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Institute for the Advanced Study
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UNU-IAS **GEOC**

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability GEOC Programme

UNU-IAS's Initiatives for the 2030 Agenda

In September 2015, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, held at the UN Headquarters in New York, adopted an intergovernmental set of aspiration goals "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Agenda aims to realize a society that leaves no one behind by attaining those of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are left unachieved between 2015 and 2030 while striving to fill the disparities that have newly arisen and address new challenges. Up to now, UNU-IAS has conducted studies to implement the 2030 Agenda, worked to educate the general public in the Agenda, and hosted several Agenda-related symposiums. Going forward, UNU-IAS will continue to carry out its programs further with the aim of contributing actively to SDGs.

Linking Science and Policy for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (24 October 2015)

Scientists and other experts from Japan and abroad who study subjects such as the 2030 Agenda and governance structure discussed the way the SDGs should be achieved and the role collaboration between science and policy should play. To implement the SDGs, they pointed out the necessity of raising the recognition level for the SDGs, clarifying the implementation process, linking scientific knowledge with politics and policy-making, and sharing scientific knowledge.

Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (6 November 2015)

Experts from Japan and abroad actively discussed various issues with which the international community will be faced in the future as it works to achieve the SDGs (For details of the

symposium, see the back side of this newsletter).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Partnerships – The Global Agenda in the Future of Corporate Social Responsibility (7 December 2015)

Participants examined the roles Japan should play while paying attention to participation in the achievement of SDGs by the private sector. In particular, they discussed issues businesses should address when carrying out specific initiatives and ideal partnerships with diverse stakeholders that are required for their solution.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Transforming Japan and the World (15 January 2016)

This symposium was held as part of the Ministry of the Environment's Environment Research and Technology Development Fund S-11 Post-2015 Project. Research results were reported to wrap up the project. Participants discussed how Japan and the world need to be transformed in order to attain the SDGs, and considered the roles researchers, administrative agencies, businesses, NGOs, and other stakeholders should play in achieving the SDGs in developed countries.

Article: Implementing the SDGs in Indonesia---Aiming to Achieve SDGs While Maintain Close Ties with Local Communities

Tsunakan No. 27, March 2016, p.12

UNU-IAS has conducted research on implementation of SDGs from the viewpoint of promoting sustainable development through partnerships. In the journal "Tsunakan," this article introduces national implementation of SDGs in Indonesia and discusses how to realize SDGs by maintaining close ties with local communities, based on the surveys such as interviews with persons concerned with the SR Asia International Conference held in Jakarta in November 2015. The article is available at http://www.geoc.jp/content/files/japanese/2016/03/tsuna27_kiji12.pdf.

Author of the article: Hana Takebe, Project associate of UNU-IAS

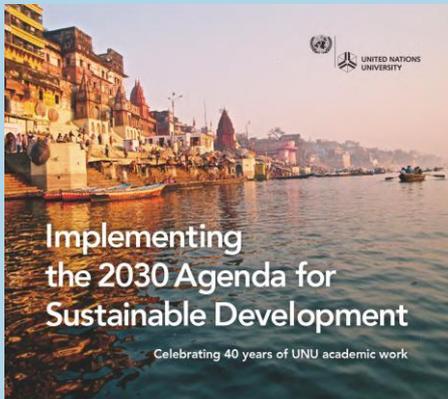


GEOC

Global Environment Outreach Centre

Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC), a joint programme between the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and UNU, contributes to improving communications and outreach between stakeholders through establishing partnership in order to realize a sustainable society.

Special Symposium to Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations University Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



On 6 November 2015, as part of a series of events to celebrate 40 years of its academic work, the United Nations University hosted the special symposium on Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations University U Thant International Conference Hall with the cooperation of the Japan Foundation for the United Nations University and the Global Environmental Outreach Centre. Some 300 persons, including representatives from international organizations, government agencies, universities and research institutes, and embassies, attended it.

At the symposium, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, participants discussed various challenges with which the international community will be faced in the future as it works to achieve the SDGs.

In their opening remarks, Dr. David M. Malone, Rector, the United Nations University, and representatives of the Government of Japan looked back over 40 years of UNU's contribution and noted the roles the University should play in the future. Rector Malone emphasized that it was extremely fortunate that UNU had located its headquarters in Japan and expressed his gratitude to the Japanese government for its support for and cooperation with the university.

In the first of the keynote presentations, Dr. Johan Rockström, Director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre, who had won the 2015 International Cosmos Prize, took the rostrum to stress that the earth had set conditions for humanity to develop successfully and that the concept of planetary boundaries has played an extremely important role in the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, he emphasized that science had shown a new path forward, in which we can have growth and success within limits, thriving within these planetary boundaries.

Then Dr. Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, proceeded to the platform to state that the SDGs clearly indicate that in order to ensure the sustainability of economic and social development for humanity as a whole, it was important to maintain a favorable global environment. And she argued that in order to achieve the SDGs, it was necessary to reform the major economic systems and called for establishment of as extensive a coalition of the willing as possible and said that such a coalition should consist of diverse stakeholders, including communities, corporations and countries.

The panel discussion proceeded with Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Senior Vice-Rector of the United Nations University as a moderator. Prof. Hironori Hamanaka, Chair of the Board of Directors at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, pointed out the necessity of combining the top-down and bottom-up approaches in each country and emphasized the importance of governance in the implementation of the SDGs. Dr. Miki Sugimura, Professor and Vice President for Academic Exchange at Sophia University, indicated that the role of education was to provide cultural connectivity as a basis for the attainment of the SDGs and that education could contribute to the achievement of the SDGs as a platform to connect people in different positions. Ms. Masayo Hasegawa, Member of the Future Earth Engagement Committee and Project General Manager,

Environmental Affairs Division, Toyota Motor Corporation, considered the role of the private sector in implementing the 2030 Agenda, stressing that businesses had a stake in society, and that the transition to a more sustainable world was a major business opportunity.

Discussion between the panelists and the public audience addressed a wide range of issues such as the roles of science in the implementation of the SDGs, the universality of the 2030 Agenda and issues of equity and differentiated responsibility. The panelists emphasized that it was necessary to translate the global goals into those of each country and region appropriately while establishing closer cooperation between developed and developing countries. Finally, Senior Vice-Rector Takeuchi suggested that we should achieve both development and environmental conservation rather than considering the two as incompatible with each other and that it was essential to ensure that such a way of thinking should lead initiatives to implement the SDGs successfully at the corporate and governmental levels. He also emphasized that Japan needed to clearly present the SDGs as its societal goals and confirmed that UNU would continue to strive to raise the awareness of people in Japan and the rest of the world about the SDGs and related challenges.



The report of the symposium is available at the UNU-IAS website : <http://i.unu.edu/media/ias.unu.edu-en/news/11805/UNU-40th-Anniversary-Symposium-Report-EN.pdf>