

Asia-Pacific Network for
Global Change Research
(APN) and the Institute
for Global Environmental
Strategies – Kansai
Research Centre (IGES-
KRC) Joint Scoping
Activity on Regional
Circular and Ecological
Sphere (R-CES)



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Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)

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1. Summary

The Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere (Regional-CES), which was first proposed in the Fifth Basic Environmental Plan of the Government of Japan in 2018 as a guiding concept for environmental policies, is a concept to promote sustainable development through applying circularity principle at the local and regional levels with close collaboration between rural and urban areas for maximum utilisation of local strengths and resources. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has promoted this Regional-CES concept to Asia working together with its partners including the local governments, private sector and civil society organizations in Japan, Southeast and South Asia. As a part of such efforts, Kansai Research Centre (KRC) of IGES conducted the joint scoping project with the Asia Pacific Network (APN) for Global Change Research which the objectives are to promote the Regional-CES concept in Southeast Asian countries.

To achieve the objective, IGES, in collaboration with APN, organised Regional-CES national workshops in three countries in Southeast Asian namely the Philippines in February 2022, Thailand in October 2022, and Indonesia in May 2023 inviting relevant stakeholders and introduced the concept of Regional-CES to see how their existing projects/areas can be interpreted in the concept and what is the entry point for the Regional-CES concept to integrate with the local contexts. The workshops also explored how the concept could bring benefits to those countries.

The target countries for workshops were selected based on the following criteria: 1) having existing national/local policy frameworks/programmes which have relevance to Regional-CES, 2) working on strengthening local resiliency or sustainability; and 3) having projects/programmes which might be applicable for/relevant Regional-CES. Based on the above criteria and in consultation with APN, the mentioned three countries were selected and the local collaborators of the respective countries were finalised through discussion with the potential candidates.

Through organising workshops, involvement of the young researchers and post-graduate students who will be responsible for the next generation of nation-building could help not only in smooth operating the workshop, but also provide them with opportunities of understanding of the Regional-CES concepts and some experiences of interaction with a variety of professionals in the international event.

The structure of the workshops was developed by respecting the local situation and suggestions from the local collaborators in each country. The programme was scheduled for 2-days by covering not only presentations but also active discussions among participants, reflections of the workshop and its way forward. Including the breakout group discussion among all participants with different backgrounds, each national workshop provided a forum to share the experience of participants, to discuss barriers and issues to implement Regional-CES in respective context, and to identify potential entry points of Regional-CES with potential application of the concept to the development activities in each country.

2. Objectives

This project will assess potential of uncovering Regional-CES practices in Southeast Asia and will identify opportunities and potentials of applying Regional-CES in Southeast Asia. Key objectives of the Scoping Project are as follows:

- To introduce the concept of Regional-CES with the selected countries in Southeast Asia.
- To discuss how their existing projects/areas can be interpreted into the concept and how the integration of the relevant projects in the concept would bring the benefits to the countries.
- To understand each country's projects/areas which would apply the Regional-CES concept.
- To understand the challenges and issues to apply the Regional-CES concept.

3. Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts

Outputs	Outcomes	(Intended) Impacts
Three (3) completed workshop: the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia.	Engaged key stakeholders from local to national level through Regional-CES workshops that helped to disseminate concept of the Regional-CES with them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming Regional-CES concept to local and national government policies, regulations, and/or development plans in the target countries (e.g. Mid-term Development Plan of Indonesia). • Promoting optimum utilisation of local resources through rural and urban partnership for revitalization and improving the quality of life of residents. • Improving self-reliance and resilience of society through the policy interventions on urban-rural linkages to address sustainability challenges (Climate, economy, social,
Four (4) newly built local partners; the Philippines (1), Thailand (1), and Indonesia (2).	Built effective partnerships with local government for advancing Regional-CES concept (eg. Depok city of Indonesia hosted the workshop).	
Four-hundred and seventy-three (473) people participated in total; the Philippines (259*), Thailand (46*), and Indonesia (168*). * Average for two-days workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in knowledge of initiatives, projects, etc. by local/national government agencies, research institutions, academia institutions, NGOs, and private sectors, etc. 	
Three (3) proceedings of the Regional-CES Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wider networks in individual participant developed. 	

<p>In total, forty-four (44) shared presentations including twenty-eight (28) local projects, activities and initiatives and sixteen (16*) on international ones; the Philippines (10/4), Thailand (5/6), Indonesia (13/6).</p> <p>· Local/International * Cumulative numbers</p>	<p>More policymakers, decision makers encouraged their commitments to develop/ project sustainable and selfreliant, and regirient future city/country.</p>	<p>environment, natural resources management, etc.)</p>
<p>Three (3) intensive breakout sessions provided a platfrom to bring key stakeholders and discussed the entry point, challenges and enabling solutions for the Regional-CES application; the Pilippines (2 groups), Thailand (3 groups), and Indonesia (3 groups).</p>	<p>Identified entry points, challenges and enabling solutions for the Regional-CES application under each country's context.</p>	
<p>Over 50 young researchers, students and junior teaching staff in three countries involved in organising workshops, in which supported building the capacity for those young researchers/students on the Regional-CES.</p>	<p>Increase in motivation of young researchers, students and junior teaching staff to work for sustainable and regirient rural/urban areas' projects/activities.</p>	

4. Key facts/figures

- Three (3) Reginal-CES national workshops were organised in the Philippines, Thailand, and Indonesia.
- Three (3) proceedings of the Regional-CES Workshops held in target countries including summaries of presentations of local project and activities as well as the results of breakout session discussions identified entry points, challenges and enabling solutions for applying the Regional-CES concept were developed respectively that will help in further dissemination.Four (4) new local partners were identified and built new networks in three (3) target countries who will be the key stakeholder for promoting the Regional-CES concet.
- Four hundred and seventy-three (473) participants were increased awareness and understanding about Regional-CES concept in three (3) target countries.

