

Asian Perspectives, Research Priorities, And Capacity Building Focus Of Future Earth Activities In Taiwan

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Future Earth, an International Council for Science (ICSU) scientific programme, aims at providing the knowledge required for societies to face risks posed by global environmental change and seizing opportunities in a transition to global sustainability. It was launched under the leadership of former ICSU President Dr. Yuan T. Lee (a Taiwanese scientist with Presidential term 2011-2014). Scientists in Taiwan have actively involved in the visioning, preparation, and implementation stages of Future Earth, based on their longtime participation in the ICSU's Global Environmental Change Programs since 1990+.

Center for Sustainability Science (CSS) of Academia Sinica (AS) on behalf of Taiwan Academia has organized several events in different stages of Future Earth. During the visioning stage, five priority research directions for Future Earth in Asia, i.e. coastal zones, urbanization, population, energy, and core value, were identified during an international brainstorming meeting held in 2013 in Taiwan. In the preparation stage, potential regional networking structures and mechanisms for Future Earth in Asia were discussed in an international meeting in 2014 in Taiwan. In the implementation stage, the National Committee of Future Earth, Academia Sinica, Taipei, for Future Earth, has officially established in 2015 under AS.

Furthermore, CSS proposes to establish a regional thematic institute under Future Earth in Asia, "Thematic Institute on Co-benefit Strategy for Sustainable Living (COBENTS)", to promote transdisciplinary sustainability science in Asia. The aim is to identify co-benefit strategy to meet Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) considering Asian distinct characteristics. There are several functions of COBENTS, (1) engaging stakeholders, (2) accumulating knowledge and effective practices of "co-design, co-production and co-delivery", (3) serving as a domestic platform for scientific knowledge synthesis, (4) sharing experience regionally and internationally, and (5) supporting capacity building domestically and regionally. It is hope that COBENTS, in collaborations with other regional research activities, contributes to Asian sustainable development.