


**Tangible, transparent, and accountable
scientific information with ownership
can change policy
through active communication with mass media
and high-level international conferences**

January 20, 2021

Naoya TSUKAMOTO, Ph.D.

Regional Research Center for Asia and the Pacific,

Asian Institute of Technology



1. Power of scientific information

On February 15, 2007

- ▶ The strategic research **2050 LCS project S3**, funded by MoEJ and led by NIES announced its temporary results at a press conference.
- ▶ Japan can reduce its GHGs 70% by 2020, while achieving good quality of life in a low carbon society. The first and only one research says **“Yes, we can”**
- ▶ Birth of a new word: **“Low-carbon Society”** in Japan

On June 9, 2008, in TOKYAKO G8 Summit

- ▶ Prime Minister Fukuda announced Japan’s new proposal “In pursuit of Japan as a Low-carbon Society. “
- ▶ Sets 60-80% reduction in emissions of its current level by 2050 as Japan’s long- term goal.



2. New Mechanism to integrate science into policy

in May 2008, in Kobe, G8 Environment Ministers Meeting

- ▶ recognized the need for countries to develop their own visions towards low-carbon societies
- ▶ supported the proposal from Japan to establish **the International Research Network for Low Carbon Societies (LCS-RNet)**.

in April 2009, LCS-RNet was established

- ▶ Initially 15 research institutes from 7 countries constitute
- ▶ the Secretariat: the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) with the support from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

3. Seek Scientific information, aiming to improve existing policies and regulations

24 April 2009, G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in Siracusa,

- ▶ The session on Children's Health and the Environment started by the keynote addresses of H.E. Testuo Saito, Minister of the Environment of Japan
- ▶ The G8 countries identify as appropriate action "collaborate on research studies and research related to the children's health and the environment including impacts of chemicals and heavy metals".

2010, SABC Judgement by Cabinet office – the highest evaluation system of research proposal in Japan > S

January 2011, Children's environmental health study start toward 2025

- ▶ Participants: 100,000 mother-child pairs residing throughout Japan
- ▶ To measure the environmental exposures and its impacts during pregnancy until 13 years of age.