

The aim of this session was to frame overall discussions on sustainable and inclusive development in the region at ISAP sessions from the view point of SDGs in the context of Asia. It introduced current international discussion on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The speakers also discussed key topics that will lead Asia into sustainable development such as sustainable consumption and production, sustainable lifestyle and well-being.

The process on SDGs is a revolutionary one that discusses and examines possible forward-looking goals specified for sustainable development. Rather than discussions focusing on separate aspects of development, namely social, economic and environmental development, discussions are held on development in an integrated manner. At the Asia-Pacific regional level, the following major six directions have been more or less agreed: 1) prioritisation of poverty eradication, solving inequality, development whilst protecting the natural resource base, 2) empowerment of women, 3) resilience to several types of shock, such as natural disasters, 4) response to population increase, dynamism and urbanisation, 5) progress in natural resource management, and 6) regional integration. Also, many representatives discussed about the methods of implementations of SDGs.

SDGs should reflect the needs of transformation in our understanding of sustainable development and the game of economy that is now being played. Countries in Asia have started to play a new game of green economy on a scale and at a speed that places more emphasis on green growth, low-carbon, and resilient development. We have a major unfinished sustainable development agenda in the Asia Pacific. To meet this agenda, it is crucial to address sustainable resource management as well as inclusive green development. Meeting the forthcoming SDGs, a new roadmap for the future will require that we play a new game of benefits for Asia by the new sets of rules.

However, various concepts related to sustainability such as low-carbon, sound material cycle society, or biodiversity are not easily linked to the actual lives of each citizen. This is because the recent economic trends tend to divide and promote dis-communication among different players in the supply chain. Changing awareness of the market would result in real changes in consumption and production. Total collaboration from production, sales, to consumption is necessary. The key is improvement in communication.

Overall, the session discussed the importance of changing the game of economy into green economy with a quality considering environmental and resource basis for growth. It is very important to integrate theory and reality, as well as policy and actual fields. The session emphasised the importance of human-centered development such as integration of poverty eradication, solving inequality, conserving resources and the natural basis for development. Also, to put international discussion on implementation into reality, it is crucial to understand, enhance, and utilise local capacities and potentials to make changes and provide well-being.