



POST2015

Project On Sustainability Transformation beyond 2015



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
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## Workshop on the Institutional Architecture for the Science-policy Interface on the Sustainable Development Goals

**Date:** 19-20 June 2015

**Venue:** Japan Society (333 E 47th St, New York)

### Background and aims of the workshop

As the Post-2015 Development Agenda will be launched at the UN Summit in September 2015, the Earth System Governance Project<sup>1</sup>, POST2015<sup>2</sup> and Keio University will jointly organize a workshop with policy-makers and stakeholders to explore possible institutional architecture of the science-policy interface for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The workshop is endorsed by Future Earth, a ten year global research programme for sustainability, and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). It is supported by the Ministry of the Environment Japan and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JSPS).

The importance of the science-policy interface for the successful implementation of the new agenda has been repeatedly stated. Amongst others, the Rio+20 outcome document 'The Future We Want' aimed to "promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks (...) as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making" (paragraph 48). The Secretary General further emphasized the importance in his synthesis report 'The Road to Dignity by 2030', by stating that a transformational and universal Post-2015 Development agenda needs to be "buttressed by science and evidence" (paragraph 49). This was also echoed in the recent zero draft of the of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda 'Transforming our world by 2030' that recognizes "the central role that science, technology and innovation play in enabling the international community to respond to sustainable development challenges" (paragraph 33).

With this background, the workshop will focus on the role of science and scientific assessments and inputs in the implementation as well as review and monitoring processes of the Sustainable Development Goals. The workshop will consider what types of knowledge would facilitate successful implementation and monitoring process of Sustainable Development Goals, how such knowledge could be inserted in the global SDGs process, and what institutional architectures would enhance overall effectiveness from global to regional and national level science-policy interfaces for the SDGs.

One of the challenges for effective institutional architecture for the SDGs is ways to accommodate effective science-policy interface throughout all stages of the Post-2015 Development agenda. Transdisciplinarity requires "co-design" the agenda before "co-production" and "co-delivery" of the outcome. This workshop therefore also discusses the methodology for transdisciplinary research and its practical application for the SDGs.

<sup>1</sup> [www.earthsystemgovernance.org](http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org)

<sup>2</sup> Research project under the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund, Ministry of the Environment, Japan.  
[www.post2015.jp/en](http://www.post2015.jp/en)



### **Organization of the workshop and guiding questions**

On the first day, practitioners and academics will share their views, generate new ideas, and identify options of the institutional architecture. On the second day, participants will discuss how the output of the workshop can inform the ongoing policy process.

Introductory presentations will be given in order to develop a common understanding with regard to the current status of the negotiations on the SDGs and its science-policy interface. A series of small group discussion will follow to generate new and innovative ideas for institutional architecture in face of the challenges provided by the SDGs.

Summaries of the small group discussions will be reported back to the plenary where they will serve as basis to further develop ideas. Chatham House rules will apply.

The following questions are examples of those that will be addressed at the workshop:

1. What is the role of scientific knowledge for the transformation towards sustainable development within the framework of the SDGs, especially considering the need to address simultaneously human and planetary well-being in a variety of thematic areas such as food and agriculture, transformation of energy and the transformation of life styles?
2. What are the options for institutional design for science-policy interface for the Post-2015 Development Agenda? For example, does global assessment model such as IPCC work for the SDGs, or would it be a collection of thematic review and assessment that enables effective SDGs process? Or, does a series of (regional or thematic) expert consultation work better for the SDGs?
3. What institutional architecture enables transdisciplinary research development with the research outcome being usable for policy-makers and stakeholders? What would be an effective feedback system for the result of review (scientific assessments) of the SDGs to the subsequent policy-making processes?
4. How to link global science-policy interface architecture with regional and national level, and vice versa? What role can indicators play?

These questions are indicative and might change as the discussion evolves.

### **Background materials**

Several important background documents are available in a Dropbox folder prepared by the workshop secretariat. Please find the documents at the following link and read them prior to the workshop:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0avuqc1y0pp6sg3/AACe4Y1gKUPYGANImVbun9sua?dl=0>.



Below are some examples of the materials included in the background folder. Please use the folder entitled “workshop participants shared literature” for storing the documents or paper(s) you would like to share.

- Report of the Secretary-General on ‘Options for the scope and methodology for a global sustainable development report’ (12 June 2014)
- Proposal of the Open Working Group (OWG) for Sustainable Development Goals (24 July 2014)
- Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda: ‘The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet’ (4 December 2014)
- Technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the process of the development of an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda (6 March 2015)
- Discussion Paper on Follow-up and Review of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, prepared by the Co-facilitators for the Fifth Session of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (12 May 2015)
- Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda: ‘Transforming our world by 2030. A new agenda for global action’ (2 June 2015)
- Comment on the zero draft by Ruben Zondervan, Future Earth Blog: ‘How much science is in the Sustainable Development Goals zero-draft?’ (8 June 2015)
- Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB): Post-2015 Development Agenda Reporting (<http://www.iisd.ca/post2015>)
- Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>

## Outlook of the workshop

### Day 1: 19 June

- 9.15-9.30 Coffee
- 9.30-10.30 Opening and Introductory Presentations (including Q&A)
- 10.30-12.30 Discussion 1: Break-out and plenary discussions (2 hours)
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.30 Discussion 2: Break-out and plenary discussions (1.5 hours)
- 15.30-15.45 Coffee break
- 15.45-17:15 Discussion 3: Break-out and plenary discussions (1.5 hours)
- 17.15-17.30 Wrap-up

### Day 2: 20 June

- 9.30-11.00 Discussions on the outcome document of the workshop
- 11.00-11.15 Coffee break
- 11.15-12.45 Discussions (continued)
- 12.45-13.00 Conclusions and closing

## Anticipated results / outputs

A brief outcome paper will be prepared highlighting the main outcome of the workshop for the immediate release. A few Policy Briefs will be prepared as a policy oriented outcome, and eventually an academic paper may further be prepared.



**Contact information:**

For any urgent matters on 18/June, please contact Norichika Kanie (+44-78-4117-7273), and for through 19-20/June contact the venue (Japan Society: (212) 832-1155).