Carrying out the Paris Agreement: 
Role of research communities in supporting 
scientific climate policy

APN, LoC.ARNet and AIT/RRC.AP 
Capacity Building Workshop and Science-Policy Dialogue on LCD 
06-08 February 2017, Bangkok, Thailand

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AIT Conference Centre

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• Present circumstances and opportunities of capacity building for LCD in developing countries, particularly in Asia

• Role of research community and Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet) as practical example
Why capacity development is urgently needed in context of Paris Agreement? - 1

• Paris Agreement refers to importance and urgency of capacity development for LCD

• Every country needs to form long-term low-GHG emission development strategies, ....... in the light of different national circumstances” (Article 4)

→ CB for scientific/quantitative knowledge, firmly grounded in their home countries is necessary
Why capacity development is urgently needed in context of Paris Agreement? - 2

• Paris Agreement leads to a new era for action and implementation towards realising low-carbon societies, where not only national governments but also non-state stakeholders such as cities, local governments, businesses, financial organisations and civil society will be focused on as actors of transition.

• *Actual actions on the ground at all levels* will take centre stage.

  → Science-based knowledge should be widely disseminated to facilitate actions amongst stakeholders.
Present circumstances and opportunities of CB for LCD in developing countries, particularly in Asia - 1

- Asia has crucial roles and responsibilities in terms of climate stabilisation. If current trends continue, Asia is forecast to account for half of planet’s GDP, energy consumption and CO2 emissions in 2050.
Present circumstances and opportunities of CB for LCD in developing countries, particularly in Asia - 2

• Asia maintains high economic growth rates and continues to invest

• Goal of Asia is to ensure that their infrastructure development does not lock them into a high carbon development pathway

• Commitments should be geared towards maximising development opportunities and obligations

→ CB for supporting developing countries’ leapfrog development should be put forward
What is Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet)?

- Open network of researchers, policymakers and like-minded stakeholders
- Established in 2012 with firm conviction that only way to accomplish development along new pathway in very short time is by fostering domestic and within-region research communities
- Facilitates formulation and implementation of science-based policies and actions for LCD in Asian region
What is Low Carbon Asia Research Network (LoCARNet)?

• IGES (Japan) has served as Secretariat, in close collaboration with NIES AIM (Asia Pacific Integrated Assessment Model) project team

• Funded by MOEJ, MOFAJ, JICA, APN...

• Since 2012, has arranged 34 meetings with 2,132 participants, including 15 CB workshops, 4 policy dialogues, and 5 annual meetings

• Main Activities: CB for fostering research communities, link scientific knowledge with policymakers and actions, knowledge sharing...
Distinguishing features of LoCARNet

• LoCARNet is a network of leading researchers, research organisations and like-minded relevant stakeholders deeply involved in low-carbon growth policy processes in the Asian region.

• Science-science, science-policy dialogue: LoCARNet promotes research on policies for low-carbon growth by enabling sufficient levels of dialogue among and between scientists and policymakers.

• Domestic ownership of knowledge: LoCARNet encourages collaboration amongst researchers in-country whose research capacity and scientific knowledge are firmly grounded in their home countries.

• Regional south-south collaboration: LoCARNet aims to increase research capacity in the AP region through knowledge-sharing and information exchange as part of regional cooperation - not only N-S, but also S-S cooperation.
CB Workshop for Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar

Date & Venue: 26 Sept. 2016, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

83 Participants

- Present and Discuss *Low Carbon Development Plan towards 2050 in Cambodia*, by AIM
- Cambodia’s line ministries presented and shared exiting national policies and strategies on climate change responses and LCD
- Share other Asian countries experiences
- Proposal to form a researchers network in Cambodia
AIM training workshop: Preliminary meeting

Date & Venue: **30 Jan. – 1 Feb. 2017**, Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thammasat University, Thailand

**24 participants** from 8 Asian countries

- Conduct overall presentation (1/2 days), ExSS model (1/2), CGE (1/2), Enduse (1/2), Group discussion (1/2)
- Many favorable comments → Next time?
LoCARNet Activities – Link Scientific research with policymaking

- Preliminary future projections by AIM-ExSS – Bhutan’s greenhouse gas emissions and absorption up to 2050
- Emissions might exceed its absorption in 2050 if additional LC measures are not introduced
LoCARNet Activities – Knowledge Sharing

LoCARNet 5th Annual Meeting
• Date & Venue: 25-26 Oct. 2016, Bandung, Indonesia
• 84 participants
• Themes (Pressing issues in Asia): Low-carbon cities, Innovative monitoring systems, Land use, Adaptation, Formulation and implementation of NDCs

• 1st in Bangkok (2012): Scope out topics for the network to address
• 2nd in Yokohama (2013): Discuss how to advance its activities
• 3rd in Bogor (2014): “Asia is ready to stabilise the climate”, Asia’s high potential in attaining the 2-degrees target
• 4th in Iskandar (2015): “Asia is ready to contribute”
• 5th in Bandung (2016): “Asia has already taken actual action”
LoCARNet Activities – Outreach & Public Relations Activities

• **A primer on Low Carbon Societies** (March 2016)

• **Joint authorship and publishing books and reports**
  - “Enabling Asia to Stabilise the Climate” → COP21
  - Publication on 1.5 degrees → IPCC Special Report

• **Newsletters and websites**
Future Direction

• Yet research communities in Asia are still insufficient, positive signs have also emerged recently
  • Ex. Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia – establish link with science and policy,
  • Viet Nam and Cambodia – formed / will form research communities

• Bridge science to actions and implementations in close collaboration with experts in this region
<Pre Announcement> LoCARNet 6th Annual Meeting

• **Late October 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand**
• **To be held in conjunction with the Third International Conference of Low Carbon Asia & Beyond - ICLCA 2017**