Challenges for Sustainable Cities
- Why and How -

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Topics
1. Cities and sustainability
2. “FutureCity” Initiative in Japan
3. Development of SDGs guidelines for local governments

Key Concept of Sustainable Society: 5Ps
1. People
   End poverty and hunger, ensure health, dignity and equality
2. Planet
   Protect the planet from degradation so that it can support the needs of the future generations
3. Prosperity
   Economic, social and technological progress in harmony with nature
4. Peace
   No sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development
5. Partnership
   Participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people
   No one will be left behind

New strategy for global governance through SDGs

Goal 11 (Urban SDGs) and administration by LG

Thematic targets and means of implementation under Goal11

Goal11 is closely related to city administration
The other 16 Goals are also related
**Background and necessity for introduction of SDGs to LGs**

1. **Position**
   - LGs are located between global/national levels and local communities levels.
   - LGs are facing issues of various scales, which can be solved with the aid of SDGs.

2. **Stakeholders**
   - LGs can organize various stakeholders within their communities.

3. **Citizens**
   - LGs have close communication with citizens, which support the introduction of SDGs to local communities.

4. **Identity**
   - LGs can strengthen their own identities by promoting SDGs.

5. **Challenges**
   - LGs can solve various challenges through the introduction of SDGs.

**LGs are facing issues of various scales, which can be solved with the aid of SDGs.**

- LGs can organize various stakeholders within their communities.
- LGs have close communication with citizens, which support the introduction of SDGs to local communities.
- LGs can strengthen their own identities by promoting SDGs.
- LGs can solve various challenges through the introduction of SDGs.

**Benefits of promotion of SDGs**

1. **Improvement of QOL of citizens**
2. **Development of local identity and vitalization of local community**
3. **Integration of economy, society and environment**
4. **Promotion of partnerships**
   - Promotion of partnerships among LGs, both domestically and in other countries, as well as sharing best practices.
5. **Development of international cooperation and international contributions**

**Topics**

1. **Sustainability of cities**
2. **FutureCity Initiative in Japan**
3. **Development of SDGs guideline for local governments**

**Aim of FutureCity Initiative:**

1. **Raise the peak**: select and certify top-runner cities by Central Government.
2. **Boost the base**: dissemination of best practices and promotion of partnerships.

**FutureCities selected by the Government (11 cities: 2011)**

- Shimokawa Town
- Toyama City
- Kashima City
- City of Yokohama
- City of Kitakyushu

A variety of ambitious proposals towards a sustainable society.
Integrated assessment of city performance used in FutureCity Initiative based on Q - L chart:

Q and L are the two major factors for sustainability evaluation.

- Realization of a sustainable society based on reduction of L and improvement of Q

**Sustainability assessment of cities based on Q - L chart**

![Q - L chart](image)

- Red Group (e.g., Tokyo) (in developed countries)
- Yellow Group (e.g., Jakarta) (in emerging countries)
- Blue Group (e.g., Kolkata) (in developing countries)

- Duty of developed countries: present models for realizing sustainable cities as quickly as possible to developing countries
- Urgency for reduction of CO₂ emissions in developed countries by 80% by 2050

**CASBEE-City**: Assessment tool developed in Japan

- Evaluation of L based on Paris Agreement (CO₂ emissions)
- Evaluation of Q based on SDGs

**How has such great success been achieved with the FutureCity initiative?**

1. The Central and Local Governments present clear images of a future sustainable society to citizens
   - Local Governments have been motivated and incentivized by receiving the prestigious title of “FutureCity”

2. FutureCities promote their action plans on their own initiative
   - They create self-sustaining models for city management

3. Establishment of global partnerships among cities around the world

**Topics**

1. Sustainability of cities
2. FutureCity Initiative in Japan
3. Development of SDGs guideline for local governments
Guideline: how to apply SDGs to Local Governments

「SDGs for our Cities and Communities」

SDGs for our Cities and Communities
-The Guideline for introduction of SDGs to Local Governments-(Mar. 2017)

Step 2 Target setting and implementation system to achieve SDGs

1. Survey of SDGs and their own circumstances
2. Formulation of long-term visions to achieve SDGs
3. Setting short-term targets to achieve SDGs
4. Implementation
5. Assessment

Step 3-2 Clarify the subjects to be tackled according to each LG’s own circumstances

1. Action 1: Obligatory / Comprehensive
2. Action 2: Voluntary / Selective
3. Rediscovering the subjects to be tackled

Flexible response to social change

**Step 3-3 Selection of indicators: tools to measure the progress of actions**

**Process 1:** Prioritizing action objectives from 17 Goals and 169 Targets

**Process 2:** Selection of indicators
1. Review of 230 global indicators
   - Selection of indicators that can measure the progress of actions for Goals and Targets
2. When there is no suitable indicator, or no sufficient data for evaluation
   - Modify global indicators’ definition
   - Propose new indicators suitable for individual situation by own initiative

**Step 4 Checkpoints for action program**
1. Do they reflect the local individual situation?
2. Are they pioneering and reasonable?
3. Realizability of the program
4. Governance of the SDGs management-team
5. Organization of stakeholders
6. Financing-scheme for action program
7. PDCA and dissemination

**Step 5-1 Establishment of follow-up system**
- Turn the PDCA cycle

**Step 5-2 Checkpoints of follow-up**
1. Investigation of domestic and overseas situation related to SDGs
   - Does the management-team reflect social change?
2. Evaluation of the output and outcome as the achievements of SDGs
   - Is there a necessity for revision of visions and targets?
3. Survey of the indicators
   - Are they suitable for evaluating the present social situation?
   - Maintenance of the data-base for calculating the indicators

**Concluding remarks**
1. ASEAN ESC Model Cities Program and related national activities have made valuable achievements.
2. For SDGs introduction and localization, experiences of FutureCity Initiative in Japan can be used in many countries.
3. SDGs guidelines for LGs will surely help cities in addressing challenges towards sustainability, and will produce many partnerships among cities and countries

**Thank you for your attention!**

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Reference:
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