

Workshop: Pre Partner-Event of EcoBalance 2024

Achieving Resource Equity in a Decarbonized Future: Bridging Global Gaps in Information and Policy

Organiser: Material flow innovation research program of the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan

Access

Time and Date: 13:00 - 16:30 at 3rd (Sun) Nov. 2024

Venue: Sendai International Centre (Sendai, Japan), Aobayama, Aoba-ku, Sendai 980-0856, Japan (<https://www.aobayama.jp/>)

Registration: Required (<https://forms.gle/PTXECsa57Sp4KzeS7>)

Registration fee: Free of charge

Language: English (with simultaneous interpretation into Japanese)

Background and aim of the workshop

Modern affluence is sustained by vast resource consumption. Currently, the material footprint, i.e. the total resources consumed both directly and indirectly varies drastically between high-income and low-income countries, with a difference of up to six-fold. Achieving a decarbonised society will require significant reductions in natural resource use, and a critical step toward this goal is the increased utilisation of secondary resources through the transition to a circular economy. However, many of today's circular economy initiatives focus on securing domestic resources. Under this approach, wealthier countries with ample resource stocks could continue to exploit them, while low-income countries with limited stocks may struggle to access essential resources.

If countries pursue a circular economy solely to reduce resource consumption without addressing resource usage and future needs, the global resource gap could persist or widen. This disparity could have lasting effects on future generations especially in low income countries, limiting access to energy, infrastructure and overall quality of life, thereby exacerbating intergenerational inequity.

In this workshop, we will explore the concept and importance of 'resource consumption equity' in the context of a decarbonized society. We will also examine the development of a framework to define and measure equity in resource consumption.

Program

(as of 17/09/2024)

Opening

Prof. Keisuke Nansai

Director, Material Cycles Division, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan; Adjunct Professor of the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University; Panel member of the UNEP International Resource Panel

Keynote lecture 1

Speaker: **Prof. Heinz Schandl**

Senior Principal Research Scientist and Circular Economy Lead, Sustainability Pathways Program, Environment Research Unit, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia; Adjunct Professor of the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Nagoya University; Panel member of the UNEP International Resource Panel

Keynote lecture 2

Speaker: **Prof. Zhi Cao**

Professor, College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Nankai University, China

Keynote lecture 3

Speaker: **Prof. Narasimha D. Rao**

Associate Professor of Energy Systems, School of the Environment, Yale University, USA

Keynote lecture 4

Speaker: **Dr. Keith Williges**

Scientist, Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, University of Graz, Austria

Discussion

Closing

Prof. Seiji Hashimoto

Professor, College of Science and Engineering Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Ritsumeikan University, Japan.

Panel member of the UNEP International Resource Panel