



**Local Governments and Social Economy:
 co-creation of paths for a green and inclusive economy**

**GSEF Global Virtual Forum
 4-8 October 2021**

Title of the session:	How can Social and Solidarity Economy contribute to achieving ecologically Just Transition for Local Communities?
Type of session	Workshop
Language:	English
Date:	October 6th, 2021
Time:	18:00-19:30
Participants	20

Name of moderator

Sohee Eom / Kijami Table

Speakers

Akiko Hiratsuka-Sasaki - Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
 Geethanjali Mariaselvam - University of Helsinki and HELSUS
 Seung Yeon Lee - the Seed:s
 Wei-Shiou Yang - Chief Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection, Taipei City Government



Summary of presentations:

- Intro moderator
- Intro of session

1st speaker: Ms. Akiko Hiratsuka-Sasaki - How Social and Solidarity Economy can contribute to promote a just transition for local communities?

- coal mines shutting down in one region - major concerns: how the affected workers can be protected? to ensure a just transition
- how can SSE at a local level work for a just transition
- What is just transition?
 - idea of pursuing a low carbon transition while assuring
- different initiatives w different directions - there is no clear definition of just transition
 - ngos social enterprises - in cities at a local level
 - very diverse
- regarding local - less attention to local sustainability
 - transitioning to what kind of sustainability they want is vague
 - there is little research on transition processes
- diagram - in order to achieve just transition at a local level there are several concerns
 - fair distribution of public services, retraining, reemployment of employees
 - opportunity for participation social dialogue
 - recognition of affected people - marginalised communities
- theoretical context
 - justice is a concept regarding individuals - solidarity is a relational concept
 - they complement each other, in terms of just transition solidarity has a important role to support realisation of justices and to overcome asymmetric relationships
 - examples: tagawa city; kitakyushu - not success stories, just examples
 - tagawa - community suffered a lot from closing coal

2nd speaker: Mr. Wei-Shiou Yang - Recycling and circulation of furniture regeneration

- history of treatment



- started in 1970



- promotion process
- 2002 pilotscheme to recycle and reuse furniture
- 2003 furniture was repaired refurbished and given to citizens in need
- 2006 furniture generation

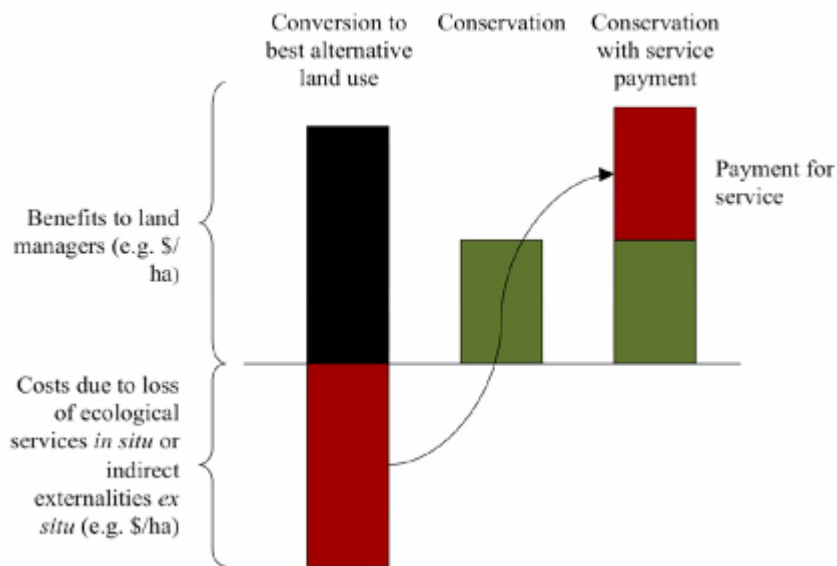
- exhibition
- implementation method
 - citizens can handover waste furniture and recycle by appointment
 - repair begins
 - auctioned
 -
- implementation results
 - since 2003 the DEP has repaired and furbished and provided it to people in need at a lower price, sustainable resource management
 - help the city move forward, ensure sustainable consumption and reduction of
 - increases government financial resources, also implemented the circular economy with more than 150000000
 - 200 thousand items accumulated so far
 - 349 needy households + 278 indigenous households
 - benefits
 - pollution reduction
 - waste reduction
 - waste disposal cost reduction
 - extend the life-span of landfills
 - reuse of resource recycling

