

Intervention on Agenda Item 3 of the 10th APFSD on 27th March 2023

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First of all, congratulations for a successful 10th APFSD. We thank all stakeholders, especially ESCAP. On behalf of IGES, I am very grateful to be talking “three areas” at this critical juncture, when we prepare to move past this midway point and look toward the SDG Summit this coming September:

1. The first area is sustainable cities and communities under SDG 11. At IGES, we are strongly committed to localization of the SDGs. We also aim promote localization through voluntary local reviews or VLRs. VLRs are a critical vehicle for local governments to take stock of progress and deliver on the SDGs. VLRs can also be used to connect actions at the local and national level through Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). They can also make connections to key stakeholders such as business through sustainability reports or Voluntary Business Reviews (VBRs). We need practical framework.
2. The second area involves SDG 6 and SDG 7. In this case, we should not work on these goals separately but integrate water and energy. This integration could particularly useful at the local level through an approach, we call, “regional circulating and ecological sphere” or Regional-CES. Regional-CES can also help achieve climate and SDG “synergies” that was highlighted at the third United Nations Climate and SDGs synergy conference last July in Tokyo (<https://www.un.org/en/climate-sdgs-conference-2022>) convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC, hosted by MOEJ, in partnership with UNU and IGES. I would like to propose “from Asia-Pacific” we mainstream “Synergy” actions. We need visible showcases.
3. The third area involves our approach to the SDGs in a world where climate, biodiversity crises and even the COVID-19 pandemic and tensions in Ukraine become more common. IGES, would like to support governments and stakeholders to step up efforts to build sustainable societies from the ground up while at the same time strengthening global institutions. We need both horizontally and vertically integrated governance.

IGES continues to contribute three areas and further using the coming important meetings such as HLPF2023, 4th Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference convened by UNDESA and UNFCCC, SDGs Summit, Ministerial Meeting of Summit of the Future, UNFCCC COP28 and G7 Japan, G20 India, and others. IGES also continues to host our international forum, ISAP2023 (<https://isap.iges.or.jp/>), this coming autumn in Japan and welcome all of you. Let’s work together to mainstream “Synergy” actions from our Asia-Pacific.

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