

Local session

SDGs actions for solving social issues through partnerships were disseminated and shared as good practices to accelerate SDGs localization.

Part I, "SDGs Actions to Energize Local Communities," introduced the efforts of organizations taking on the challenge of community building, while Part II, "Municipalities x SDGs: SDGs Actions to Solve Local Social Issues," introduced the efforts of regional municipalities. In Part III, "Creating Mechanisms for SDGs Localization," based on the examples introduced in Parts I and II, measures for horizontal development of good practices implemented in the region were discussed.



Wrap-up Session/Closing

Kazutaka Kawahara, Director, Global Issues Cooperation Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, **Tetsuo Kondo**, Director, UNDP Representation Office in Tokyo, and other speakers from the "GSDR Sessions" and "Local Sessions" discussed two themes: "How companies can seriously address the SDGs" and "How stakeholders can promote collaboration." Speakers voiced such opinions as "Youth should create a mechanism to objectively evaluate companies, then evaluate, and communicate," "Local governments should exert their power as a nodal point for stakeholders," and "A platform for multi-stakeholder discussions is needed."



Forum Outline

- 1 Date** Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 09:30-17:00 (JST)
- 2 Organizer** Japan SDGs Action Promotion Council
- 3 Distribution** Live streaming online (broadcast on two channels)
- 4 Language** Japanese (Simultaneous Japanese-English interpretation available on Channel 1 only)
- 5 WEB** <https://www.japan-sdgs-action-forum.jp/>



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

JOIN! JAPAN SDGS ACTION
みんなで作ろう、みんなの未来

Let's Move On This Year

From "I Know"

To "I'm Doing"

Japan SDGs Action Forum Event Report

SDGs demanded by the world and SDGs originating in Japan
SDGs action for transformation

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 @online distribution

GSDR | Impact on SDG stakeholders in Japan

The Japan SDGs Action Promotion Council held the "Japan SDGs Action Forum" online on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, under the theme **"The SDGs demanded by the world and SDGs originating in Japan – SDGs action for transformation."**

The core of this forum, the GSDR Session, was **co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**. Members of Independent group of scientists (IGS) for the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2023, were on stage to share the latest information on the SDGs in the world from the perspective of "what will have an impact on the progress of the SDGs." Multi-stakeholders discussed and communicated what specific actions were required.

In the "GSDR Session," UNDESA staff and IGS members explained the goals of the GSDR and the perspectives considered "leverage points" for achieving the SDGs, while economic, financial, and civil society groups and IGS members discussed "what are the key points for 'transformation'."

For those involved in the SDGs in Japan, it was an opportunity to deepen their understanding of and interest in the GSDR, as well as to gain hints for their efforts toward achieving the SDGs.

GSDR

The GSDR is a United Nations publication aimed at strengthening the interface between science and policy at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The GSDR, which is supposed to follow up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is an evidence-based instrument to assist policy makers to accelerate progress on the SDGs. The GSDR is drafted by an independent group of scientists (IGS) appointed by the UN Secretary-General and published every four years. The last report was published in 2019, and the 2023 report is currently being prepared. Chairman of the Promotion Council, Professor Norichika Kanie of Keio University's Graduate School of Media and Governance, is the only elected member of the IGS from Japan.

Opening

Norichika Kanie, Chairman of The Japan SDGs Action Promotion Council, explained the purpose of the forum and emphasized "We need to take concrete actions to realize 'transformation' by each of us, using the SDGs as a guidepost towards a sustainable society where no one is left behind."

Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Acting UN Secretary General Envoy on Technology Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Co-ordination & Inter-Agency Affairs Office of the Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA as co-organizer of the Forum, expressed the significance of the Forum and expressed hope that the discussions at the Forum would be reflected in the GSDR and that the knowledge and experiences of the participants could be used to learn and lessons learned.

Yuji Kuroiwa, Governor, Kanagawa Prefecture, the host city, stressed the importance of "Vibrant INOCHI" as a concept linked to the SDGs, which Kanagawa Prefecture aims to achieve.

Kaoru Nemoto, Director, United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo, highlighted that "It is local action that puts the soul into the international discussion" and that she urged that everyone "continues to expand and accelerate actions" to achieve the SDGs by 2030.



