

AOA2012-NSY09-APN/IGES/HYOGO

APN-IGES-Hyogo Symposium on Low Carbon Society in Asia through Dissemination of Renewable Energy Technology

Masayuki Ishizu¹, Akio Takemoto

¹Corresponding Author

Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research

Email: mishizu@apn-gcr.org

ABSTRACT: Renewable energy technologies are innovative and promising technologies to achieve low carbon development both in developed and developing countries in Asia. Various types of renewables such as solar, wind power and biomass energy are being or will be disseminated in Asian countries through policy arrangement such as regulatory schemes, target setting and economic incentives including Feed-in-Tariff. The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), and Hyogo Prefecture organised a “Symposium on Low Carbon Society in Asia through Dissemination of Renewable Energy Technology” in Kobe, Japan in order to provide the latest information on renewable energy technologies that have been introduced in Japan and Asian developing countries, to the public; and to exchange views among participants on gaps, lessons and solutions to achieve low carbon societies.

KEYWORDS: *renewable energy, low carbon, technology, solar, wind power, biomass*

HIGHLIGHTS

- » The Governor of Hyogo Prefecture, Toshizo Ido, made the opening remarks.
- » Keynote Speech: “Practical use of renewable energy, and a fixed-price acquisition system” by Dr. Kasuhiro Ueta, Professor, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies & Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University
- » The renewable energy situation of Thailand and Malaysia was introduced by guest speakers.
- » Good practices were introduced by private companies and Hyogo Prefectural Government.

Introduction

All countries should work together towards low carbon development and green growth by enhancing mitigation action on climate change.

The Hyogo Prefectural Government of Japan, which hosts the APN Secretariat and is a major financial contributor to the APN, is keen on implementing mitigation measures at a local scale, including CO₂ emission reduction in public and commercial sectors by way of regulatory, economic and informational measures to encourage energy-saving.

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Kansai Research Centre (IGES/KRC) is a Hyogo-based research institution which conducts research activities on “Business and Environment” including experimental studies on low carbon technology transfer in Asia.

The APN, IGES/KRC and Hyogo Prefecture can benefit from a communications event on low carbon development, which facilitates mutual understanding on the latest technological know-how, legal framework and lifestyle with regard to low carbon development. It was also important to hold such an event from the viewpoint of the redistribution of APN’s outcomes to Hyogo Prefecture, which has supported the APN for more than 12 years.

In this regard, APN, IGES/KRC and Hyogo Prefecture organised a “Symposium on Low Carbon Society in Asia through Dissemination of Renewable Energy Technology” to provide the latest information on renewable energy technologies, introduced in Japan and Asian developing countries to the public, and to exchange views among participants on gaps, lessons and solutions to achieve a low carbon society in Asian countries.

Results

The Symposium was held on 18 February 2013 at ANA Crown Plaza Hotel, Kobe, Japan and attended by more than 250 participants. The agenda of the Symposium was as follows:

13:30 Opening Remarks

Toshizo Ido, Governor of Hyogo Prefecture

13:40 Keynote Speech

Practical use of renewable energy, and a fixed-price acquisition system

Professor, Dr. Kazuhiro Ueta, Professor, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies & Graduate School of Economics, Kyoto University

14:10 Guest Speech 1

Professor, Dr. Bundit Fungtammasan, Vice President for Research, King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand





Hyogo Governor Ido and APN Director Akio Takemoto (right) during the symposium.

14:30 Guest Speech 2

Professor, Dr. Hamdani Saidi, Professor, Director of UTM International Campus, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

15:00 Good Practices Presentation 1

Practical use of the renewable energy by a storage battery system

Mr. Kaihei Kuwata, Group Manager, Panasonic Energy Company

15:20 Good practices Presentation 2

Introductory promotion of the photovoltaics of Hyogo Prefecture

Mr. Eiji Endo, Director, Global Warming Solutions Division, Hyogo Prefectural Government

15:40 Good practices Presentation 3

The woody biomass power generation system by forest unused material

Mr. Makoto Takizawa, Director, Green Thermal Co. Ltd.

16:00 Panel Discussion

Coordinator: Professor Yutaka Suzuki, Director-General, IGES Kansai Research Center

Panelist: Professor Ueta, Dr. Fungtammasan, Dr. Saidi, Mr. Kuwata, Mr. Endo, Mr. Takizawa, Akio Takemoto (APN Secretariat Director)

17:30 Closing Remarks

Professor Yutaka Suzuki, Director-General, IGES Kansai Research Center

After the opening remarks by Hyogo Governor Mr. Toshizo Ido, Professor Kazuhiro Ueta of Kyoto University made a keynote speech. He introduced the fixed price acquisition system for renewable energy power generation which was recently established in Japan. He highlighted

that diffusion of renewable energy is highly affected by new energy policies, including that of nuclear power generation. The characteristics of renewable energy, such as wind power generation and photovoltaics depend on local resources. He stressed that renewable energy has the advantage of having various co-benefits, such as fostering industries and revitalising regional economies.

Following the keynote speech, Professor Bundit Fungtammasan, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand, and Professor Hamdani Saidi, Universiti Teknologi, Malaysia delivered keynote messages and an overview on renewable energy technology and policy in their own countries. Professor Fungtammasan mentioned that 70% of electric power generation in Thailand is from natural gas, 20% from coal, 5% from hydraulic power and renewable energy 2%. He stressed that Thailand imports a large amount of resources, which accounts for 47% of its total energy consumption; therefore, Thailand is committed to promoting renewable energy. Professor Saidi mentioned that Malaysia depends on fossil fuels too much, and the percentage of renewable energy is currently about 1%. They have made a target to increase this to 10% in the future.

After the guest speeches, there were presentations on good practices for deployment of renewable energy by Japanese experts. Mr. Kaihei Kuwata, Panasonic Energy Company, introduced the utilisation of renewable energy through a storage battery system. He said that



Panasonic has made a storage battery system using lithium-ion for small, medium and large size systems and this will contribute to promoting smart grids in the future.

Mr. Eiji Endo, Hyogo Prefecture, introduced the various measures taken to promote renewable energy by Hyogo Prefectural Government. These measures include low interest rate loans for the public and businesses, introduction of photovoltaic power generation into prefectural facilities, provision of information via websites and research activities.

Mr. Makoto Takizawa, Green Thermal Co. Ltd., introduced a biomass power generation system using unused and abundant forestry resources in local areas. He stressed that this biomass power generation system can produce electricity without

carbon emissions and transportation costs because the power plant can be installed in the vicinity of a mountain. He expects that this system will revitalise the forest industry in local areas.

In panel discussions, adding to the speakers at previous sessions, Dr. Akio Takemoto, APN Secretariat, joined the session. Professor Yutaka Suzuki, Director-General, IGES/KRC moderated the discussion between participants and panellists.

The symposium was a successful event. Participants shared and discussed among them the latest information on policy frameworks, technologies and systems on renewable energy and the barriers and solutions for dissemination of renewable energy through keynote speeches, good practices and panel discussions.

AOA2012-NSY09-APN/IGES/HYOGO

PROJECT TITLE

APN-IGES-Hyogo Symposium on Low Carbon Society in Asia through Dissemination of Renewable Energy Technology

COUNTRIES INVOLVED

Japan, Thailand, Malaysia

DURATION

1 year

APN FUNDING

US\$ 40,000

LEAD INSTITUTION

APN Secretariat, East Building, 4F 1-5-2 Wakinohama Kaigan Dori Chuo-ku, Kobe 651-0073 JAPAN

Tel: +81 78 230 8017

Email: info@apn-gcr.org

Website: www.apn-gcr.org