



**UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY**

UNU-IAS

**Institute for the Advanced Study
of Sustainability**

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PERSPECTIVE ON POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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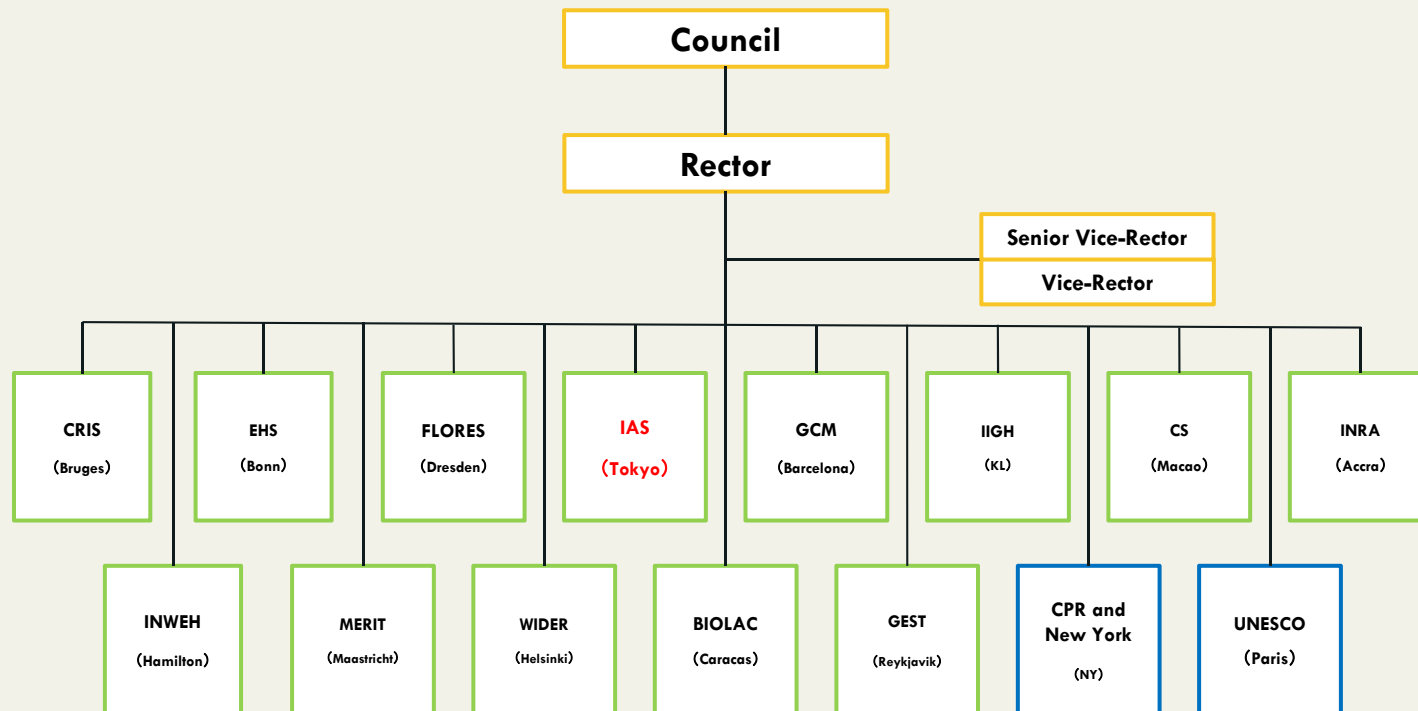
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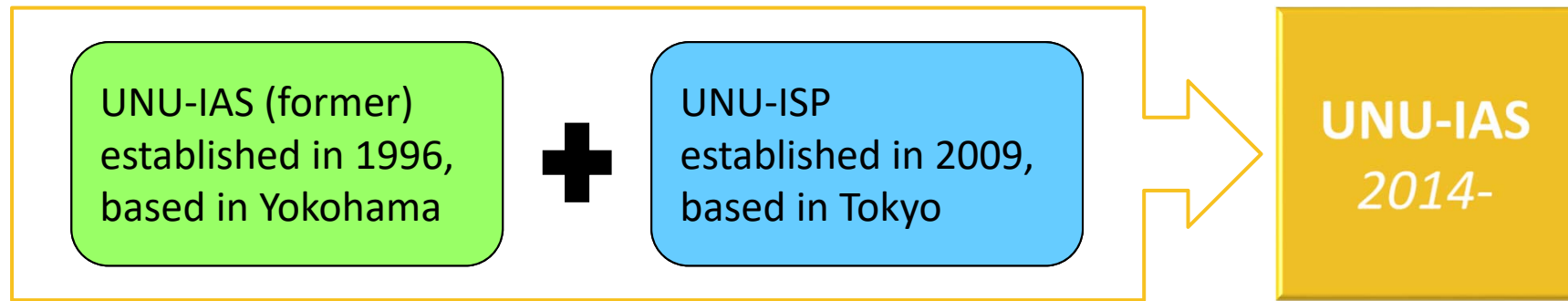
I. UNU and UNU-IAS

