

Importance of Future Earth in Asia

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Future Earth (FE) has been launched as an international initiative to promote research for global sustainability by the international science and technology alliance with partnership of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Belmont Forum of funding agencies, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations University (UNU), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as an observer (Future Earth, 2013). Future Earth will provide a single overarching structure for researchers, funders, service providers, and users, and integrates the existing Global Environmental Change (GEC) programmes. The GEC programmes have provided foci for several extensive international and multi-disciplinary networks of researchers investigating key human-environmental dynamics. Future Earth would develop a new generation network building on these. Future Earth proposes national and regional level committees, in addition to the regional nodes. The most essential issue for the overall FE activity towards global sustainability will be how to integrate efforts and activity of solving environmental problems and achieving sustainability for local to regional scales.

This paper introduces a strategic science plan for FE in Asia, which should be a guideline for implementing the overall FE activity in the whole of Asia, including part of the Pacific/Australasia and the Indian Ocean basin region.

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