

## Towards a Sustainable Asia-Pacific and Global Warming Problem

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Our Institute conducts pragmatic and innovative strategic policy research to support sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region—a region experiencing rapid population growth and expanding economic activity. The mission of IGES is to promote the transformation of 20th Century society, characterized by mass production and mass consumption, to a new societal framework founded on sustainability. We must re-examine our value systems and socio-economic activities; change is essential. IGES aims to propose various measures for improved and realistic social and economic systems, which will form a new paradigm for the future. Strategic policy research for the realization of sustainable development is a formidable task in the Asia-Pacific region, which has such diverse topography and cultures, and great variance in the level of economic development. IGES collaborates with a broad range of stakeholders, such as national governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and citizens groups, to carry out this research of such a challenging nature, aiming to ensure that the results are reflected in the policy-making process. I believe that developing and presenting effective strategies for the Asia-Pacific region will play a leading role in global environmental research in the 21st Century, and contribute to the realization of sustainable society in the world.

I introduce the final outcome of the two phases of ECO ASIA Long-term Perspective Project (LTPP). The first phase of the project was initiated in 1993 and presented its report in 1997. The second phase started in 1998. Both projects were launched as forums for international collaboration in scientific research activities on the environment and development in Asia and the Pacific, under the framework of ECO ASIA. The mission of the project is to provide the ECO ASIA with scientific background information for discussions among its participants. The key concepts for long-term sustainable development in the region developed by the LTPP are Eco-Consciousness, Eco-Partnership, Eco-Technology/ Eco-Investment, and Eco-Policy Linkage. The first phase of LTPP (1993-1997) focused on examining the 4 key concepts and the outcome was published as 'A Long-term Perspective on Environment and Development in the Asia-Pacific Region: ECO ASIA Long-term Perspective Project Final Report' (ECO ASIA, 1997). The second phase of the LTPP (1998-2001) was conducted to further examine and promote the 4 key concepts and materialized the concepts regarding critical environmental issues in the region. Therefore, this focuses on the findings concerning the applicability of the 4 key concepts in talking priority environmental issues in the region. The first makes a presentation of the driving forces of environmental change in Asia and the Pacific region. These driving forces revolve around social, economic and technological factors that affect the environment and vice-versa. The second discusses future perspectives on critical issues related to the environment and development in the region, such as energy consumption and GHG emission, based on analysis provided by the Asian-Pacific Integrated Model (AIM model). The third reviews critical environmental issues in Asia and the Pacific. The issues considered are climate change, urban environment, biodiversity, forest conservation, freshwater and environmental education. These area studies looked closely at the relevance and application of the four concepts with respect to critical environmental issues.