

A New Year's Message from SDSN Japan

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The international community has begun implementing activities for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since the beginning of last year. In light of this, SDSN Japan developed a set of policy recommendations for mainstreaming the SDGs, and delivered them to a wide range of stakeholders in addition to government agencies (http://sdsnjapan.org/policyrecommendations_for_mainstreaming_sdgs/).

In order to further disseminate these policy recommendations to international and domestic audiences, SDSN Japan organized a public symposium last April, which highlighted the innovative changes in economic and social systems needed to achieve the SDGs.

Last May the Government of Japan established the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, which is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises all of the Cabinet members. The headquarters formulated the "SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles" last December, reflecting a wide range of contributions from a roundtable consultation process engaging citizen's groups, enterprises, academia and consumers, as well as public comments. These developments will be reported to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York this July. I am confident that these principles will

make an important contribution towards achieving the SDGs, with feedback from the Forum and the international community.

Mainstreaming the SDGs in any activity requires securing partnerships with active participation from a wide range of stakeholders. Recognizing this, SDSN Japan has organized a series of SDG Dialogue events, in close collaboration with the United Nations University, since last year. We have discussed a variety of issues including the role of higher education, low carbon technologies, biodiversity, urban water environments, and the role of regional institutions. We wish to continue these dialogues to further explore effective approaches and models for implementation, and to disseminate the outcomes of these discussions and our activities to stakeholders in Japan as well as to the international community. In addition, SDSN Japan has been fully involved in planning an international conference focused on promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation through trans-disciplinary research for achieving the SDGs, which is to be organized by the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) in late January.

SDSN Japan would like to further develop our activities in close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including local governments, citizen's groups, private sector organizations and academia. I would like to take this opportunity to seek your kind support and cooperation for our ongoing efforts towards achieving our common goals, the SDGs.

SDG Dialogue event explores ties between science & policymaking

On 13 October 2016, SDSN Japan and United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability jointly organized a SDG Dialogue event on "Regional Institutions & the SDGs: Science, Policy & Capacity Building". Katinka Weinberger, Chief of the Environment and Development Policy Section of the UNESCAP delivered a keynote speech. Interactive discussion with the audience took place in the subsequent panel discussion, focusing on the importance of regionally specific solutions, and the role for scientists to play in shaping policies to tackle key challenges of the SDGs.



SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles adopted

The second SDGs Promotion Headquarters meeting held on 22 December 2016 officially adopted a "SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles". The Principles represent Japan's national strategy to address the major challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including Japan's vision and eight priority areas.

In response to the adoption, SDSN Japan co-organized a joint press conference with SDGs Civil Society Network and other stakeholders. At the conference, Prof. Kanie Norichika, SDSN Japan Programme Director, expressed his view on the principles and emphasized an importance of multi-stakeholder actions beyond government agencies toward achieving the SDGs.

Our new website is now live!

The website of the SDSN Japan has been renewed with more contents covered. The latest information such as upcoming events will be updated. Please visit: <http://sdsnjapan.org/>