

Northeast Asian Perspectives on Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation in the era of COVID-19:

Managing National and Regional Objectives in China, Japan, Korea, and Mongolia

Dec 1-3, 2020 Blended (Online + Offline) Forum (Seoul, Republic of Korea)



Day 1: Dec 1, 2020 (Tue)

Opening Ceremony

13:45 – 13:55

Welcome Remarks

Kwang Kim, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation Korea Office / former Regional Lead for IFC, World Bank Group

Congratulatory Remarks

Jung Hun Cho, Member of the National Assembly, President of Transition Korea Party, Republic of Korea / former Member of the Presidential Committee on Northern Economic Cooperation

Framing Session: Opportunities and Challenges of Northeast Asia's Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation in the Post-Pandemic World

(Disclosed to Public)

Moderated by Bold Magvan, CEO, Mongolia Green Finance Corporation

This session will explore the opportunities and challenges of regional sustainable infrastructure¹ collaboration stemmed by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The speaker will introduce the general background of the topic as well the implications of the post pandemic world in terms of regional sustainable infrastructure cooperation. The panels will be composed of experts representing the perspectives of the four participating countries.

14:00 – 14:30

Framing Address

Tae Yong Jung, Professor of Sustainable Development, Yonsei University / Director, Ban Ki-moon Foundation for a Better Future / former Principle Climate Change Specialist, ADB

14:30 – 15:20

Panel Discussion (NEA Perspectives)

- Huaqing Tang, Deputy Section Chief, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China
 - Junichi Fujino, Programme Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
 - Yongduk Pak, Senior Research Fellow, Center for International Energy Cooperation, Korea Energy Economics Institute
 - Suzanna Sumkhuu, Senior officer, Development Policy and Planning Department, National Development Agency, Mongolia
- (5 mins each for 4 panels, 20 min free discussion, 10 mins for Q&A for the audience)

¹ According to CRC research, sustainable infrastructure refers to the designing, building, and operating the set of structural elements that supports the day-to-day function in ways that do not diminish the social, economic and ecological processes required to maintain human equity, diversity, and the functionality of natural systems.

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Session 2: NEA Perspectives on National Sustainable Infrastructure Initiatives (Closed Session from Session 2)

Moderated by Seol Ah Bang, Associate Research Fellow, Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements

This session will be introducing the recent status, challenges, and opportunities of the existing national² sustainable infrastructure initiatives and the perspectives of the four countries. The speaker will first share the national initiatives and the panel will react / comment their respective country's perspectives of the initiatives and share prospective areas of cooperation.

15:40 – 16:20

Presentation: Current Status of National Sustainable Infrastructure Initiatives in NEA

By panels from China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia
(10 mins each per country)

16:30 – 17:00

Panel Discussion

- Panel

- Ang Li, Research Director, Innovative Green Development Programme (iGDP), China
- Junichi Fujino, Programme Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
- Soojeong Myeong, Senior Research Fellow, Korea Environment Institute
- Suzanna Sumkhuu, Senior officer, Development Policy and Planning Department, National Development Agency, Mongolia

(5 mins each for 4 panels, 30 mins for free discussion)

² National sustainable infrastructure initiatives refer to domestic projects. (i.e. Korea's Green New Deal)

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Day 2: Dec 2, 2020 (Wed)

Session 3: NEA Perspectives on Regional Sustainable Infrastructure Cooperation

Moderated by Nancy Kim, former Country Representative, The Asia Foundation Laos Office / former Deputy Country Representative, The Asia Foundation China Office

This session will be a session introducing the recent status of the existing regional³ sustainable infrastructure initiatives and the perspectives of the four countries. The speaker will first shortly share the regional initiatives and the panel will react / comment their respective country's perspectives of the initiatives and share methods to catalyze progress.

14:00 – 14:30

Presentation: Current Status of Regional Sustainable Infrastructure Initiatives in NEA

By Ma. Fideles Sadicon, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP

14:40 – 15:20

Panel Discussion

- Panel

- Taidong Zhou, Director, Center for International Knowledge on Development, Development Research Center of the State Council of China
- Kentaro Takahashi, Programme Manager of Climate and Energy, Institute for Global Environmental · Strategies (IGES), Japan
- Hyung-Ju Kim, Director General, Green Technology Center, Korea
- Odgerel Ulziikhutag, Senior officer, Ministry of Road and Transport development, Mongolia

(5 mins each for 4 panels, 30 mins for free discussion)

³ Regional sustainable infrastructure initiatives refer to projects where its scopes are beyond only one country. (i.e. The Belt and Road Initiative, The Greater Tumen Initiative)

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Day 2: Dec 2, 2020 (Wed)

Session 4: New and Transformative Infrastructural Needs in the Post-COVID-19 Era

Moderated by Sungjin Kang, Professor of Economics, Korea University / Head of Institute for Sustainable Development, Korea University

This session will introduce the region's new and transformative infrastructural needs in the post-COVID-19 era. Moving away from traditional industrial infrastructure development, the pandemic has newly identified the needs such as public health system establishment, information sharing, and revamping digital infrastructure. The speaker will discuss the identified opportunities of collaboration in the NEA region, and the panels will share their perspectives based on each country's experience in containing COVID-19.

15:40 – 16:10

Presentation: Identifying Sustainable Infrastructure Development Needs in the Post-Pandemic Era for the NEA Region

By Xinkai Duan, Project Director, China Center for Urban Development, National Development and Reform Commission, China

16:10 – 17:00

Panel Discussion

- Panel

- Xinkai Duan, Project Director, China Center for Urban Development, National Development and Reform Commission of China
- Eric Zusman, Research Leader of Sustainability Governance Centre, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
- Hyung-Ju Kim, Director General, Green Technology Center, Korea
- Gankhuyag Sodnom, Ambassador at Large, Director, Investment Research Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia

(5 mins each for 4 panels, 30 mins for free discussion)

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Day 3: Dec 3, 2020 (Thu)

Session 5: The way forward - Key recommendations to strengthen regional cooperation in sustainable infrastructure

Moderated by Hyeon Park, Dean of International School of Urban Sciences, University of Seoul / Former Senior Evaluation Specialist, ADB

This last session will be an in-depth panel discussion, exchanging some new policy recommendation ideas to enhance regional collaboration. Under the guidance of the moderator, the panels will share new ideas on the topic and comment on the possible policy recommendations for transnational sustainable infrastructure cooperation in Northeast Asia. The ideas presented will be collected and produced into a policy recommendation publication that captures the voices and policy interests of leaders in the capital of each participating countries.

15:40 – 16:30

Panel Discussion

- Panel

- Taidong Zhou, Director, Center for International Knowledge on Development, Development Research Center of the State Council of China
- Yasuo Takahashi, Executive Director, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan
- Hong-Sang Jung, Adjunct Professor, KDI School of Public Policy and Management / former Executive Director, APEC Climate Center
- Gankhuyag Sodnom, Ambassador at Large, Director, Investment Research Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia

(5 mins each for 4 panels, 30 mins for free discussion)

16:30 – 16:35

Closing Remarks

Kwang Kim, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation Korea Office