Accelerating Sustainability Transitions in Asia and the Pacific: The Transformative Potential of Integration, Inclusion and Localisation

Addressing global environmental problems is a monumental challenge. A wide variety of goals, targets and indicators have been agreed upon to steer the world in a more sustainable direction. However, rising global temperatures and other signs of environmental stress suggest that humanity may have transgressed planetary boundaries and hit tipping points. Yet there is still potential for policymakers and other stakeholders to adopt reforms that can place development on a more sustainable course.

We must act quickly to unlock that potential. Progress has stalled on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement which means that accelerated action is required at multiple levels; the newly agreed Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework would also benefit from a quick and strong start.

Quick turnarounds will also necessitate leadership from the Asia-Pacific region. As the world's most populous region, Asia must be at the forefront of efforts to shift development pathways. Countries in Asia and the Pacific could take advantage of three transformative dynamics to accelerate sustainability transitions:

1. Integration: Maximising synergies and minimising trade-offs across climate, biodiversity and circular economy are essential to advancing the sustainability agenda.
2. Inclusion: Empowering all actors, including those currently marginalised or disadvantaged, to help shape the future they want can also inject much needed momentum into the sustainability agenda.
3. Localisation: Tailoring solutions to relevant contexts can foster ownership of, and support for, the sustainability agenda.

This year, the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific 2023 (ISAP2023) will convene a series of interactive events and dialogues to discuss these three dynamics and consider how they can help accelerate sustainability transitions in Asia-Pacific and beyond.

Plenary session (Hybrid event)
19 December 2023

Thematic Tracks (Online event)
Specified Days from
October 2023 – January 2024

ISAP 2023
International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific
https://isap.iges.or.jp/2023/en/index.html