- In total, forty-four (44) presentations including twenty-eight (28) local projects, activities and initiatives and sixteen (16) on international ones were shared and helped in understanding both local and international initiatives, projects, etc.
- Three (3) intensive breakout sessions among key stakeholders from variety of backgrounds in the target countries were successfully conducted and provided significant opportunities in exchanging ideas and opinions to identify entry points, challenges and enabling solutions for the Regional-CES application under the local contexts.
- Over 50 young researchers, students and junior teaching staff in three countries played important roles in organising workshops and had significant opportunities in building their capacities through interactions with a variety of professionals.

5. Publications

- Workshop summary report from the Philippines
- Workshop summary report from Thailand
- Workshop summary report from Indonesia

6. Media reports, videos and other digital content

[Reginal-CES National Workshop in the Philippines]

- [UPLB-INREM, partners explore circular economy in PH](#)
- [第1回地域循環共生圏の可能性を探るナショナルワークショップ・フィリピン開催](#)

[Reginal-CES National Workshop in Thailand]

- [National Workshop on Regional-CES in Thailand](#)
- [National Workshop on Regional-CES in Thailand: “Promoting Regional Circulating and Ecological Sphere \(Regional-CES\) Concept for Resilient and Sustainable Communities in Thailand”](#)
- [地域循環共生圏枠組み適用の可能性を探るナショナルワークショップ・タイ開催](#)

[Reginal-CES National Workshop in Indonesia]

- [Pemkot Depok Tuan Rumah Seminar Internasional Regional-CES Nasional Workshop 2023](#)
- [Dorongan Pemerataan Pembangunan, Bang Imam Tekankan Pentingnya Kolaborasi](#)
- [Discussing Sustainable Development and City-Village Linkages, PWK FTUI Holds a National Workshop](#)
- [地域循環共生圏枠組み適用の可能性を探るナショナルワークショップ・インドネシア開催](#)

7. Pull quotes

[From the Philippines]

Regional-CES is based on an integrated policy approach that incorporates the concept of low carbon society, resource circulation, and living in harmony with nature, that aims to advance transformative action at the regional, national and local levels through cross-sectional arrangements. If we examine the three objectives that we have identified in the conduct of this

Regional-CES workshop, everyone will agree that this 1.5 days workshop is a resounding success. Firstly, in terms of examining the CES concept and its applicability in the country's context, Philippine national government agencies, local government units, academia, private sectors, and other stakeholders warmly welcomed the idea of Regional-CES. It plays a pivotal role in mapping sustainability challenges and opportunities, complementing existing climate change and development efforts at all levels. Secondly, concerning the enhancement of the CES framework in the Philippine context, the workshop, featuring diverse case studies and presentations, demonstrated significant progress in aligning the CES framework with Philippine realities on the ground. This is an ongoing process that acknowledges the uniqueness of the local context while striving for continuous improvement. Lastly, the workshop identified key avenues for incorporating CES elements in the Philippine setting. These include research and development in circular economy practices, green technology product development, ecosystem-based adaptation, and risk reduction strategies. Furthermore, it highlighted the importance of continuous capacity building and communication activities, particularly at the sub-national level, to mainstream CES principles into planning, programs, and practices.

Professor Juan M. Pulhin (UPLB-INREM, Philippines)

[From Thailand]

I am delighted to take part in the initiatives of the Regional-CES and more specifically for Thailand context. We found a great interest from various level of stakeholders to align or adapt the the concept of Refgional-CES. The national level workshop and feedback shows that Regional-CES could be complementariy to the Thailand national initiatives and policies for the future initiaves and projects.

Dr. Indrajit Pal (AIT, Thailand)

[From Indonesia]

We, IAP and UI, are very grateful to be a part of the Regional-CES network and hosted the national workshop that discussed the future of an integrated urban-rural linkage in Depok City, together with Government of Depok City. It's not just a timely momentum for our national development since the government is preparing the national long-term development planning, but also encouraging various civitas academica Universitas Indonesia, especially master students of urban and regional planning, to have more kinds of literature on the framework of Regional-CES in solving the problem of rural-urban linkage. Not only them but also the local governments and private sectors in the Jabodetabekpunjur metropolitan region took benefit from the national workshop on how the circular ecological sphere framework can be used to investigate the project. This year, we also intend to have more small research under the thesis project that works on this theme and provide national seminars regularly in other provinces in Indonesia through the IAP network.

Dr.phil. Hendricus Andy Simarmata (IAP, Indonesia), Dr. Ing. Ova Candra Dewi (UI, Indonesia)

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9. Appendices

- Workshop summary report from the Philippines
- Workshop summary report from Thailand
- Workshop summary report from Indonesia