3rd speaker: Ms. Geethanjali Mariaselvam - Who pays for conservation? Designing just models for conservation of biodiversity

- ecosystem services - protected areas
- people who manage it are specific services or local administration



- benefit of these areas can have a bunch of stakeholders - water companies, industries, tourist agencies, and the whole world when we talk about climate change
- Are our conservation models just?
 - benefits of protected areas are of global scale
 - cost of this conservation is generally borne by the local people
 - compensate this?
 - command and control methods
 - there are conflicts in conservation - its for our own good but how to motivate it
 - payments and compensations for conversation -



- Logic for PES
- Major PES types - watershed
- PES mechanisms
 - payments - cash, development work
 - contracts - one year to many years
 - goal - biodiversity conservation, watershed management
 - funding - private (in smaller areas), government, taxes
 - buyer - government, private
 - seller - individual, community
- designing PES schemes
 - identify ecosystem services available



- identify the beneficiaries and scale
- identify potential buyers and sellers
- if these schemes work it can motivate people for conservation
- limitations/precautions
 - opportunity costs are too high
 - extrinsic rewards may undermine intrinsic motivation
- conclusion
 - motivation - creating awareness to creating funding and markets
 - ecosystem service valuations create awareness
 - PES has the potential to create new funding options for conservation
 - can be used to create just models of conservation in certain areas

4th speaker: Ms. Seung Yeon Joy Lee - Global Solution Lab for Climate Change through Local Circular Economy

- UN YOUTH 2030 Strategy - envisioning working with and for young people
- youth are agents for change
- in Korea, rising demand in youth oriented policy
- 2020 Framework Act on Youth - master plan every 5 years for youth policy
 - very tardy response but symbolic
- Seoul Metropolitan Government has been very active on youth implementation
- since 2012 seeds was into empowering social young entrepreneurs
 - last year spread it to indonesia as well
 - 2019-2020 explored green solutions in the Indonesian SSE scene - very rooted in their community
 - unfortunately, covid 19 was in the way
- circular economy in a local scale - how to take care of nature and life in the local community - local: agile and impactful unit of change to be self-sustaining
 - good model but there is a big gap in actually implementing and practicing it
 - local should be a very agile and powerful unit for this change - green solutions should be able to be categorised in a global view (act small, fail fast with existing solutions)
- global solution lab webinar series - what if we encourage our individuals to implement the existing solutions all around world with similar solutions and sort out the dos and donts in regards to local environmental issues and transform the solutions to innovate the current problem we are facing - where they envisioned the Knowledge Exchange Platform for just and ecological local community
 - result: piloting needs and specific support
 - role of SSE can contribute to just transition - understanding ourselves from where we are - examine local resource and conditions and sophisticated knowledge and experience by failing fast

Answers to the MAIN QUESTION:



Question: What should be the actions or strategies of individuals, governments, groups, societies, countries, to achieve a better and more inclusive world? What key actions should be promoted from the local level?

○ **Answers:**

- **Ms Sasaki** - involvement of all the stakeholders is key, in case of this just transition, there are so many people affected, as we saw in our examples, they should be involved in the early stage so we cannot build dialogue.
- **Mr Yang** - involvement of stakeholders
- We should emphasise that our ecosystems are invaluable, for the good of one and all - create awareness and we will the public gain of maintaining a flourishing natural state - at the local level, the documentation of various protection projects must be kept

Answers to the GUIDING QUESTION:

Question: How does the SSE contribute to a real solution for the preservation of natural ecosystems?

- How to design positive environmental impact strategies that consider the human rights of societies in situations of violation?
- How to promote and engage all sectors of society in strategies, from the local level, to solve the environmental problems afflicting the planet?

