

ISAP2020 Thematic Track2

“Connecting Local, National and Global Levels: The role of Green and Zero Carbon Cities”

16:30-17:45 (75min) (GMT+9, in Japan Standard Time)

9th Nov (Mon), 2020

<https://isap.iges.or.jp/2020/en/tt2.html>

Name	Organisation	Expected talking topic
Mr. Yasuo Takahashi (3 min)	Executive Director, IGES	Opening remarks
Ms. Heidi Hiltunen (5min)	First Councilor, EU delegation to Japan	Welcome remarks -the European Green deal and Next Generation EU-
Mr. Yunus Arikan (7min)	ICLEI Director of Global Advocacy and LGMA Focal Point to the UNFCCC	"Zero Carbon Cities" in raising climate ambition and UNFCCC Race-To-Zero Campaign
Mr. Tokuya Wada (7min)	Director-General for Environmental Policy, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan	Strategies by the Japanese government to mobilise local initiatives on net-zero in Japan
Ms. Eriko Yakushiji (7min)	Director Genral, Climate Change Policy Headquarters, City of Yokohama, Japan	Introduction of current activities to achieve “Go Zero Carbon by 2050”
Ms. Vera Rodenhoff (7min)	Head of Division International Cooperation on Environment, Energy and Cities, German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	How can we promote city-level activities? -Lessons learnt from Germany experiences-
Mr. Leo Christensen (7min)	Member of City Council in Lolland Municipality, Denmark	Lolland Municipality’s activities towards Green and Zero Carbon Cities
Ms. Junko Akagi (7min)	Research Manager IGES/KUC	How IGES supports cities towards Green and Zero Carbon
Panel discussion (25min) Lead discussant: Ms. Xuemei Bai	Professor, Australian National University	Discussions moderated by Mr. Junichi Fujino , Principal Researcher/Programme Director, IGES/CTY

Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Junichi Fujino**, Principal Researcher/Programme Director, IGES/CTY

1. Background:

In Japan, Minister Koizumi of MOEJ leads a zero-carbon city initiative and now (as of 12th October 2020), 159 Japanese cities (representing 73million people or 57% of the entire population of Japan) already declared to become carbon-neutral by 2050, including Tokyo, Yokohama, Kyoto, Nagano as leading cities and ICLEI members. This initiative is in line with the “Race to Zero Campaign” launched by UNFCCC in June 2020, where all stakeholders including local government and cities are encouraged to propose strategies toward net-zero emission by 2050 through the third-party verification of their net-zero vision. Under these circumstances, the Government of Japan (Ministry of the Environment) considers a policy program to support net-zero cities in Japan.

From the perspective of local governments, they are required to simultaneously reduce GHG emissions and address social issues when they develop their net-zero strategies. In particular, the importance of the Green Recovery Package is recognised due to the social impact of COVID19. In other words, GHG emission reduction, which is a common goal at global and national levels, and social challenges, which are a highly regional issue, should be dealt with an integrated manner. For this reason, while the government of Japan plays an important role in developing an overall vision for a climate-neutral vision, much of the actual implementation rests with cities. Through a bottom-up approach, Japanese cities can show how a climate-neutral economy and society is possible.

In the EU there are some cases where local governments are effectively utilizing EU funds. Furthermore, in recent years, there is the concept of vertical and horizontal integration, which refers to endeavors made by all levels of governments – national, regional and local – to jointly develop, implement and monitor strategies, programs and measures to reduce GHG emissions based on long-term targets.

2. Objectives of the session

Firstly, this session shows how highly localized solutions and pathways to climate neutrality can contribute to a national climate vision. Japanese cities face very different challenges and each will have a different way of addressing the challenges of economic recovery, social issues and climate goals. Second, this session provide an insight into the way of cooperation between the central government and local governments, in order to contribute future policy formulation.

Discussion points

- 1) Local governments tend to give priority to responding to economic and social impacts by COVID 19 as a short and medium-term, but how can they follow short-term (economic downturn) and medium to long-term (climate change) goals at the same time
- 2) The government at the provincial (prefectural) level has an intermediate role between the government at the national level and the city (town) level. How should we consider the role of the provincial (prefectural) in terms of developing and implementing net-zero strategy and action plan?
- 3) What kind of support by the national government is required to develop and implement net-zero policies at local government level? In particular, what are the effective ways of technical and financial support?

3. Target audience:

Local and national government policymakers, local business, academia, and international organisations in climate and energy sector

4. Expected outcome:

- To enhance dialogue among local governments to develop a city net-zero vision and advance its action
- To introduce “Race to Zero Campaign” and learn how to proceed it at city level to the audiences in Japan and Asia, and invite them to join
- To learn from front runners’ experiences to speed up net-zero actions at city level
- To clarify the roles of national government to encourage local governments to develop a net-zero initiative
- To learn about the policies of the EU to achieve climate-neutrality and what are the responsibilities of the various administrative levels (ie EU, EU member states, provincial/regional entities, municipalities)

5. Contact:

Mr. Junichi Fujino (fujino@iges.or.jp) and Mr. Akihisa Kuriyama (kuriyama@iges.or.jp)



Supported by:

This event has been organised with the financial support of the European Union’s Partnership Instrument. The opinions expressed are the sole responsibility of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.