I-1: United Nations University (UNU)

Global think tank and postgraduate teaching organization to contribute, through collaborative research and education, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations, its Peoples and Member States



I-2 UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)



- To advance efforts towards a more sustainable future, through policy-oriented research and capacity development focused on sustainability, and
- To serve the international community through innovative contributions to high-level policymaking and debates, addressing priority issues for the UN system and its Member States.

Targeted International Policy Agendas

I. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

II. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

III. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Paris Agreement (UNFCCC)

Sendai Framework for DRR



II. Research and Postgraduate Degree Programmes

II: Research Programmes

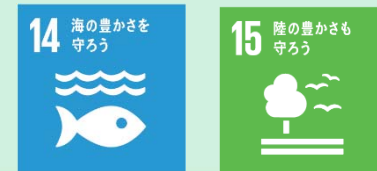
Sustainable Societies

- Governance for Sustainable Development (GSD)
- Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Water for Sustainable Development (WSD)



Natural Capital & Biodiversity

- Ecosystem Service Assessment
- International SATOYAMA Initiative



Global Change & Resilience

- Low Carbon Technology Transfer
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Eco-DRR



II-1: GSD

(Governance for Sustainable Development)

- Contribute to Global SDGs discussion at the **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**;
- **Analysis of Voluntary National Reviews** submitted by Member States in Asia and the Pacific, producing a **policy brief on governance challenges**
- **Regional** strategic partnership with the UN Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (**ESCAP**):
 - MOU in September 2017,
 - **Produced guidelines** to support ESCAP Member States in developing **multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs** (March 2018)



Contribution to UN system and its Member States by extending our scientific knowledge



HLPF2018 Side-event on 'Sustainable Cities in Asia' (NY)



Inclusive Research on Integrated Implementation Methodology Towards Achievement of SDGs

※This research is supported by the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (1-1801) of the Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency, Japan

Sub theme 1 : Establishment of assessment indicators
(National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan)

Development of indicators with a view to the post Fifth Basic Environment Plan

Integrated implementation and actions with assessment outcomes

Indicators and Assessment Methodology

Integrated implementation and actions with assessment outcomes

Sub theme 2 :
Government and SDGs
(United Nations University
Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability)

Sub theme 3 :
Private sectors and SDGs
(Keio University)

