This research is being implemented from fiscal year 2013 to 2015 under the title “Project On Sustainability Transformation beyond 2015”, with support from the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (ERTDF), as its strategic research project, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.
The aim of this research project is to contribute to international discussions toward the establishment of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the short term, and to propose policies and frameworks for a long-term transformation in human behaviour toward sustainable society.

The 2015 deadline is approaching for achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this context, the pace of international discussions is accelerating regarding global development goals and related issues after 2015. This project will conduct research from as many perspectives as possible about this debate, with the purpose of making an intellectual contribution toward the realization of a sustainable world.

Specifically, we have the following five objectives:
1. Contribute to establishing the post-2015 development agenda.
2. Promote trans-disciplinary research into ways to harmonize environment and development by leveraging sustainable development goals.
3. Create a new trans-disciplinary epistemic community by promoting research-based collaboration. This is to address the lack of communication between research communities dealing with environmental issues and development issues.
4. Aim to become an international research center through relevant international collaboration and networks.
5. Through these activities, contribute to a broad societal debate about sustainability transformation.

Research Structure

**Budget:** Approx. 200 million JPY / year

**Research period:** Fiscal year 2013 – 2015 (3 years)
A New Paradigm for a New Era

It is already becoming scientifically evident that the prospects for human well-being are worsening due to the state of global environmental destruction exceeding the boundaries in several areas. In this context, a new paradigm is needed – a paradigm with a multi-layered approach to society and economy, premised upon the global environment as the foundation of all development (see Figure) – rather than the conventional thinking based on the three "pillars" of sustainable development (economy, society, environment). Therefore SDGs should be established in an integrated manner (6 SDGs in the Figure represent examples).

New Definition of Sustainable Development:
Development that meets the needs of the present while safeguarding Earth's life-support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations depends.

Basic Principles of SDGs to be Proposed by This Project

Activities have advanced to date on global environmental issues, development and poverty based on international agreements and treaties in each respective field. For example, some progress has been made with international frameworks, implementation, and monitoring systems relating to climate change and stratospheric ozone layer protection. For development issues such as poverty reduction, we have seen some progress, through the MDGs, in terms of increases in assistance from developed countries and the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Not enough linkages, however, are occurring between the two inter-related areas of environment and development – which are at the very core of sustainable development. Integrated efforts have made only limited progress.

Propose Comprehensive and Integrated Sustainable Development Goals
We will propose comprehensive and integrated sustainable development goals consistent with the focus and effort of the MDGs and responding to new and emerging challenges to contribute to setting of the post-2015 development agenda.
Project On Sustainability Transformation beyond 2015

Project Member

Advisory Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shuzo Nishioka</td>
<td>Institute for Global Environmental Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaori Kuroda</td>
<td>CSO Network Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ikufumi Tomimoto</td>
<td>Yamaguchi University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazuhiro Ueta</td>
<td>Kyoto University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S-11-1 Integrating goals and governance towards sustainability transformation

Project Leader/Theme Leader
Norichika Kanie Keio University

Project Manager
Mari Kosaka Keio University

Sub Theme Leader
Masako Tanaka Tokyo Institute of Technology
Yui Nakagawa Tokyo Institute of Technology
Yuka Hayakawa Tokyo Institute of Technology
Yuko Motoki Muzo Information & Research Institute, Inc.
Aya Naito Muzo Information & Research Institute, Inc.

Frank Biemann The VU University Amsterdam, and Earth System Governance Project
Oran Young The University of California Santa Barbara
Peter Haas The University of Massachusetts Amherst
Arild Underdal The University of Oslo
Steinar Andresen Fridtjof Nansens Institutt
Måns Nilsson Stockholm Environment Institute
Joyeeta Gupta The University of Amsterdam
Steven Berenstein The University of Toronto
Marc Levy Columbia University
Marcel Kok PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency
László Pintér The Central European University
Dora Almassy The Central European University
Laurence Tubiana Sciences Po Paris
Tancredè Voituriez Sciences Po Paris
Ruben Zondervan Earth System Governance Project, and Lund University
Lynn Wagner International Institute for Sustainable Development (Canada)
Pamela Chasek International Institute for Sustainable Development (Canada)
Faye Leone International Institute for Sustainable Development (Canada)
Kate Offerdahl International Institute for Sustainable Development (Canada)

Sub Theme Leader
Naoya Abe Tokyo Institute of Technology
Andante Hadi Pandaysawaro Tokyo Institute of Technology
Yunus Fransiscus The University of Surabaya
George William C. Hong De La Salle University

Sub Theme Leader
Tomoki Ebara E-konzal
Yuki Ochi E-konzal
Minoru Yoshikawa Muzo Information & Research Institute, Inc.

Sub Theme Leader
Yasuko Kameyama National Institute for Environmental Studies
Tomohiro Tasaki National Institute for Environmental Studies

5-11-2 SDGs in terms of planetary well-being

Theme Leader
Shunsuke Managi Kyushu University
Hiromi Nakamura Kyushu University
Tetsuya Tamaki Kyushu University
Masachika Suzuki Sophia University
Kazuhiko Ikeda Japan Women’s University
Takayoshi Kusago Kansai University
Keishiro Haru Osaka University
Michinori Uwasu Osaka University
Seiji Hashimoto Ritsumeikan University
Koji Amano Ritsumeikan University
Koji Shimada Ritsumeikan University
Naoki Yoshikawa Ritsumeikan University
Shinuke Murakami The University of Tokyo
Ichiro Daigo The University of Tokyo

5-11-3 SDGs in terms of human well-being

Theme Leader
Yuto Kitamura The University of Tokyo
Mikiko Nishimura International Christian University
Mark Langager International Christian University
Masahisa Sato Tokyo City University
Jun Kawaguchi Osaka University
Brent Edwards Drexel University
Makiko Hayashi The University of Tokyo
Eri Yamazaki The University of Tokyo
Taeko Oikatsu The University of Tokyo
Eriko Yagi The University of Tokyo
Takayo Ogasu Nagoya University
James Williams George Washington University

Sub Theme Leader
Taro Yamamoto Nagasaki University
Hidefumi Kasuga Kansai University
Masaru Yarime The University of Tokyo
Ali Kharrazi The University of Tokyo

5-11-4 Governance and SDGs

Theme Leader
Hideyuki Mori Institute for Global Environmental Strategy
Eric Zusz Institute for Global Environmental Strategy
Tetsuro Yoshida Institute for Global Environmental Strategy
Simon Olsen Institute for Global Environmental Strategy
Ikuho Miyazawa Institute for Global Environmental Strategy

Sub Theme Leader
Takahiro Yamada United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
Robert Lindner United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
Casey Stevens United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
Norichika Kanie United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
Hanako Umezawa United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability
Yui Nakagawa United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

Sub Theme Leader
Hikaru Kobayashi Keio University
Yingjiu Bai Keio University
Kenako Morita Keio University
Noriko Shimizu Institute for Global Environmental Strategy

Sub Theme Leader
Akihisa Mori Kyoto University

Contacts

- **Project Leader:** Norichika Kanie, Professor
  Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University
  E-mail: kanie@sfc.keio.ac.jp

- **Project Coordination Team and Secretariat:**
  Keio University Shonan Fujisawa Campus
  5322 Endo, Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa 252-0882 Japan
  E-mail: info@post2015.jp, TEL & FAX: +81-466-47-5145

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