

# Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

Over 25 years of policy-relevant research on global change and sustainability in the Asia-Pacific region

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## ISAP 2023: Parallel Session 2

**Mainstreaming CES in the Post-2030  
Agenda for Enhancing Integrated Actions  
on Climate and Sustainability Goals:  
Towards Bridging Local-to-Global  
Feedback Loops**

## MOEJ's Concept of the "Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (Regional-CES)"



- Regional-CES is a concept to promote sustainable development through **applying circularity principles** at the **local and regional levels** with close and equitable collaboration between **rural and urban areas** for maximum utilisation of **local strengths and resources**.



## MOEJ's Concept of the “Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (Regional-CES)”

- Strong focus on the development of rural communities  
While *“it is impossible for any local socio-economic activities to be entirely self-contained in this modern age of extensive socioeconomics”*, by applying Regional-CES, regions, including those with rural communities, can demonstrate their *“strengths by utilizing its unique characteristics, thereby building a self-reliant and decentralized society [...]”*.
- Many of the good practices highlighted in MOEJ's concept paper *“Creation of a Regional Circular and Ecological Sphere (Regional-CES) to Address Local Challenges”* are initiatives from rural regions of Japan.



**APN/IGES-KRC  
Joint Scoping  
Activity on  
Regional-CES**

**(AOA2020-01-RCES)**



- Objectives:
  - Introduce Regional-CES and investigate its applicability in the unique context of three SEA countries;
  - Compare Regional-CES with other frameworks/concepts; and
  - Identify entry points, challenges and possible solutions.
- Conducted three national workshops:
  - Philippines (held virtually in Febr. 2022)
  - Thailand (October 2022)
  - Indonesia (May 2023)

## National WS in the Philippines

### “Building Climate Resiliency through Linking Rural-Urban Plans and Priorities”



### Challenges

- Mismatch in priorities due to confliction of policies at local, sub-national and national levels
- Wasteful duplication of plans from various agencies at various levels
- Lack of knowledge and information sharing

### Tackling challenges

- Empowerment of stakeholders
- Strengthening cross-sectoral coordination
- Sharing of knowledge and best practices
- Research and development in circular economy practices

## National WS in Thailand

### “Promoting Regional-CES: Concept for Resilient and Sustainable Communities”



### Challenges

- Weak location-based regulatory tools
- Incompatibility between top-down implementation efforts and local needs
- Lack of understanding of locally available resources

### Tackling challenges

- Improvement of laws/regulations based on locations and their specific needs
- Establishment of local stakeholder platforms
- Community participation/consultation to formulate and implement spatial planning

## National WS in Indonesia

### “Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkage for Localisation of SDGs through Integrated Regional Planning and Collective Actions”



### Challenges

- Bias: urban-centric positions stronger than rural interests
- Lack of inter-municipality coordination
- Different culture/tradition between urban and rural areas

### Tackling challenges

- Enhancing spatial planning with accurate mapping
- Effective law enforcement
- Addressing conflicts between land ownership rights and spatial regulations

## Take home messages from the National Workshops



- More inclusion of rural communities needed
  - strong emphasis on engagement of other stakeholder groups. However, **Regional-CES is still very urban-centric**
  - Stronger and more thorough **engagement of stakeholders from rural areas** is essential
  - **Enhancing communication**: national development plans without understanding of the needs of rural communities
- Legal infrastructure to be strengthened: **land development plan to empower rural communities**



## Take home messages from the National Workshops



- Regional-CES is not the only concept around as **other frameworks/concepts** exist and being implemented, e.g.:
    - **Bio-circular-green (BCG) Economy in Thailand,**
    - **Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production (PAP4SCP)**
    - **Presidential regulation 60/2020 of Indonesia on urban rural development in Jabodetabekpunjur**
- ⇒ Need to further investigate these concepts, learn from their good practices and experiences
- ⇒ No perfect fit for all
- ⇒ Better communication within and between stakeholder groups

# Thank you!



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