



Addressing the SDGs from Resource Perspectives

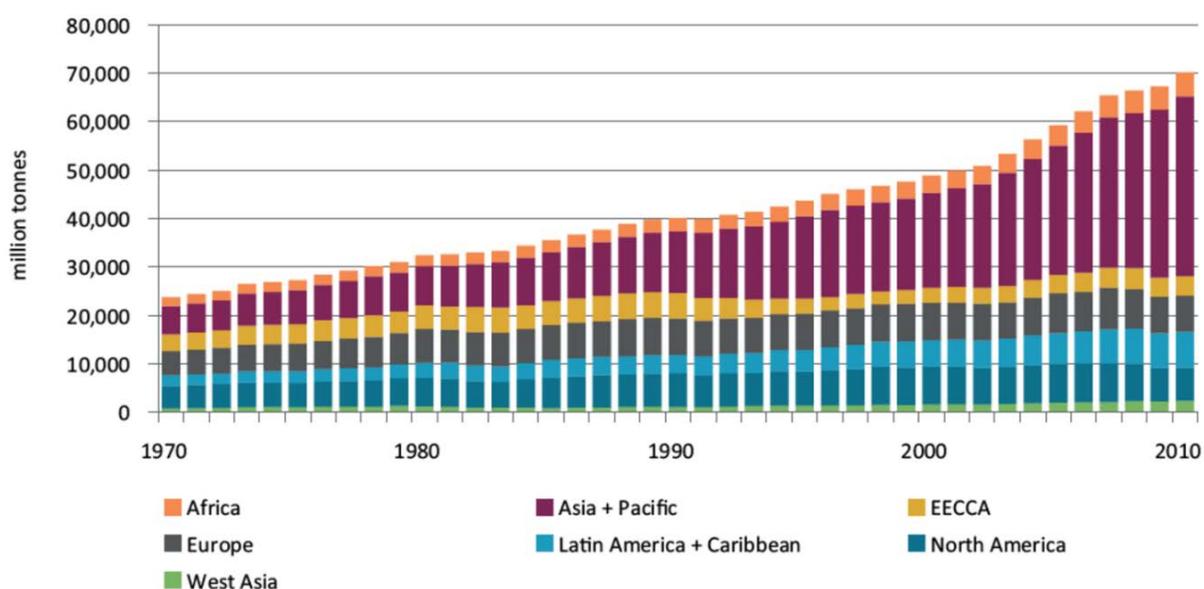
Background information note for ISAP 2017 TT 7

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Global resource demand will further increase

Resource consumption has been increasing, with a steep rise after 2000, and Asia and the Pacific is the centre of resource consumption. World population will be 9.7 billion in 2050 and 11 billion in 2100.