Answers:

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Relevant Questions and Answers from Audience:



- **Question from Jinkyung Choi from Seed:s to Ms. Sasaki:** In the previous cases of transition that you explained in your presentation, how was the participation of citizens guaranteed by the local government? any participatory governance system worked successfully? And if there was such a system, did it last over the political change in the local government?
 - **Answer:** In the case of Tagawa city (coal mining), there existed no concept like participatory governance in the 1960s so that the citizens were not provided the chance for public participation. In the case of Kitakyushu city, the environmental movement actually started on the ground; the citizens esp. Women groups were active to overcome the pollution in the 1950s and it provided a base for the city to promote environmental policy. Though Kitakyushu city also has a structure of dependence, there are some kinds of basis for co-creation, collaboration and participatory governance among the local actors.
- **Questions to Mr. Wei-Hsiu Yang from Chariz Cariaga:** 1) Did Taipei City achieve Zero-waste? 2) If not yet, what year in the future are you targeting to achieve the "Zero waste City? 3) What measures or activities that your city is planning to achieve the Zero waste city? 4) How many jobs were created by this initiative or project (especially on Refurbished furniture)?
 - **Answer:**
 - 1) currently, it is working on that, has achieved 55% of recovery management, have reduced waste considerably
 - 2) 2030
 - 3) government-led
 - Taipei City is currently working on this matter, as we proposed various ambitious actions and set clear targets to achieve zero waste. Meanwhile, our city has achieved 65% of the resource recovery rate. By promoting measures such as "Per-Bag Collection Fee" and "banning single-use tableware," we have reduced the amount of waste. As for our future goals, Taipei City will ban the use of plastic shopping bags by 2030, fully phasing out single-use plastic cups for take-outs by 2030. Since our measures are Government-initiated, thus they are less-related to the creation of job opportunities
- **Question to Ms Akiko from Sohee Eom:** local residents that work in the coal and steel industry are usually older and have skills, it is hard to learn new skills and resistance to learn new skills. Was this a problem in the towns and how to solve it?
 - **Answer:** The steel company played an important role in finding new jobs - people were transferred to other industries, such as the recycling one - for those people: early retirement, or stay and be trained. About the resistance, labour unions in both cities played an important role - resistance was very strong and they worked hard (not only older generations)
- **Question to Mr. Yang from Sohee Eom:** furniture is bulky, setting up the collection system could not be easy bc of size - government policies, process of including participation is a big task, they might hesitate to follow the government. How did Taipei city conduct a campaign and encourage participation?



- **Answer:** built on four pillars: collection free of charge, encouraging citizens by promoting the regeneration system. citizens were very much willing to participate in this initiative.
- **Question to Geethanjali from Sohee Eom:** the system you used is very interesting, the key is quantifying the conversion effect due to ecological conservation and calculating its cost. barrier to those who pay, and setting it too low will not be motivating. Do you have any examples, what is considered to convert invisible value into economic value today?
 - **Answer:** it is a concern - we cannot estimate the natural value of nature, it is priceless. We look at services that can be traded - like watershed treatment. Drug companies that need plants can also calculate it. Big protected areas, the government decides the value as it serves a lot of people. Some people are paid to not cut trees.
- **Question to Joy Lee from Sohee Eom:** I believe that the community circular economy is one of the most ideal ways to solve environmental problems - considering our society, subordinated to large scale production and consumption, how do we divide this cycle production into community sized? What is a suitable size?
 - **Answer:**
 - small city with less than 20000 population, is easy to make it zero waste city - local people/community can talk and encourage everyone join in circular economy
 - in Korea, we have good infrastructure that is community centred - on the rooftop of buildings we can build green gardens to grown what we eat and compost food waste
 - step by step, it is possible - there is room for change
- **Question to Geethanjali** - every product and suggestion we shared needs participation, what you suggested needs more participation from the owner of properties or companies - which is more effective to provide community participation - providing incentive or leading awareness campaign, or any other better way?
 - **Answer:** awareness is needed in all cases, but compensation is needed in some cases - like a farmer that needs to provide for his family, he loses from not exploiting his field so we have to compensate him at the value he would be losing
- **Question to Joy Lee from Sohee Eom:** The cost of building this system could be higher than the benefit, how should we approach the value of this system?
 - **Answer:** That is why we came up with the zero-waste movement, the transition of the idea between recycling to zero waste. I couldn't fully answer the question.



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