

“Envisioning Environmental Security for Sustainable Development”

International Conference on GeoInformatics for Spatial-Infrastructure Development in Earth and Allied Sciences
(GIS-IDEAS)

9-11 December 2010, Hanoi, Vietnam

Joint Sessions with Kyoto University Global COE Program “In Search of Sustainable Humanosphere in Asia and Africa”

Towards the development of Sustainable Humanosphere Index

Session statement

We are currently running a Japanese government funded large-scale research project "In Search of Sustainable Humanosphere in Asia and Africa" at Kyoto University. The project is being carried out in a thoroughly interdisciplinary fashion, and researchers involved include area studies specialists as well as specialists in politics, economics, anthropology, agronomy, ecology, life science, wood science, sustainability studies, atmospheric science, electrical engineering, among others.

One of our research program aims is to develop global index, which name is “Sustainable Humanosphere Index” to assess the fitness to “Sustainable Humanosphere paradigm”. “Humanosphere” is the term indicating ecological and social environment in which local people live, and composed by the three spheres; Geosphere, Biosphere and Humanosphere (in a narrow sense). We believe that Sustainable Humanosphere will be realized by caring the original logic of three spheres: Circulation / Fluctuation (Geosphere), Selection / Adaptation (Biosphere) and Selves / Sympathy (Humanosphere). The index integrates indicators related to human interactions with other spheres, such as consumption of geospheric resources and efforts to conserve biodiversity. Human interaction would also include capacity to deal with geospheric disasters and efforts to control infectious disease. In these joint sessions, we hope to discuss the inter-spheric relationship between humanosphere and Geosphere / Biosphere in the local context, to discipline our development process of the index.

In the former session, we would like to discuss about the relationship between Geosphere and Humanosphere, focusing on flood. Flood is normally recognized as the disaster because it damages the human livelihood. However, different aspects of the flood also can be recognized, such as fertile soil movement. Desirable relationship between flood and humanity could be achieved by the deep understanding of its nature, and we might find it in the local knowledge. Through the presentation about the flood occurring in the three geologically different locations (Red river delta, Mekong river delta and Hanoi city), we want to discuss how we can/should care for the original logic of geosphere.

In the latter session, we would like to discuss about the relationship between Biosphere and Humanosphere, in terms of the resource management and infectious-disease control. Firstly, we would focus on how to develop natural resource governance in a multi-ethnic area. Then, drawing from public health issue, we discuss the distribution of infectious disease as an inter-spheric uncertainty accelerator. Symbiosis within the humanosphere might be developed from the awareness of importance of biocultural diversity. Inter- and intra-spheric symbiosis would lead to human security and the sustainable humanosphere.

Tentative Program of the Joint sessions:

Dec 9th, 2010. Keynote Speech (30-40min)
“In Search of Sustainable Humanosphere in Asia and Africa”
by Kaoru Sugihara (Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)

Dec 10th or 11th Joint session Chair: Takahiro Sato, Taizo Wada, Makoto Nishi

Part 1: Flood and Human Development

13:00- 13:10 Introduction
by Takahiro Sato (Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)

13:10- 13:40 “Living with flood in Mekong River Delta”
by Pham Van Cu (International Center for Advanced Research on Global Change,
Vietnam National University)
Le Xuan Thuyen (Ho Chi Minh University)

13:40- 14:10 “Urban development and the risk of flood in Hanoi City”
by Pham Quy Nhan (National Center for Hydrological Development, Vietnam)

14:10-14:40 “Agricultural Development in Red River Delta”
by Masayuki Yanagisawa (Center for Intergrated Area Studies, Kyoto University)

14:50-15:00 Break

Part 2: Bio-Cultural diversity and symbiosis in our humanosphere

15:00- 15:10 Introduction
by Taizo Wada (Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)

15:10- 15:40 “One less butterfly, one less language - who cares? Considering biocultural diversity
and the future of governance”
by Nathan Augustus Badenoch (Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)

15:10- 15:40 From Eradication to mitigation -- Limitation of controlling vaccine preventable disease.
by Hiroshi Suzuki (Niigata Seiryō University / Niigata University)

16:10-17:40 General Discussion
including comments by Osamu Kozan (Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)
by Makoto Nishi (Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University)
by Yoichi Mine (Graduate School of Global Studies, Doshisya University)