- Domestic extraction (DE) by seven subregions, 1970–2010, million tonnes

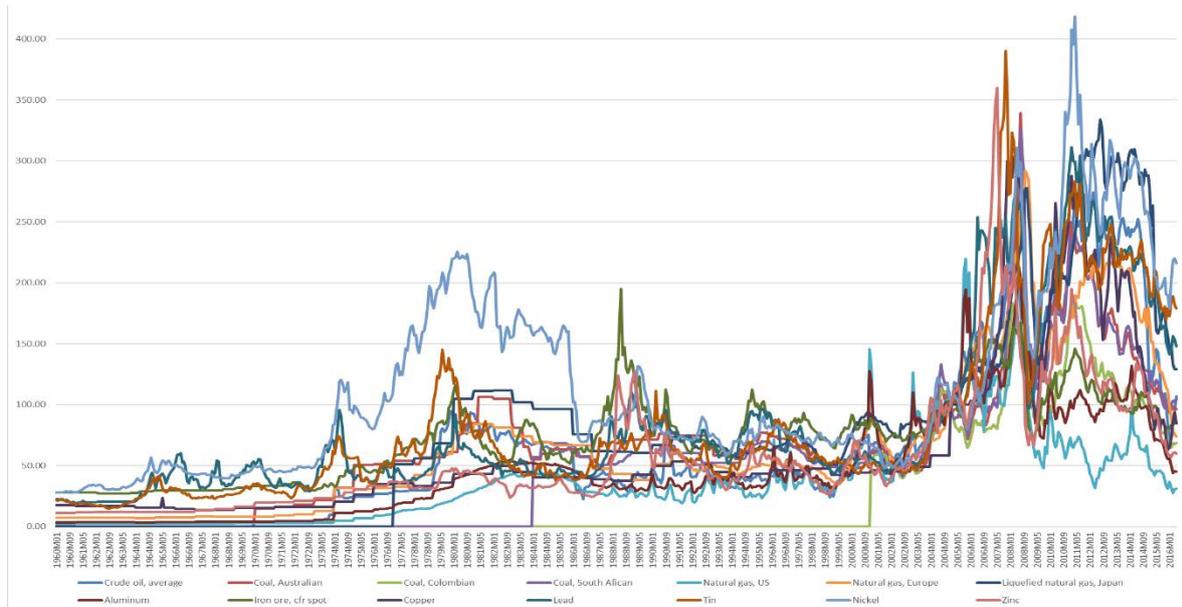


Source: reproduced from UNEP/IRP (2016)

Considering the rapid economic growth of emerging countries, demand for resources will also continue to rise exponentially. Responding to such situation, resource prices have continued on a long-term increasing trend. Furthermore, recently, the global economy has to face major fluctuation in the price of resources.

The difference in per capita resource use is tenfold between highly developed countries and least developing countries (UNEP/IRP, 2016). International Resource Panel (IRP) has cautioned that material resource consumption will accelerate resulting in significant environmental impacts such as climate change, acidification, and land degradation (UNEP/IRP, 2016). Some international reports warn that resource issues might cause global tension between countries (for example, Jackson and Webster, 2016; Bernice Lee et al. 2012; Clapper, 2016).

- Figure 2 Resource Price (Index, 2005M1=100)



Source: compiled by author based on World Bank data

International community has mainstreamed SCP and resource efficiency as a global agenda

The international community has begun to address sustainable resource management at global, regional and national levels, and mainstreamed resource efficiency issues as a global sustainable development agenda.

The United Nations has long discussed sustainable consumption and production (SCP), waste management issues with the context of 3Rs and resource efficiency. As a result, the 10 Year Framework on SCP was established; International Resource Panel was established in 2007 to provide robust scientific knowledge based on sustainable resource management, decoupling and resource efficiency; and resource efficiency and SCP are reflected in several Sustainable Development Goals such as Goal 8 (Economy), 9 (Infrastructure) and 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production). OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) has taken leadership to develop the methodology and policy assessment of Resource Productivity Indicator based on Material Flow Accountings. The G7/G8 process has a long history of discussing the 3Rs and resource efficiency, resulting in G7 Resource Efficiency Alliances, Toyama Framework on Material Cycle and Bologna Roadmap on Resource Efficiency. This also influences G20 discussions, with one outcome being the establishment of G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue in 2017.

The European Union has taken leadership to accelerate its policy development on resource efficiency and circular economy. Japan and Germany have developed their own resource efficiency programme. China also has its circular economy policy.

Purpose of this session – filling the gap between concept and implementation

SDGs, G7/G20 process and international initiatives provide broad direction for national level actions towards sustainability of the society. However, the crucial links between these global political frameworks and practical actions on the ground have not been discussed well in a harmonised manner.

Developing innovative 3Rs approaches and transitioning to resource efficient and circular economy are crucial at global, regional, national and local levels. Asia is the region where most economies are growing rapidly as a global manufacturing and resource consuming centre with high resource intensity. Especially emerging countries in the region is becoming resource-import and product-export economy; Countries with such economy would have high potential to be motivated to develop resource efficient society (Aoki-Suzuki, 2015). Establishing resource efficient processes for whole life cycles are unavoidable challenges for the region.

The session will address natural resource and consumption issues from upper (production) and down (consumption) stream perspectives with focus on on-the-ground implementation challenges linking to SDGs and climate change. Also, the issue of a nexus between different resources cannot be left out. How to invite different stakeholders into practical activities on the ground will be a subject of discussion.

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