



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN DIMENSIONS PROGRAMME
ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE



INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSIONS OF
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

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CARBON MANAGEMENT RESEARCH ACTIVITY

REPORT OF THE INITIAL PLANNING MEETING

May 29-30, 2000

Tokyo, Japan

Edited by

Granville C. Sewell

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

and

Yoshiki Yamagata

National Institute for Environmental Studies

Center for Global Environmental Research



**National Institute for Environmental Studies
Ministry of the Environment**



**Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC)
Scientific Steering Committee**

Dr. Elena N. Andreeva
Laboratory of Arctic Studies
Institute of System Analysis
Russian Academy of Sciences
Moscow, RUSSIA

Scott Barrett
Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International
Studies
John Hopkins University
Washington, DC, USA

Angela Cropper
Port of Spain
TRINIDAD and TOBAGO, W.I

Professor Alf Håkon Hoel
Norwegian College of Fisheries Science
University of Tromsø
Tromsø, NORWAY

Professor Leslie A. King
Environmental Studies Program
University of Northern British Columbia
Prince George, BC, CANADA

Professor Paul Mathieu
Institut d' Etudes du Developpement -UCL
Louvain la Neuve, BELGIUM

Madiodio Niasse
World Commission on Dams
Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA

Professor Suparb Pas-ong
Institute of Liberal Arts
Walailak University
Nakhon Si Thammarat, THAILAND

Professor Peter Heinz Sand
Institute of International Law
University of Munich
Munich, GERMANY

Professor Russell E. Reichelt CEO
CRC Reef Research Centre
James Cook University
Townsville, AUSTRALIA

Agus Sari
PELANGI
Jakarta, INDONESIA

Dr. Merrilyn Wasson
Australian National University
Ecosystem Dynamic Group
Research School of Biological Science
Canberra, AUSTRALIA

Dr. Yoshiki Yamagata
Research Program Manager
Center for Global Environmental Research
National Institute for Environmental Studies
Environment Agency of Japan
Tsukuba, JAPAN

Professor Oran R. Young, Chair
Institute of International Environmental
Governance
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH USA

Foreword

Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC) is one of the Science Projects of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP). The core of the IDGEC project is an analysis of the roles that social institutions play as determinants of the course of human/environment interactions.

The initial planning meeting of the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC)'s Carbon Management Research Activity (CMRA) was held on May 29-30 in Tokyo, Japan. The Carbon Management Research Activity (CMRA) is a long-term investigation into the range of institutional issues associated with the emerging climate regime. Over thirty researchers from twelve countries and a range of disciplines attended this meeting in order to move the research activity from its initial scoping phase into the research phase. A report of the meeting is compiled in this volume.

The Center for Global Environmental Research (CGER) was established within the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) in 1990 to contribute broadly to the elucidation and solution of our pressing environmental problems. It is our great pleasure that we could organize this important workshop in Japan together with IHDP. During the meeting, there were very important presentations and discussions about the future direction of the IDGEC project. We hope this report will contribute to further progress in research on this area and to efforts toward global environmental conservation.

January 2001



Yohichi Gohshi

Executive Director

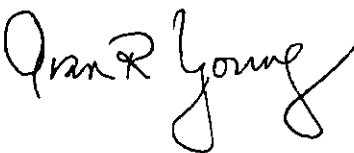
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Preface

This document summarizes the proceedings and reports the findings of a planning meeting held in Tokyo on 29 and 30 May 2000 to provide guidance for the Carbon Management Research Activity (CMRA), a flagship activity of the international research program on the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC). Attended by some 30 individuals, representing a mix of people from the research and policy communities, the principal objective of the meeting was to identify researchable topics relating to carbon management that constitute priority concerns for the members of both communities. Among the many themes identified in this connection, two emerged as matters of particular interest to both communities: (1) the establishment and refinement of the rules of the game needed to operate the Kyoto Mechanisms and especially the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) successfully and (2) the development of compliance mechanisms capable of inducing both states and other key actors to adjust their behavior to meet the requirements of the existing climate change regime or any revised regime dealing with climate change that arises during the foreseeable future. The CMRA will explore research opportunities pertaining to these themes over the next several years.

