

First Anniversary of SDSN Japan

One year has passed since the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Japan (SDSN Japan) was officially launched, last July at the International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific (ISAP 2015). We have developed a variety of activities, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, aimed towards realizing a sustainable society.

In particular, we have made efforts to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are the core element of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly last September. Furthermore, we developed a set of policy recommendations for mainstreaming the SDGs, based on discussions at an expert workshop. The policy recommendations focused on six areas, namely (i) Governance, (ii) the Roles of Stakeholders, (iii) Climate Change, (iv) Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), (v) Biodiversity and (vi) Development/International Cooperation and Education. While these recommendations originally targeted the 2016 G7 Summit and its related ministerial meetings, they have a broad scope and can thus also contribute to the G20 Summit which will be held in China this September, and provide guidance for actions by other stakeholders in addition to governments.



Mr. Oniki, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of the Environment, receives the policy recommendations. (April 2016)

In light of this, our policy recommendations were not only delivered to relevant agencies of the Government of Japan, which has been holding the G7 Presidency, but will also be disseminated widely through the global SDSN network. In addition, SDSN Japan organized a special symposium last April, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to engage in intensive discussion focused on effective implementation to achieve the SDGs.

During this year, the international community has already started developing various activities for achieving the SDGs. The first High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be convened in New York from 11 July. The Government of Japan established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters only last May. While the headquarters is expected to play a leading role in steering all relevant policies in an effective, flexible and comprehensive manner, it remains to be seen whether this will work as expected. National implementation strategies and plans should also be developed as early as possible, as guidelines for achieving the SDGs at the national level. We would like to continue our engagement with the government to help ensure that the established mechanism fulfills its functions effectively.

SDSN Japan is currently developing its work plan, based on which we will further our activities in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. I would like to seek your kind cooperation and support towards achieving our common goals.

Hironori Hamanaka

Chair, SDSN Japan Council/
Chair of the Board of Directors, IGES

Special Symposium toward the 2016 G7 Summit

SDSN Japan organized the special symposium “Mainstreaming Sustainable Development: Toward the 2016 G7 Summit and Beyond” on 16 April at the headquarters of the United Nations University in Tokyo. In the opening session, Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, SDSN Japan Council Vice-Chair (UNU Senior Vice-Rector) gave a keynote speech focusing on policy recommendations produced by SDSN Japan, followed by a dialogue session with the SDSN Japan Council members who had been fully involved in developing them. Intensive discussions took place in the panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Hiroko Kuniya (newscaster), on what actions should be taken by stakeholders in order to achieve the SDGs.



Website Renewal

The website of the SDSN Japan will be renewed with new design in August.

<http://sdsnjapan.org>



Objectives of SDSN Japan

1. To achieve a sustainable society through effective implementation of the SDGs
2. To develop platforms for engagement of multi-stakeholders
3. To contribute to global discussions on sustainability issues in close collaboration with relevant organizations and networks