

36TH UNU GLOBAL SEMINAR

# SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS



## Tentative Programme

### Day 1 (1300-1700): Wednesday, 10 March 2021

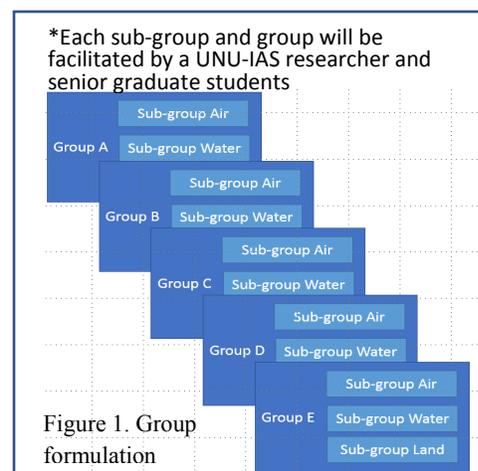
- Welcome note Prof. Yume Yamaguchi, UNU-IAS director
- Keynote speech 1 Prof. Taikan Oki, Senior Vice Rector, UNU (climate and water)
- Concept speech Prof. Kensuke Fukushi, UNU-IAS, Academic Programme Officer
  - Group Work Session 1
  - Identification of problem (science and international and local policies)
  - Solution for each problem (local and global)

### Day 2 (1300-1700): Thursday, 11 March 2021

- Keynote speech 2 Dr. Yasuko Kameyama, National Institute for Environmental Studies
- Group Work Session 2
  - Discussion of interrelationship among air, water and land
  - Discussion on stakeholder engagement
  - Proposal for global sustainability
  - Planning of off-line work for the preparation on Day 3

### Day 3 (1300-1700): Monday, 22 March 2021

- Keynote speech 3 Dr. Alexandros Gasparatos, The University of Tokyo
- Presentation by each group and evaluation
- Closing session including certificate awarding





**Concept Note:**

Environmental problems are one of the most pressing global issues we are currently facing. Recently, we have been experiencing unprecedented, extraordinary weather conditions and a number of mega-scale natural disasters all over the world. A spate of forest fires happening in California, Amazon rainforest, Indonesia, and Australia are notable examples. They are not only the result of global climate change but can also be the potential factor accelerating and aggravating such phenomena. Marine plastic waste problems, including microplastics have also attracted much attention in international communities. In such situations, Greta Thunberg's statement at UN Climate Action Summit, held in New York, September last year, created a lot of reactions across the world.

Environmental problems pose challenges derived from the following three "cross-border" characteristics to us. The first one is their spatial transboundary nature. Environmental problems deal with the issues applicable to any geographical territories covering from local to global. One of their most striking characters is their de-territoriality transcending any geological level from local to global. The second one is characterized by its interconnectedness among diverse issues. Environmental problems are the outcomes of multiple issues of economy, development, health, migration, human rights, as well as armed conflicts, and thus, it is vital to consider their complex and interrelated relationships. Moreover, environmental problems are diverse in their nature and are also intertwined with one another. Thus, we cannot take appropriate actions if we were to deal with the topics separately with regards to the sky and air (climate change, air pollution, etc.), the land (waste, deforestation, desertification, etc.) and water (water resources, marine organisms, marine plastic waste, etc). The third one develops from "cross-border" relations among different social sectors. All the actors from public, market and civil society sectors are both the recipients of environmental problems, and also the main actors who could harm and do good to the problems, at the same time.

Then, how can and shall we tackle with environmental problems today? In the context of the three characteristics above, three points can be identified. First, we are required to have systematic and holistic approaches and solutions covering multi-level governance from local to global. Second, we ought to have multidisciplinary knowledge and information covering different social science fields (politics, economy, law, education, etc.), and further connecting social and natural sciences. Third, we need multi-stakeholders' cooperation and collaboration including international organizations, state/local governments, corporations, NGOs, enterprises and individuals across different social sectors. SDGs are a symbolic example illustrating the importance of these three characteristics of "cross-border."

The 36th UNU-IAS Global Seminar offers the participants a valuable opportunity to learn about the contemporary and urgent challenge of global environment, and discuss how we can grapple with it effectively and fairly.

**Contact: [ias.pdt.event@unu.edu](mailto:ias.pdt.event@unu.edu)**