Many individuals contributed to making the Tokyo meeting a success. Two deserve special recognition. Granville Sewell, who is an IDGEC Research Fellow, took the lead both in assembling an excellent mix of participants and in preparing this report. Yoshiki Yamagata, who is a member of the IDGEC Scientific Steering Committee, handled all the arrangements for the meeting in Tokyo. His organization, the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), not only took care of all the organizational aspects of the meeting in a thoroughly professional manner, but also provided much appreciated material support. The IDGEC International Project Office at Dartmouth College in the United States and the Secretariat of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) in Bonn also assisted in issuing invitations and otherwise dealing with logistical issues relating to the meeting. To all those who played a role in making the Tokyo meeting a success, we are deeply grateful.



Oran R. Young
Chair
IDGEC Scientific Steering Committee

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Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change/ International Project Office •
Dartmouth College • 6214 Fairchild Hall • Hanover, NH 03755-3515 • USA
Tel.: 603-646-1277 • Fax.: 603-646-1279 • E-mail: IDGEC-IPO@Dartmouth.EDU
Web: www.Dartmouth.edu/~idgcec

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Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change
Carbon Management Research Activity
Initial Planning Meeting

May 29-30, 2000
Tokyo, Japan

Summary

The initial planning meeting of the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC)'s Carbon Management Research Activity (CMRA) was held on May 29-30 in Tokyo, Japan. The Carbon Management Research Activity (CMRA) is a long-term investigation into the range of institutional issues associated with the emerging climate regime. As a flagship activity of the International Human Dimensions Program's (IHDP) long-term project on the Institutional Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (IDGEC), the objective of this effort is to further our understanding of the critical near- and long-term institutional issues facing the international community as it develops a global climate change regime. The CMRA Scoping Report (Appendix A) describes the activity in greater detail.

The planning meeting was attended by over thirty researchers from twelve countries and a range of disciplines, and was sponsored by the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan, and the International Human Dimensions Program. A list of the meeting participants is provided in Appendix B.

The purpose of the planning meeting was to move the research activity from its initial scoping phase into the research phase. In doing so, it had several objectives. The first objective was to stimulate a discussion among the participants about the institutional issues and research questions raised by the Scoping Report and to identify those that are of particular concern to policy makers and researchers. The meeting's second objective was to elaborate on the most important of these research questions and identify, in concrete terms, an initial set of research projects that could be undertaken under the CMRA that would begin to resolve them. Finally, the SSC wanted to elicit from the participants their ideas as to how best to develop the linkages and network of researchers necessary to move the activity forward.

The first day of the Planning Meeting was devoted to the introduction of the CMRA and a general discussion of the institutional issues and research questions raised in the CMRA Scoping Report. During the opening session, following welcomes by Jill Jaeger, Director of the International Human Dimensions Program, and Hironori Hamanaka, Director-General of the Japan Environment Agency's Global Environment Department, Oran Young, the Chairman of the IDGEC Scientific Planning Committee, provided a brief overview of the IDGEC, the IDGEC Flagship Research Activities, and the goals of the meeting. Granville Sewell of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology then introduced the CMRA Scoping Report and its two priority research "themes." These themes are the set of research questions associated with climate change institutions that the SSC has identified as being important to both policy makers and researchers that serve as focal points for CMRA research projects.

The remainder of the day's sessions was devoted to a discussion of the range of issues associated with these research themes. In addition to the discussion provided in the Scoping Report, a number of participants made presentations related to the issues and questions raised in each theme.

