



North-East Asian
Multi-stakeholder
Forum on SDGs

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Japan : Challenges and Prospects for Solution

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Kazuhiko Takemoto
Executive Secretary, SDSN Japan
Director, UNU-IAS

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1. Priority Challenges

Priority Challenges (1)

At national level

Achievements

- Established institutional framework
“SDGs Promotion Headquarters” in May 2016
- Government’s adoption of Japan’s national strategy
“SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles” in December 2016



SDGs Promotion Headquarters,
Chaired by the Prime Minister

(from the website of Prime Minister of Japan and his Cabinet)

Challenges

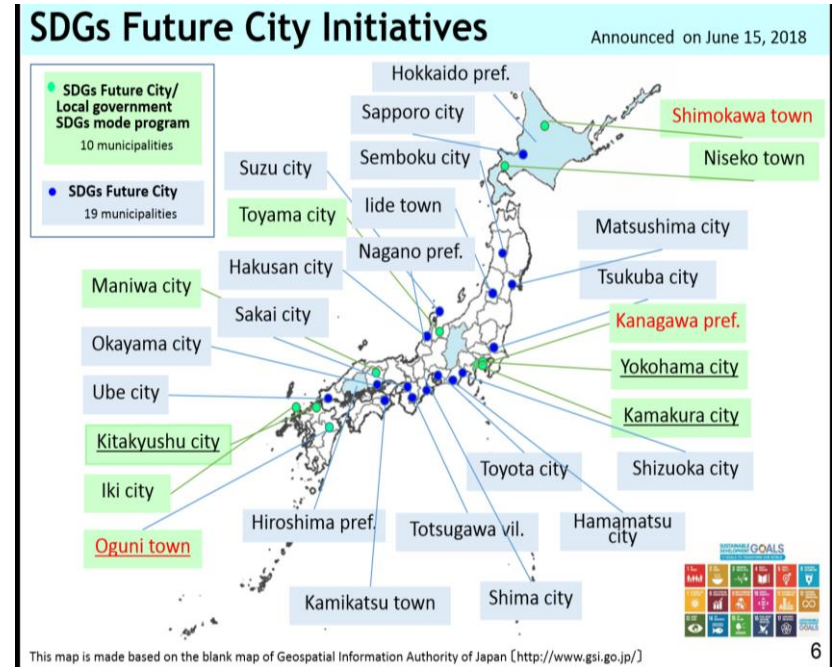
- Lack of legal mechanism to ensure SDGs implementation
- Relatively weak institutional settings in terms of command/decision making power and financing
- Lack of robust assessment system on SDGs implementation

Priority Challenges (2)

At sub-national level

Achievements

- “SDGs Future Cities” Project was launched in June 2018.
- 29 local authorities (Prefectures, Cities and Towns) were selected with their clear pictures for SDGs implementation, and will receive supports from the Government.



Challenges

- Limited number of local authorities are active on SDGs implementation
- Most citizens are not yet familiar with SDGs
Only 14.8% knows the word “SDGs”
(April, 2018, Dentsu survey, available from <http://www.dentsu.co.jp/news/release/2018/0404-009518.html>)

2. Prospects for Overcoming

Prospects for Overcoming (1)

Challenges

- Lack of legality
- Not enough assessment system



Prospects

- Selected SDGs Future Cities have submitted original plans and their implementation will further step up
- Some local authorities already starts internalizing SDGs in their own “Development Plans”, the highest-level plan, which has legitimacy and periodic PDCA cycle.

Example:

Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido, plans to incorporate SDGs Vision into the 6th development plan in FY2018.

Information and picture from: Shimokawa Town the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report (IGES, 2018)



Fig. 5 Process to incorporate SDGs in municipal policies and projects

Prospects for Overcoming (2)

Challenges

- Relatively weak institutional settings



Prospects

- More proactive cooperation among different sectors and fields
- Moving towards pursuing synergies and achieving different SDGs goals together as SDGs are “integrated and indivisible”



**Partnership Agreement
between Kitakyushu City and SJNK**

Picture from: Nikkei ESG news website
(<https://business.nikkeibp.co.jp/atclesg/news/032700002/>)

Example:

Kitakyushu City “signed an agreement on ... collaboration on the SDGs with Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc. (SJNK) ...the first of its kind in Japan connecting local governments and companies on the SDGs.”

