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Subtheme 2: Government and SDGs

-Local governments and SDGs-

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1. Background

Why SDGs at local level?

- **Problem solving** at local level
 - …Integrated approach on economic, social and environment
- **Objective judgment** and help examination of **countermeasures** for local situation
 - …Recognize the strengths and weaknesses of each region based on the SDGs (common ruler)
- Expansion of **Partnership**
 - …Connect with various stakeholders both at domestic and overseas through SDGs
- **Improving local value**
 - …SDGs implementation is required in every sector. If not addressed, it can be a market risk



Photo (UCLG, 2018)
<https://www.uclg.org/en/media/news/local-and-regional-governments-brought-local-perspective-2018-hlpf>

2. Global movements

Localization discussion at SDG Summit

SDG Summit

- Held on 24-25 September 2019 as the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly
- UN platform for the first holistic review on the 2030 Agenda/ SDGs after 2015 Adoption

Highlight on SDGs localization

- In Political declaration of SDG Summit “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”, the Governments committed to “**Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation**” as one of 10 commitments to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve SDGs.
- One of the 6 Leaders Dialogue was entitled “**Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals**” (held on 25 Sep). The session aimed to share an importance of local and regional governments initiatives and roles, and their commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- A side event “**High-level Local and Regional Governments' Forum**” on 24 Sep discussed the potential on how local and regional governments could become game changers for realization of SDGs and to accelerate actions.

Source

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsummit>

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24576Leaders_Dialogue_4.pdf

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/local-and-regional-governments-present-sdg-initiatives-at-second-forum/>

2. Global movements

SDGs Localization on the ground

Many local governments/ cities are implementing SDGs

- **OECD project** “A territorial approach to the Sustainable Development Goals: A role for cities and regions to leave no one behind” (2018-).

For objectives of measuring/learning/sharing, 10-12 Pilot Cities and Regions selected. Localized indicator framework will be launched in 2020.

- **ASEAN** “SDGs Frontrunner Cities (FC) Programme” (2018-).

Upgrading from the ASEAN Environmentally Sustainable Cities (ESC) Model Cities.

- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

- ✓ Local governments in many countries started **SDGs mainstreaming in long-term plans and visions** (Durban in South Africa, Mannheim in Germany, NY in US, Quito in Ecuador, Seoul in South Korea etc)

- ✓ Some local governments are developing **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)** and developing Monitoring/Review

process at local level

UCLG website,
Towards the Localization of the SDGs -Local and Regional
Governments' Report to the 2019 HLPF (UCLG, 2019)



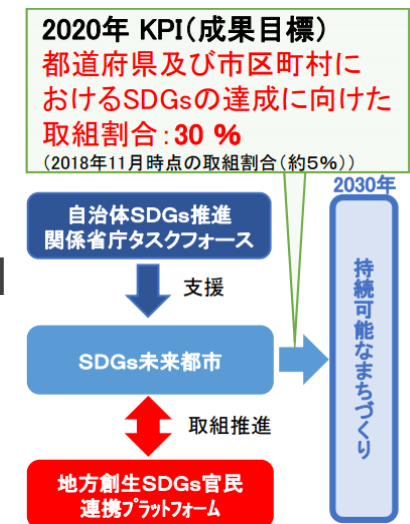
3. Case of Japan SDGs Future Cities

Background

- In Japan, SDGs implementation and integrated approach at local level is recognized as important to contribute to **local vitalization**, aiming to mid-long term urban planning.
- **“SDGs Future Cities”** initiative was launched by the central government in 2018, aiming to establish Japanese SDGs model through developing good examples and outreaching to both domestic and abroad.

Achievement

- Total **60 Local governments selected** as “SDGs Future Cities” through assessment (29 local governments in 2018 and 31 in 2019, with mixture of prefecture level and cities/towns/villages level).
- Among these selected local governments, 10 “SDGs Model Projects” are decided for the financial support from the government for each year.
- **SDGs Public Private Partnership Platform for Local Revitalization** was launched in 2018 and promotes partnership (829 members including 338 local governments in 2019 June).



3. Case of Japan

Governance in SDGs Future Cities

SDGs Future Cities (29 designated in 2018) have strengthened their governance with SDGs

SDGs Future Cities Plans

(All 29 local governments published plans in Aug 2018)

(Analysis- preliminary outcomes)

- ✓ **Mainstreaming SDGs into policy plans** are on-going (83 % announced to include, or already included, locating SDGs in the highest plans for municipalities/ 59 % already reflected SDGs into the existing sectoral plans)
- ✓ Governance for SDGs implementation being developed (Many local governments created SDGs Implementation Headquarters with their Heads of municipalities)/ **At least 70% set the leading department** of SDGs implementation **in general or planning departments**)
- ✓ **Partnership with stakeholders** (All 29 local governments clarified involvement of multi stakeholders such as private sectors, academic and citizens organizations.)

