

TPM5 - Session 1

Opening Remarks

Dr. OHTSUKA Ryutaro
President, National Institute for Environmental Studies

Good morning President KO Yunhwa and President MENG Wei and all colleagues from NIER and CRAES. On behalf of NIES I am very glad to host the TPM5 in Sapporo. This morning I would like to explain very briefly about our institute. Later this morning Dr. Yasuoka will talk about the research activities of our institute, so I will just give a short overview.

First of all I would like to express my sincere congratulations to NIER and CRAES on your 30th anniversary. I found a quote from the Analects of Confucius, which is very famous in Japan, and of course in China and also in Korea, which I would like to share with you. According to the words of Confucius, “30 years old” was a very important point in his lifetime, when he said he became a professional thinker and from then matured. I would also like to add that NIES is now 34 years old and next year will be our 35th anniversary. So now all our institutions are progressing from 30 to 40 years of age and I hope we are maturing very successfully, and I hope for further collaboration among us.

Now I would like to talk more about NIES. In this slide, here are several views of our main campus in Tsukuba, as some of you may know. Next I would like to introduce to you our charter in English. This charter was created in Japanese in April 2006 but it took a while for us to decide on a fitting English translation as the meanings of these words are very delicate. Anyway about two months ago we finally decided on the translation of the charter, and it can be seen on our homepage.

I would like to give a very brief history of NIES particularly for the benefit of Dr. KO who joins our meeting for the first time this year. Our institute was established in 1974, and as I said we will be 35 years old next year. Two years in particular in our history saw big changes. In 1990, we underwent significant restructuring and established a new unit, the Center for Global Environmental Research, and began doing global environmental research. Then in 2001, the Environment Agency became the Ministry of the Environment and also at that time a Waste Management Division was established at NIES. Another big event at this time, in 2006, was NIES becoming an incorporated administrative agency (independent administrative institution), so that officially speaking we are now an independent organization from the Ministry of the Environment, but of course continue to keep very close relations with the Ministry. Also in 2001 we started a five-year research plan, which was completed in 2005, and now we are in the third year of our second five-year plan. Dr. Yasuoka will talk more about what we are doing in this second five-year plan.

We are also very active in the dissemination of our research findings. For example, this year we held an Open Symposium here in Sapporo as well as Tokyo and an Open House event at our campus. We also produce various magazines and brochures for the public on topics such as climate change and materials-cycles society. “Kankyogi” is another popular magazine which is produced on selected topics every four months.

Finally, as you will see, distributed on your tables is the record of the TPM4 prepared by CRAES. I would like to say that I still remember our successful meeting last year in Chengdu, China, which was thoughtfully prepared and arranged by CRAES.

Thank you very much for your attention.

From the Analects of Confucius 論語 為政第二

子曰、
吾十有五而志乎學、
三十而立、
四十而不惑、
五十而知天命、
六十而耳順、
七十而從心所欲、不踰矩。

자활
오십유오이지우학
삼십이립
사십이불혹
오십이지천명
육십이이순
칠십이종심소욕 불유구

The Master said, "At fifteen, I had my mind bent on learning.

"At thirty, I stood firm.

"At forty, I had no doubts.

"At fifty, I knew the decrees of Heaven.

"At sixty, my ear was an obedient organ for the reception of truth.

"At seventy, I could follow what my heart desired, without transgressing what was right."

Bird's Eye View of NIES Main Campus in Tsukuba



National
Institute for
Environmental
Studies

Charter

The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) strives to contribute to society through research that fosters and protects a healthy environment for present and future generations.

Proud to work at NIES and keenly aware of our individual responsibilities, we will pursue high level research based on a firm understanding of the interaction between nature, society, and life on our planet.

NIES Vision



NIES Logo

Brief History of the Institute

July 1971 Environment Agency established

March 1974 National Institute for Environmental Studies established

April 1985 Emperor Showa Visits NIES

July 1990 Restructuring of NIES, to include global environmental research

October 1990 Center for Global Environmental Research established

June 1998 First NIES Open Symposium held

January 2001 Environment Agency to Ministry of the Environment

January 2001 Waste Management Division established

April 2001 NIES as an incorporated administrative agency

April 2001 First five-year plan (2001-2005) commenced

April 2006 Second five-year plan (2006-2010) commenced



NIES at the time of its establishment (Main Research Building I)



Royal visit by Emperor Showa (April 1985)



Ceremony commemorating the establishment of NIES as an incorporated administrative agency (May 31, 2001)



2008 Open Symposium in Sapporo

Dissemination of Research Findings

Summer Science Camp 2008 in Hateruma, Okinawa



NIES Open House 2008
(Total no. of 4,627 visitors)

2008 Open Symposium in Tokyo
(Total no. of 958 visitors for both events)

Distribution of Environmental Information



Q & A ココが知りたい温暖化

独立行政法人 国立環境研究所 地球環境研究センター

ココが知りたい温暖化 40

温暖化の化学 / 温暖化は暴走する?

Q 温暖化はあるところまで進むと決して止められなくなると聞きました。本当ですか。

A 温暖化の「暴走」はそう簡単には起こりません。なぜなら、地球には、温度が上がるほどたくさんの赤外線を宇宙に放出して、温度を安定に保とうとするメカニズムが備わっているからです。ただし、現在の科学でまだよくわかっていないメカニズムが温暖化を加速することもありうるので、温暖化が暴走する可能性がゼロとはいきません。

地球環境研究センター 温暖化リスク評価研究室長 江守 正多

私が答えます

「正のフィードバック」があると「暴走」が起こる？

質問の「決して止められなくなる」を、どんなに対策をしても際限なく温度が上がり続けること、いわゆる「暴走」すること、とらえてお答えします。

一般に、何かの原因によって、ある変化が起こったと

がるほど、たくさんの赤外線を宇宙に放出して冷えようとすること（注3）。これは、世の中のすべての物体に共通する、物理学の基本的な法則です。この負のフィードバックがあるおかげで、物体の温度は安定に保たれます（注4）。

Environmental research explained in an easy-to-understand way
 “Kankyogi” Newsletter →

↑ Researchers Comments on Climate Change Research

Online Magazine “KannKann” →

Kann Kann, Online Magazine by Research Center for Material Cycles and Waste Management, NIES

高校生も楽しめる循環型社会・廃棄物研究 (独)国立環境研究所 循環型社会・廃棄物研究センター オンライン

環境 ann Kann

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新着情報

- その他
- 「イェール大学 産業エコロジーセンター滞在記(3)」 by 橋本征二
- 「循環センター 2008年春の一般公開」 by 小島恭子

- 近況
- 社会のうごき
- 循環・廃棄物のけんきゆう
- ごみ研究の歴史
- 循環・廃棄物のまめ知識
- 当ててみよう!
- その他

バックナンバー 総集編

循環センターのママパガ 研究情報を分かりやすく紹介!

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Thank you for your attention



<http://www.nies.go.jp>