

IGES Climate Policy Project

Peer-Review Results

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Preliminary remarks: The review committee held a meeting on April 18, 2006 at the IGES building. The committee was asked to conduct a peer review of the third phase of the IGES Climate Policy Project, covering the period 2004-2007. From our understanding of this task, we were to evaluate

- the outputs of the project from the viewpoint of IGES strategic policy research,
- how far the project has succeeded in achieving its research targets, and
- whether the project achievements so far will be a solid basis for the integrative strategic research programme of IGES in the fourth phase.

After presentation of each project, the review committee evaluated the presentation and their results and summarized the following conclusions.

1. General Comments and Recommendations

- The strategic research in the project and its policy relevance is good and in line with IGES mission. The committee notices a potential for becoming the flagship project of IGES. This means, however, that the impact of the project on actual policy has to be enhanced.
- The environment of research community around IGES in Japan has changed dramatically with respect to the strategic research. Now, universities and research organization in Japan has become an independent legal entity and many institutes are looking for the strategic research. So, IGES should reconsider its current role towards ones that could be more recognized within Japan and abroad. At the same time, IGES should consider to establish a network of research institutes for the strategic research.
- The project's effectiveness in terms of actual performance in relation to targeting performance is good, but could be improved with respect to the new positioning.
- Efficiency can be improved with respect to input/output ratio by embedding the project into a network of cooperation with other research institutions and partner organizations, joint project activities, and a more efficient use of in-house synergies. There was mention of some kind of barrier between the different projects at IGES. This should be removed with the aid of the recent Project Management Office.
- Visibility of research results needs to be improved in Japan as well as abroad, because world-wide reputation is essential for meeting the strategic target in Asia.
- Organizational matters should be paid more attention to. Staff turn-over is a critical issue at IGES and should be overcome by adequate measures, like improved career perspectives or task specific cooperation with stakeholders and other research institutes. We recommend that IGES increases its efforts to look for solutions.

- In general, a very ambitious amount of topics has been faced in the project by relatively limited human resources, so either resources have to be increased significantly or topics should be rearranged with respect to priority. Strategies to make more networks or measures to bring more experts from abroad could be pursued.

2. Recommendations for the flagship project

- To become a flagship project, this project should be more integrated into the tasks and activities of the other projects at IGES.
- The issue of adaptation is important and critical in IGES's mission, and more resources should be put into this project's activity.
- Project management seems to be mainly bottom-up, and the review committee encourages an additional top-down management as necessary for a flagship project.
- Although we heard a lot about the past results, there was too little time to discuss new planning, which should be peer-reviewed externally as well.
- In general, we had the impression that the energy related aspect is too weak; in particular, inclusion of a coal issue, carbon capture and storage (CCS), or a nuclear power issue is critical.

3. Recommendations for the different project elements

- Research on domestic policy is very important and should be maintained in the fourth phase, especially with respect to comparative pros and cons. Analysis on co-benefit aspects of domestic policies and measures should be emphasized.
- More attention should be paid to governance issues in different levels and scales including global, national, and sub-national communities as well as alliances.
- With respect to Kyoto mechanism, research on CDM is impressive and in close line with missions of IGES and should be continued and further developed. Especially its implication on Asia is important and respected in IGES mission. In addition, capacity building activities on CDM in Asia need to be continued and expanded.
- For the post-2012 climate regime we welcome the aspect of a policy startup programme for innovative techniques especially improving the chances for developing distributed energy supply and storage systems. In addition, a new methodological attempt should be made to include energy modeling and cost-benefit-analysis. Dialogues among policy makers on Asian aspirations beyond 2012 are welcomed and needs to be continued with the aim of timely and region-specific inputs to the climate process.
- We appreciate research on proactive micro adaptation, which is important and should be enhanced for critical and vulnerable regions and sectors.
- Linkage between adaptation and other projects in IGES should be strengthened. This includes integration with mitigation, and sectoral aspects like water, energy, forestry, agriculture, and so on.