

Green Economy and Economic Integration in Asia and the Pacific

Kazuo Matsushita (松下 和夫)

Senior Fellow, IGES

Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University

What is Green Economy?

UNEP defines a green economy as one that results in *improved human well-being and social equity*, while significantly *reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities* (UNEP,2011).

In a green economy, growth in income and employment should be driven by *public and private investments* that *reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services*.

Expected Effects of Green Economy

- **Efficiency improvements** : resource/energy efficiency and environmental efficiency
- **New green market , technology, and job creation**
- **Resilience** : from natural/human disasters, food/water/energy security
- **Multiple benefits** : ecological/economic/social benefits; including regional/global, short and long-term benefits
- **Basis for sustainable livelihood** : particularly for rural poor and people in vulnerable communities who rely on ecological services

Outcome of Rio+20

56. We consider **green economy** in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the **important tools** available for **achieving sustainable development**

66. We invite the UN system to coordinate and provide information on:

- (a) *Matching interested countries with the **partners**;*
- (b) ***Toolboxes** and/or **best practices** in applying policies on green economy;*
- (c) ***Models or good examples of policies** on green economy;*
- (d) ***Methodologies for evaluation of policies** on green economy;*
- (e) *Existing and emerging **platforms** that contribute in this regard.*

(UNCSD, "The Future We Want", 2012)

Session Outline

- **Our aim:** Serve as a venue to exchange views, share experiences and propose initiatives to strengthen the nexus of green economy and economic integration in Asia and the Pacific.
- **Our Focus:** Key issues related to green economy and economic integration, including :
 - green investment and economic integration,
 - low-carbon green growth and regional cooperation,
 - border carbon adjustment to address international competitiveness and carbon leakage.
- **Presentations:**
 1. “Green Economic Integration in the Asia-Pacific Region”, Mr.Fulai Sheng, UNEP
 2. “Regional Cooperation for Resource Efficient - Low Carbon Green Growth in Asia”, Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, ADB
 3. “Leading the Transition to Green Economy in Asia through Low Carbon Development” , Dr. Shuichi Ashina, NIES
 4. “Border Carbon Adjustment”, Dr.Xin Zhou, IGES