※ This analysis is originally conducted, based on the contents included in SDGs Future City plans which were published by local governments (https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/singi/tiiki/kankyo/teian/sdgs_miraitoshikeikaku.html)



(出典) 内閣府 SDGs 未来都市ホームページ

3. Case of Japan

Mainstreaming Process at Shimokawa cho

Research methodologies

- Apply research frameworks to SDGs implementation for governance analysis at local governments, based on Transition Management (Loorbach, 2010) and Environmental Policy Integration (Persson et al, 2018).

Basic information for Shimokawa cho

- Population : Around 3400, Area : 644.2km², Aging rate : 39.6%
- Local challenges : Decreasing population, Crisis of town survival due to declining birthrate and aging population as well as decline of local economy such as forestry and related industries ⇒ Exploring new local governance using the SDGs, such as participatory approach for town development



3. Case of Japan

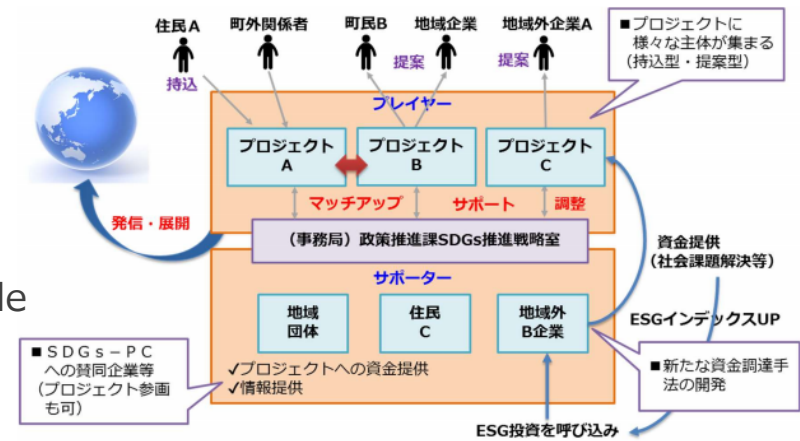
Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

Developing new governance structure with **partnership between local government and multi-stakeholders**

Example 1: Shimokawa Town, Hokkaido

Establishing SDGs Partnership Centre

- ✓ Project based approach
- ✓ Involvement of people, private sectors inside/outside the town
- ✓ Matching needs and supplies among various stakeholders



Source: Shimokawa town SDGs Future Cities Plan (2018)

Example 2: Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka

Partnership Agreement with Private Sector

- ✓ Kitakyushu City “signed an agreement on ... collaboration on the SDGs with Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc. (SJNK) ...the first of its kind in Japan connecting local governments and companies on the SDGs.”

Quotation from: Kitakyushu City the Sustainable Development Goals Report (IGES, 2018)



Partnership Agreement between Kitakyushu City and SJNK
 Picture from: Nikkei ESG news website (<https://business.nikkeibp.co.jp/atclesg/news/032700002/>)

3. Case of Japan Progress and Challenges

Discussion on local SDGs at “The Stakeholder Conference for Revising SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles” (6 Sep 2019)

Left behind

- Still many people are **not familiar** with SDGs, not know how to contribute to SDGs
- Insufficient participation of **youth and women** → Incorporate various opinions



SDGs for what?

- For People: raising **citizens' autonomy** /Solving local issues such as **decreasing population and aging**

Planning policies

- Backcasting** from the 2030 vision
- Mainstream SDGs through laws and plans** increasing authority and **budget**
- Creating a consultation service to support local governments



Insufficient Partnership

- Coordination required** for multi-stakeholder partnership / Whole-of-government approach/ **Capacity development** for local governments

Monitoring and review

- Establish PDCA cycle/ The evaluation should be fair/ Need for localized **indicators**

4. Next Step

Policy-Oriented research and SDGs localization

Policy Oriented research aiming to contribute to...

- Policy-making processes at **local** governments
- Development of **national** frameworks for SDGs implementation
- **Global** discussion on follow up and review for the 2030 Agenda

Approach for SDGs localization

- Use SDGs for **Transformation**

Improve the current situation and policy

- **Integration/ Interlinkages** among goals

Avoid silo approach/ Aim to achieve all the goals, not targeting on its part

- Creating a space for **Multi-stakeholder Partnership**

Private sector, civil sector, research institutions, ESD

- **Resources** for policy implementation

Financial mobilization/ Involving both inside and outside stakeholders



Thank you



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