

A Collaborative Approach for Regional SCP in Asia: co-design, regional characteristics, and COVID-19

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Abstract

Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) patterns is an important task for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 12 by 2030. Reforming approach, such as improving processes and products in production side and informing peoples of pro-environmental behaviors in consumption side, is popular in emerging Asia; however, experiences in developed countries showed its limitation and reconfiguration approach, where a whole system of consumption and production (CP) is reconfigured to direct at a different direction such as well-being and sustainability, has been drawn attention. In order to facilitate international and domestic collaboration of the approach and identify regional Asian characteristics to consider, we developed and employed a collaborative workshop method to generate and structure ideas for SCP patterns and policies in Asia. The main focus was on Thailand and Japan. Structuring of 17 SCP patterns chosen from 525 CP patterns generated at the workshops helped to identify the important influential factors, policy interventions, and the features of probable SCP patterns. The main findings are that culture, infrastructure, and industry are major considerations for regional SCP policy and SCP policy instruments are broader than conventional environmental policy instruments. Workshop methodology was also applied to explore ideas about post-COVID CP patterns. The workshop results with Japanese SCP experts showed ideas about changes in CP patterns caused by COVID-19 and consequences in the future. Some CP patterns were expected to return to old-normal; however, 48% of the changes would not be returned. Based on these future foresights, a vision of post-COVID SCP policies was argued.

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