[GSDR Session/co-organized by UNDESA] Part II Panel Discussion

Current status and future development of SDGs actions for "transformation" in light of global trends such as GSDR 2023 - What are the key points for "transformation"?

Tomoko Hasegawa, Managing Director, Japan Business Federation, **Toshio Arima**, Chairman of the board, Global Compact Network Japan, **Tsukasa Kanai**, Managing organization, Principles for Financial Action for the 21st Century / Executive Manager, Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings, Inc. and **Atsuko Miwa**, Co-chair, Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs, introduced their respective organizations' efforts toward achieving the SDGs.

In a discussion on the theme of "How can we expand SDG actions toward 'transformation'?" participants commented the "need for a common understanding of SDG impact assessments" and "a platform for multi-stakeholder discussions".

Professor Jaime Miranda, a member of the IGS, commented "When organizations work together in solidarity to solve problems, we can achieve many things, not just one achievement. Now is the time to take action. Let's take action together."



The SDGs Vision About "Vibrant INOCHI"

Kanagawa Prefecture aims to achieve "Vibrant INOCHI," a society in which each individual's life shines through the realization of diversity, well-being, positive spirit, purpose in life, healthy longevity, full of laughter, good community and environment, by addressing various social issues in an integrated manner.



[GSDR Session/co-organized by UNDESA] Part III Case Sharing

Dissemination of case studies of SDGs actions by business to solve problems from a global perspective

Mayumi Tsuruyu, Executive Officer, Corporate Development Division, Senior Officer of Sustainability Development Department, Seven & i Holdings Co., Ltd., **Kayoko Sakai**, Executive Board Director, Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. and **Tatsuya Takeda**, Sustainability Promotion Manager, Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc., introduced their companies' advanced efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, an IGS member, commented on the companies' efforts, saying, "It is also important to work with non-profit organizations to create behavioral change in the community," "Monitoring changes in social practices and behaviors can maximize effectiveness," and "Recognizing employees who have initiated sustainable activities is also recommended."



[GSDR Session/co-organized by UNDESA] Part I Keynote Speech

What will make an impact in transforming the world and achieving the SDGs?

After reports on the role and progress of the GSDR from UNDESA's **Astra Bonini** and IGS member **Nancy Shackell, Kanie**, Chairman of the Promotion Council, and youth representatives joined and a discussion was held.

Focusing on how GSDR 2023 can have an impact on global transformation and the achievement of the SDGs, **Ms. Bonini** spoke on 1) the context and background of the GSDR, 2) the key messages that emerged from the last GSDR published in 2019 that remain relevant today, and 3) the current global situation regarding achieving the SDGs in 2030, including COVID-19 and conflict related impacts, and how the GSDR can contribute to their achievement.

Dr. Shackell presented the draft GSDR 2023 in a chapter-by-chapter format, outlining Chapter 1, "Setting the stage: Status of SDG progress," Chapter 2, "Accelerating transformations towards the SDGs," Chapter 3, "Tools for sustainable development," and Chapter 4, "Science, Society and Policy for SDGs."

On behalf of youth, SDGs-SWY co-representative **Moeko Onuki** participated in the discussion, exchanging opinions on such issues as "how to get various stakeholders to utilize GSDR," "how to incorporate international perspectives into the local context," and "youth participation."



[Youth Co:Lab (UNDP/Citi Foundation) Session]

Young social entrepreneurs as change makers

- Making people's voices heard for a society where "no one is left behind"

Three young social entrepreneurs (winners of the SDG entrepreneurship contest "Social Innovation Challenge*" in Japan and India), **Hiroyuki Kurimoto**, Representative director & CEO, Liquitous Inc., **Yujin Yamaguchi**, Representative director, General Incorporated Association, Sustainable Game, and **Shorya Mittal**, CEO of Humans of Safe Places, took the stage to introduce their initiatives and discussed "What it takes to participate in the society".

*One of the initiatives of Youth Co:Lab, a social entrepreneurship development program conducted by UNDP and Citi Foundation in the Asia-Pacific region.

