

The Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) serves as an informal and interactive platform to improve information sharing and stakeholder coordination on co-benefits in Asia. The ACP was launched with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan in 2010 to help mainstream climate and environmental co-benefits into decision-making processes in Asia. Learn more about us at our website. <http://www.cobenefit.org/>



## Highlights

### Webinar: Aligning Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies in Asia

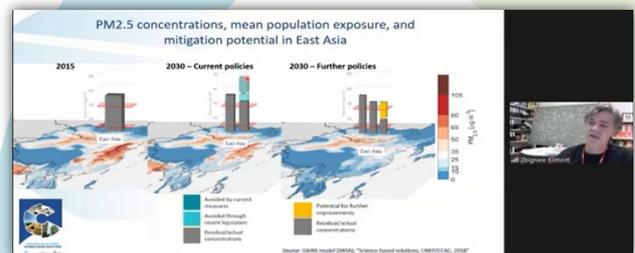
The workshop, entitled *Aligning Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies in Asia*, was organised by Kyushu University, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Ministry of Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and Asian Co-benefits Partnership (ACP) on January 25th.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss the concept of the co-benefits; tools and methods to quantify co-benefits; case studies featuring co-benefits; and collaborative research on co-benefits. Many of the presentations from the workshop will be published in the Springer's upcoming book entitled *Aligning Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies in Asia: Quantifying, Integrating, and Advancing Co-benefits*.

The workshop consisted of presentations belonging to three main sessions: first, quantitative modelling of co-benefits and sustainable development; second, co-benefits of climate change mitigation in the Republic of Korea, Japan, and China; and third session for new perspectives on co-benefits.

workshop by discussing the core concepts and applications of co-benefits.

The first session on quantitative modelling started with Professor Yadollah Saboohi of Sharif University of Technology discussing co-benefits from energy efficiency in Iran. Professor Hooman Farzaneh of Kyushu University then presented on an integrated energy-environment-public health-economy assessment of high-efficiency Heat Only Boilers in Mongolia.



The Special Keynote was delivered by the last speaker of the session Mr. Zbigniew Klimont of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). Mr. Klimont focused on the interactions between urban and rural air pollution in Asia as well as the multiple development benefits of coordinated action. He analysed measures that could help control air pollution as well as promote sustainable agriculture and waste management. Mr. Klimont concluded that air quality management requires an integrated approach and a better understanding of both multiple benefits of policy interventions and distribution across various groups in society.

Climate Co-benefits assessment of the utilization of high-efficiency Heat Only Boilers in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (2018~)



The workshop began with a welcome address by Mr. Toshiyuki Yamasaki of the MOEJ. Mr. Yamasaki highlighted the Japanese target of carbon-neutrality by 2050 and emphasised the importance of co-benefits approach to achieve that target. In the Introductory Session, Dr. Eric Zusman of IGES helped frame the

Dr. Satoshi Kojima facilitated the second session, concentrating co-benefits of climate change mitigation in the Republic of Korea, Japan, and China. The session started with a presentation from Dr. Yeora Chae of the Korea Environment Institute (KEI) on the case of Korean

Renewable Energy Policy 2030 that has a potential to deliver around 26,000 billion KRW in monetised co-benefits. She mentioned the comparatively higher costs could be the main barrier to the deployment of renewable technologies but the consideration of co-benefits could offset the costs and make renewables more competitive and attractive.

Mr. Etsujiro Takai of IGES discussed the co-benefits of renewable energy policies in Japan. He explained the potential for co-benefits from renewable energy by presenting policies as well as the future outlook of energy by 2050. He further discussed technical, social, and political barriers for renewable energy deployment and suggested solutions for clearing these barriers through technological innovations, cost reduction, and the evaluation of co-benefits.

Professor Mao Xianqiang of Beijing Normal University presented on the solar energy policy in China. He outlined a national energy policy scenario that could yield about 1600 billion RMB in co-benefits from deploying solar renewable energy for electricity and heating purposes. He noted that China is the largest manufacturer of photovoltaic panels and the export of these panels could deliver co-benefits on a global scale.

The last session of the workshop on new perspectives on co-benefits was moderated by Dr. Subhes Bhattacharyya of De Monfort University. Mr. Kohei Hibino from IGES presented on Japan's low-carbon technology collaboration with Southeast Asia, focusing on the concept of co-innovation. He suggested that the concept consists of scaling up and co-learning, co-monitoring and evaluation, co-production and co-manufacturing, and co-design and co-development. He also discussed cases studies demonstrating co-innovation in practice,

and concluded by suggesting that the locally adaptive technologies is essential to meeting the needs of developing countries.

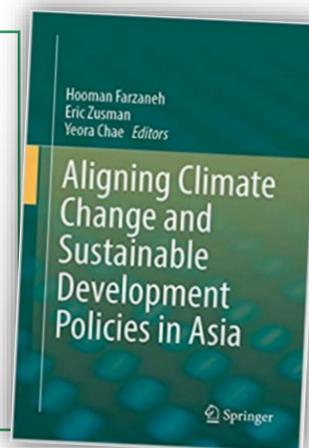
Ms. Kaoru Akahoshi of IGES shared a presentation on the linkages between the co-benefits and biodiversity and argued recognizing biodiversity co-benefits requires integrating a natural science, biodiversity, and economic perspective. She then outlined a framework that could help connect biodiversity with climate change mitigation strategies and emphasised there is a need to integrate local, national, global levels on this issue to advance actions on biodiversity co-benefits.

The last presentation of the workshop was delivered by Dr. So-Young Lee from IGES on social co-benefits for a sustainable and just society. She elaborated on the implementation of social co-benefits initiatives, including ridership for low-income and elderly citizens, local energy creation with women, and low-carbon cities through participatory governance. Dr. Lee concluded that a solutions-based approach is needed. Such an approach should aim to engage those affected through a multi-level multi-benefits approach with citizen's participation at its core.



## Publications

The Springer book, *Aligning Climate Change and Sustainable Development Policies in Asia*, provides policymakers, researchers, and other interested audiences with knowledge on how to quantify, integrate and advance co-benefits in their decisions. It begins with an introductory chapter that provides an overview of the concept of co-benefits. This followed by a section that details quantitative approaches to estimate co-benefits, particularly in cities. A third section presents a series of case studies from the energy sector in Northeast and Southeast Asia. A final section focuses on new perspectives on co-benefits from linking climate change with biodiversity, social justice, and through new models of co-innovation. The book is particularly timely as many countries in Asia seek to achieve objectives in the national climate policies and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



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