministry of the Environment, Dr. Martin Medina from IGES Kansai Office and Mr. Yasuhito Tada from the BSS Project) and lasted deliberations on the efforts made by corporations, as well as opportunities for change of lifestyle and utilisation of new technologies. At the end of the discussion, keywords for realising sustainable consumption and production were presented by each. The symposium was attended by no less than 150 people, who listened attentively right to the end of the discussion.

International Symposium on Business and the Environment 2006

The Better Air Quality (BAQ)* workshop was held from 13 to 15 December 2006, in Yokohama, Japan with the theme being “A Celebration of Efforts.” Over 900 participants from more than 40 countries were in attendance.

IGES Urban Environmental Management Project organised two sub-workshops based on the research results of its Third Phase. At the workshop “Travel Demand Reduction as a Co-benefits Policy Tool”, there was a discussion on an overall framework for greater synergy between land-use planning and emission reduction of air pollutants and greenhouse gases from the transport sector. Research on travel demand reduction through urban planning with case studies in Yokohama, Bangkok, and Shanghai were also presented. The workshop "New Shift Towards Public Transport" assessed the possibility of accomplishing modal shift through improvements in public transport and travel demand management in Asia. Studies on policies addressing the modal share in Beijing, Jakarta, and Seoul were presented with the focus on factors that impede or facilitate those policies. The final presentation analysed policy processes of those cities focusing on the introduction of bus rapid transit (BRT).

For more information, please visit: http://www.iges.or.jp/j/en/541.html

The materials can be downloaded at http://www.iges.or.jp/j/en/baactivity06.html

IGES Activities at BAQ2006

The Water Environment Partnership in Asia (WEPA), for which IGES serves as a secretariat, organised an international symposium “Community Environmental Governance in the Asian Monsoon Regions” in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2006. This symposium aimed to encourage Asian community activities to share the experiences of various stakeholders in their endeavours to conserve water quality and aquatic ecology and to strengthen the linkage among stakeholders and make their conservation activities better known. Twelve selected papers on community activities were presented and there was an active discussion among the participants.

An international forum “Water Environmental Governance in Asia” will be held in Bangkok in March 2007. The forum is scheduled to include selected presentations on the improvement of water environmental governance in the Asian regions such as institutional arrangements, actions, technologies or researches, as well as a discussion on water environmental issues.

WEPA Holds a Symposium and a Forum on the Conservation of Water Environment

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED)* established the “APFED Showcase Programme” in 2006. The purpose of this programme is to support innovative practices in terms of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and the selected projects will be provided grants of up to US$30,000. In 2006, thirteen projects were selected for the APFED showcase projects.

The call for proposals in 2006 was opened on 1 January 2007, each project will be scheduled to showcase their project more effectively. After January 2007, each project will be scheduled to be implemented. Moreover, the knowledge acquired by the projects will be released through the APFED database run by IGES.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)* organised ‘APEC Environment Initiative’ in 2006 as a new APEC initiative. APEC Environment Initiative was launched in 2004 in a joint session of the Second APEC Plenary Meeting in Adelaide, Australia, and the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in July 2004 with a focus on adaptation and mitigation and on economic and financial incentives for pollution prevention, energy savings and efficient use of energy and resources.

AFPED Showcase Project for 2006

HOTTA, Yasuhiko (Policy Researcher)
OGIHARA, Akira (Senior Policy Researcher / Project Manager)

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What’s New from IGES

Researchers’ Viewpoint

What’s in the APFED Initiative

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)*, at the initiative of the Japanese government as the APEC Chair in 2006, launched the APFED Project as a new initiative to promote sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and to address critical regional issues.

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