Because the international community is particularly concerned with the nearer-term issues associated with implementing the terms of the FCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, the first of the two CMRA themes explores the institutional issues related to the administration of the climate regime in its present form. Atiq Rahman of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Naoki Matsuo of the Institute for Global Environmental Studies (IGES), and Joyeeta Gupta of the Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, made presentations related to these issues.

The CMRA's second theme focuses on longer-term issues associated with the regime's evolution and adjustment over time, as the ability to learn from national experiences in its implementation and adapt to changes in technology, scientific understanding, and global socioeconomic conditions is crucial to the regime's long-term effectiveness. Jan Linehan of New York University Law School, Jan Bandsma of the Foundation Joint Implementation Network, Richard Morganstern of Resources for the Future, and Adil Najam of Boston University made presentations related to these issues.

During the second day of the meeting, two breakout sessions were held to discuss these questions in greater detail and to suggest some initial CMRA research projects that might begin to resolve them. Participants in these sessions identified a substantial list of important topics and questions related to the two CMRA Themes that are particularly ripe for investigation. No effort was made to reach specific conclusions with regard to these research themes. Instead, much of the discussion focused on elaborating on the range of institutional questions requiring research, the relative importance for research into these questions, and the concerns of the policy community with regard to this research.

The final session of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the organizational issues related to the conduct of CMRA research projects. To initiate this discussion, Kilaparti Ramakrishna of the Woods Hole Research Center, Jill Jaeger of the International Human Dimensions Program, and Pep Canadell of the Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems International Program Office made presentations regarding the needs and constraints of the policy community and the FCCC secretariat, the social science research community, and the natural science research community, respectively. The SSC has anticipated, and the meeting participants reiterated, that CMRA research should be initiated and conducted through a network of researchers and research institutions with expertise in fields relevant to the institutional questions being examined. Collaboration should also be pursued with projects conducted under other auspices, including activities being undertaken by other programs of the International Human Dimensions Program (IDHP) and policy research efforts being undertaken by the FCCC Secretariat, other UN and intergovernmental organizations, non-profit organizations, industry associations, and research organizations.

While the participants did not make an effort to reach specific conclusions regarding the range of issues and topics discussed at the meeting, a general consensus did emerge regarding a number of issues:

- There was general agreement among the participants that a coordinated research program into the range of institutional issues associated with the climate regime is timely and of tremendous interest to both researchers and policy makers.

- Two questions that emerged as being particularly important are: (1) the relationship between the CDM rules and incentives for participation in it, and (2) the effectiveness of the various options being considered in the compliance mechanism.
- The meeting participants recognized that an expanded network of researchers was necessary to move the activity forward, and that additional efforts were necessary to draw researchers from such important regions such as Africa and Latin America that were not represented at this first planning meeting.
- Participants expressed interest in participating in a on-going dialogue with the policy community on institutional questions associated with the climate regime, and expressed interest in exploring possibilities for holding a series of discussions with participants in the meetings of Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.
- Meeting participants and the CMRA Steering Committee would welcome recommendations and nominations from the FCCC Parties of other researchers who might become involved in this effort.

As a next step, participants agreed that an electronic discussion group should be developed to further refine the list of research questions and project proposals. Details on this discussion network will be available on the IDGEC website in the near future. In the meantime, the CMRA Steering Committee is exploring options for securing funding and initiating specific research projects regarding the two research questions identified as being particularly important in the near term.

This report presents the presentations made by workshop participants and outlines the important institutional research questions that they believe are of interest to both researchers and policy makers. The individuals whose presentations are included in this report were asked to present their own views on the issue or set of issues at hand to provide context for a discussion of critical research questions. The purpose of this report, however, is not to make conclusions, but simply put forth these critical questions in order to provide a starting point for future research. The questions described in this report supplement and elaborate on the core research questions put forth in the CMRA Scoping Report. Many of the questions outlined in it are expected to become, in one form or another, the nucleus one or more specific research projects that could be moved forward under the CMRA, and the report itself, together with the Scoping Report, is intended to be a point of reference for the further development of the CMRA.