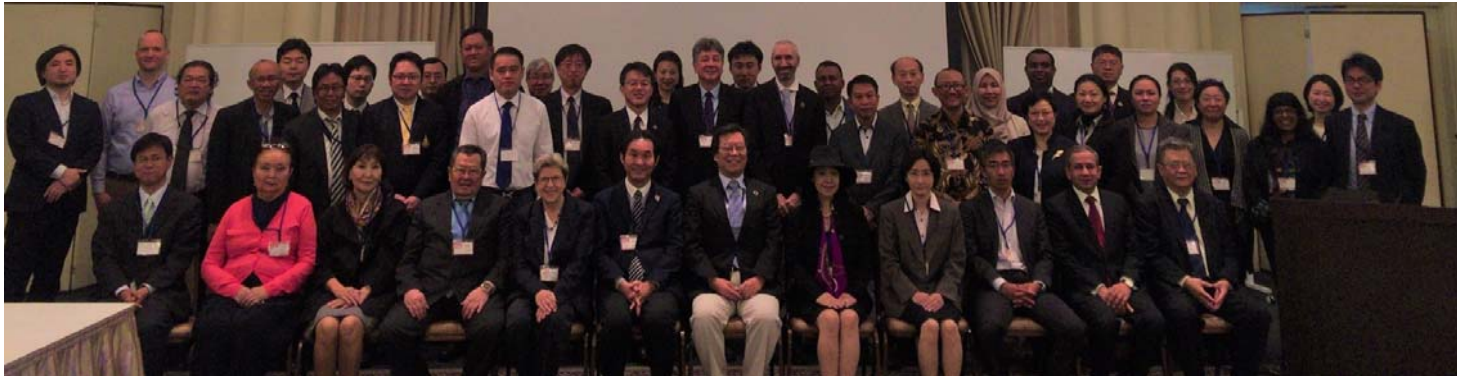
Research on governance for achievement of SDGs at National and Local level

Effective SDGs implementation and development of assessment methods in private sectors activities

II-2: ESD

(Education for Sustainable Development)

- Contributed to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and UNESCO's Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (2015-2019) through a global network of 168 Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs) and region through ProSPER.Net (Regional Network of Higher Education Institutions)
- Further close collaboration with UNESCO for "ESD for 2030 and beyond."



Close collaboration with UNESCO for ESD implementation

II-3: WSD

(Water for Sustainable Development)

- **The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) (October 2016)**
- **UN World Water Day Symposium (March 2014 and 2019)**
- **Contribution to UN-Water (September 2019-)**

UNU-IAS contributes to UN World Water Development Report 2021 together with other UNU Institutes such as UNU-INWEH and EHS.



Contribution to International Community

through participating in UN Water and its related global agenda

II-4: Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services

- **Letter of Agreement with IPBES** (July 2017)
to contribute to develop scientific knowledge and capacity building for IPBES activities,
- Contributed to **IPBES Assessments**,
as Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) and
Lead Authors (LAs), including Global Assessment and Asia-Pacific
Regional Assessment
- Develop the **International Partnership for
the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI)** to contribute
to achieve the Aichi Targets under the
convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



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Contribution to Global/Regional Assessment on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services and bridging science and policy making

II-5: OUIK

(Operating Unit Ishikawa Kanazawa)

Local platform of mutual learning for conservation and utilization of Biocultural diversity

❑ **1st Asian Conference on Biocultural Diversity (October 2016)**

- Contributed to the discussion of CBD COP 13 on local to local learning under the international designation system e.g. GIAHS, MAB and UNCCN.

❑ **Nature Culture Summit at CBD COP 14 (November 2018)**

❑ **Conference for East Asian Research Association for Agricultural Heritage System (2017, 2018 and 2019)**

- To serve as a secretariat of the association, OUIK has committed to promoting sub-regional cooperation among China, Korea and Japan with support of FAO.



Local initiatives in the global sustainability agenda (CBD, GIAHS and MAB)



II-6: Postgraduate Degree Programmes

- **MSc in Sustainability** (2-year programme) from 2010
- **PhD in Sustainability Science** (3-year programme) from 2011
- Current enrollment: 37 students (23 MSc, 14 PhD)
 - Including 26 from developing countries (16 MSc, 10 PhD)
- Credit exchange agreements with:
 1. University of Tokyo,
 2. ICU, and
 3. Sophia University
- Joint diploma programmes:
University of Tokyo and Sophia University

IAS is working toward the official launch of the Double Degree Programmes with the University of Tokyo from next academic year (2020)





III. Message for Future Development

Message for Future Development

1. **UNU-IAS** should further step up its contribution to the UN system and Member States through policy-oriented research and capacity building activities. The target UN system and Partners are: UNDESA, UNESCAP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, UNEP, IPCC, UN Water and others;
2. **UNU-IAS** should play a central role in bridging between science and policy making in the areas such as global/regional assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services in implementing CBD, IPBES and IPCC agenda; and
3. **UNU-IAS** should further mobilize the knowledge accumulated by scientific networks on ESD and sustainable use of biodiversity (Satoyama Landscape approaches)