Quotation and picture from: Kitakyushu City the Sustainable Development Goals Report (IGES, 2018)

Prospects for Overcoming (3)

Challenges

- Limited number of local activities
- SDGs are not familiar



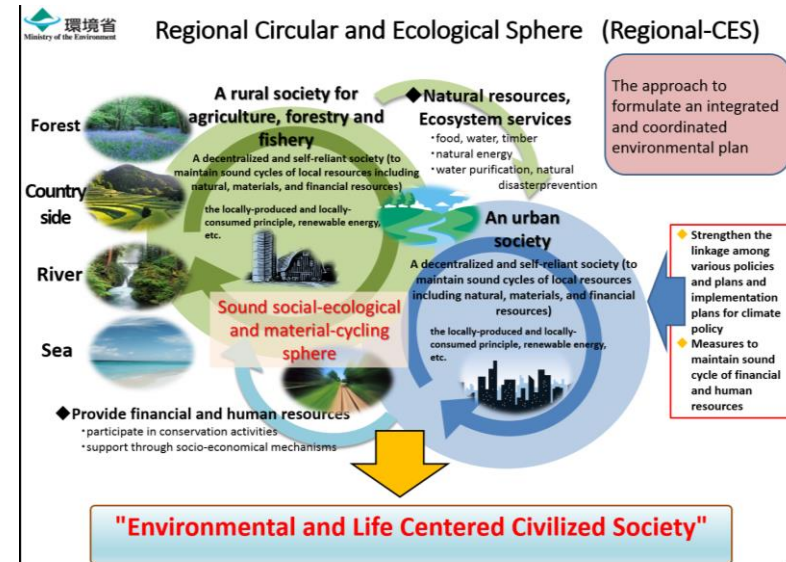
Prospects

- Strengthen support to local level activities both in human resource and finance
E.g., New programs in subsidies/SDGs Awards/
Platforms for matching local authorities and
private sectors/Advices (knowledge application)
- Develop more concrete models of local revitalization through SDGs through policy relevant research, conveying a broader range of stakeholders

Example:

The Japanese government is strengthening support programs for local authorities to pursue SDGs implementation.

Picture from: 'Outline of the Fifth Basic Environment Plan', Presentation of Ministry of the Environment Japan at ISAP, 2018



The 5th Basic Environment Plan introduced a new concept "Regional Circular and Ecological Sphere"

3. Pressing Policy Agenda

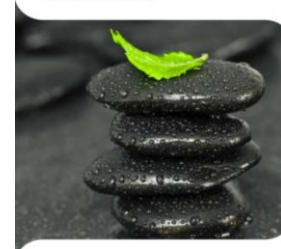
3. Pressing Policy Agenda

- Move forward on SDGs implementation at both national and subnational level
- Seek opportunities to enhance existing policies through SDGs used as “measures”, overcoming weaknesses in specific Goals (e.g., Gender, Climate Change)
- Development of international cooperation and support for the entire international community

Example:

UNU-IAS, as a host organization of SDSN Japan, jointly with UNESCAP, publishes “Guidelines for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Implement the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific” in March 2018. Indonesia is now developing their own guidelines based on the Guidelines developed by UNU and ESCAP.

Partnering for Sustainable Development
Guidelines for Multi-stakeholder Partnerships
to Implement the 2030 Agenda
in Asia and the Pacific



ESCAP
UNITED NATIONS
UNU-IAS
INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Launch of the guideline at
Fifth Asia-Pacific Forum on
Sustainable Development





Hosted by UNU-IAS



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Thank you!

<http://sdsnjapan.org/en/>