

ISAP2014 Session Summary

PL-1 Launch of the Japan 2050 Low Carbon Navigator: Navigating toward Low Carbon Societies

14:00 – 15:30 23 July 2014

This was the launch session of the Japan 2050 Low Carbon Navigator (a Japanese version of the UK 2050 Pathways Calculator), jointly developed by IGES and the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES). The session not only introduced the Japan 2050 Low Carbon Navigator, but also shared lessons learnt from the UK 2050 Pathways Calculator. In the panel discussion, speakers from different areas such as education, NGOs, local government and research institute discussed ways by which the 2050 Low Carbon Navigator can be used and convey their expectations for this tool. **Prof. Hironori Hamanaka**, Chair of the Board of Directors of IGES, moderated the session.

In the opening remarks, **Mr. Nobuhiro Kino** (Ministry of the Environment, Japan) emphasised the significance of the Low Carbon Navigator in the current context of Japan. **Mr. Richard Oppenheim** (British Embassy Tokyo) reiterated his support for the Low Carbon Navigator, and expressed his expectation that the Low Carbon Navigator would be widely used in Japan in the same way as it is in the UK.

Prof. Shuzo Nishioka (LCS-RNet/ LoCARNet / IGES) addressed the relevance of 2050 Low Carbon Navigator within the context of the limited time available for stabilising the climate at the national and global levels. Referring to Japan's 80% emissions reduction targets, Prof. Nishioka stressed that Japan needs a drastic transformation to break away from high energy and carbon dependent society. He vividly presented the current energy flows in Japan and explained various measures that Japan has and/or needs to undertake to transform into a low-carbon society.

Dr. Xin Zhou (IGES) introduced the Japan 2050 Low Carbon Navigator to the audience. Her presentation started with an overview of the Low Carbon Navigator, its background, the rationale of its development as well as the processes followed during the development, and what type of questions it can address. Dr. Zhou also demonstrated the Low Carbon Navigator, explained its structure and level settings, and how it works. She also presented several example pathways under different levels settings and under various assumptions.

Dr. Jan Ole Kiso (UK DECC) explained how the 2050 Calculator can work as a platform for energy-literate debate. He observed that in the context of the UK, the open-source, Excel model of the 2050 Calculator engages experts, whereas the web tool informs policymakers about likely outcomes under different scenarios. Following that, he addressed the core issue of the session: how the 2050 Calculator influenced UK's policy debates and formulation. Dr. Kiso stated that the 2050 Calculator helps the audience in understanding what matters in the overall debate concerning the future of UK energy and emissions, including the impact of moving away from nuclear energy, the impact of choices such as increased use of bioenergy, UK's grid decarbonisation targets, the role of gas, and impacts on energy security.

ISAP2014 Session Summary

In the panel discussion a group of representatives from academia, NGOs and local government discussed how they expect the Low Carbon Navigator to be used. **Prof. Hironori Hamanaka (IGES)**, who facilitated the panel discussion, asked the discussants to try out the tool by making their own choices and inform the audience the reasons behind their selection. **Prof. Kazuo Matsushita (IGES)** showed his choices on the demand side of residential, commercial and industrial sectors and stressed his selections reflect the importance of carbon pricing in achieving Japan's 80% reduction targets. **Mr. Naoyukki Yamagashi** (WWF Japan) underscored the significance of renewable energy sources in achieving this target, while **Ms. Miho Nakajima** (Kawasaki City) focused on the demand side, in particular transport. **Prof. Masaharu Yagishita** (Sophia University) followed Japan's current government's expected plan of keeping the country's nuclear potential, whereas **Dr. Shuichi Ashina** (NIES) combined all the choices made by the panellists to make one low-carbon pathway, focusing on the society scenarios to keep a balance between supply and demand.

The second part of the panel discussion centred on the utilisation of the Low Carbon Navigator. A number of important insights came from the panellists. **Prof. Matsushita** said that he believes the Low Carbon Navigator can serve as an educational tool which will revitalise students' thinking in future debates on climate change. Replying to **Prof. Hamanaka's** question about its use at the local level, **Ms. Nakajima** also echoed **Prof. Matsushita's** proposal that it can be very useful for environmental education at the local level. **Mr. Yamagashi** expressed his views from an NGO perspective, where he held that the Low Carbon Navigator will help in discussion and debates particularly about renewable and other energy-related scenarios. However, he also expressed his doubts about the low level of potential for renewables set in the current version of the Navigator. **Prof. Yagishita** expressed his belief that it can be a useful tool for promoting participatory approaches in energy-related debates. **Dr. Ashina** observed that the next step could be to develop a local level Navigator for Kawasaki City. **Prof. Hamanaka** thanked the panellists for their interesting and useful ideas about the use and further improvement of the Low Carbon Navigator.

Dr. Tsuyoshi Fujita (NIES) provided the closing remarks of the session. He applauded the Low Carbon Navigator, mentioning that its simple and easy-to-use visual interface will allow for engaging the general public in energy-related discussions, which is very important for Japan's journey toward a low-carbon society by 2050.

Reported by Mustafa Moinuddin, Green Economy Area, IGES