



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

Institute for the Advanced Study  
of Sustainability

7th International Forum on  
the "FutureCity" Initiative

# SDGs Invigorating Localities in Japan and Overseas

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# SDGs for Cities

## Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- **Goals focusing on issues** related to cities such as settlements, transportation, disasters, environment, culture and natural heritage **in a cross-sectoral manner** (Evolved greatly from the MDGs)
- Many other goals are **linked to SDG 11** (Examples: health and well-being (Goal 3), education (Goal 4), gender (Goal 5), water and sanitation (Goal 6), employment (Goal 8), etc.)
- Encourage **all stakeholders engaged in urban activities**
  - Cities provide a platform for the partnership among Government, citizens and local industries.



# International Initiatives (1)

## The New Urban Agenda

- Adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (**HABITAT III**) (Quito, Ecuador; October 2016)
- This is an international initiative to provide policies and measures toward sustainable cities. **Guidelines for the comprehensive implementation and localization of the SDGs, including SDG11.**
- Aiming for sustainable cities and communities through international, regional, national and local partnerships.
- Emphasized responsibilities and roles of local governments (= cities).



# International Initiatives (2)

## Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

- A new global network of stakeholders including research institutions, universities, companies, civil society organizations.
- Established in response to a proposal by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2012.
- It aims to promote practical solutions for sustainable development through collaboration between stakeholders.
- Hubs for SDSN activities have been developed in countries and regions across the globe.

### Regional SDSNs in Asia

- *Southeast Asia (Jakarta)*
- *South Asia (New Delhi and Dhaka)*
- *Australia/Pacific Island countries (Melbourne)*

\* *The city name is the location of the Secretariat*

### National SDSNs in Asia

- *Japan*
- *South Korea*
- *Indonesia*
- *Malaysia*
- *Philippines*
- *Singapore*



# SDSN Japan



- **Launched in July 2015**  
(ISAP2015, Yokohama)

## Objectives of SDSN Japan

1. To achieve a sustainable society through effective implementation of the SDGs;
2. To develop platforms for engagement of multi-stakeholders;
3. To contribute to global discussions on sustainability issues in close collaboration with relevant organizations and networks.

# Initiatives of SDSN targeting cities

1. In July 2016 "**Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities**" was announced. It provides guidance for the cities to adapt the global goals to each city for achieving the SDGs.

**Step 1:** Initiate an inclusive and participatory process

**Step 2:** Local agenda setting

**Step 3:** Action plan for implementation

**Step 4:** Monitor and evaluate performance

2. **US Cities SDG Index** (August 2017)

- This evaluates and ranks initiatives for achieving the SDGs of the major cities in the United States (100 cities).

- It presents evaluations of the status of the initiatives for each city, and is utilized to help developing a roadmap for addressing challenges toward 2030.

# Initiatives in Japan

## SDGs Promotion Headquarters (established May 2016)

- Chaired by the Prime Minister, and consisting of all Cabinet members.
- Developing a government-wide framework to address implement agenda for achieving SDGs.
- It mobilizes domestic and foreign initiatives across government ministries and agencies and identifies priority issues.



## G7 Summit Process

- In the G7 Toyama Environment Ministers' Meeting (May 2016), the **Parallel Session on "The Role of Cities"** was held. This session was co-chaired by Mayor Mori and Prof. Hamanaka and attended by Prof. Murakami.



# SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles

(December 22, 2016)

## 1. Vision

Become a leader toward a future where economic, social and environmental improvements are attained in an integrated, sustainable and resilient manner while leaving no one behind.

## 2. Partnership

The Government of Japan will foster a participatory approach in which all stakeholders play a role in our efforts to build a sustainable society.

## 3. Roles of Local Governments

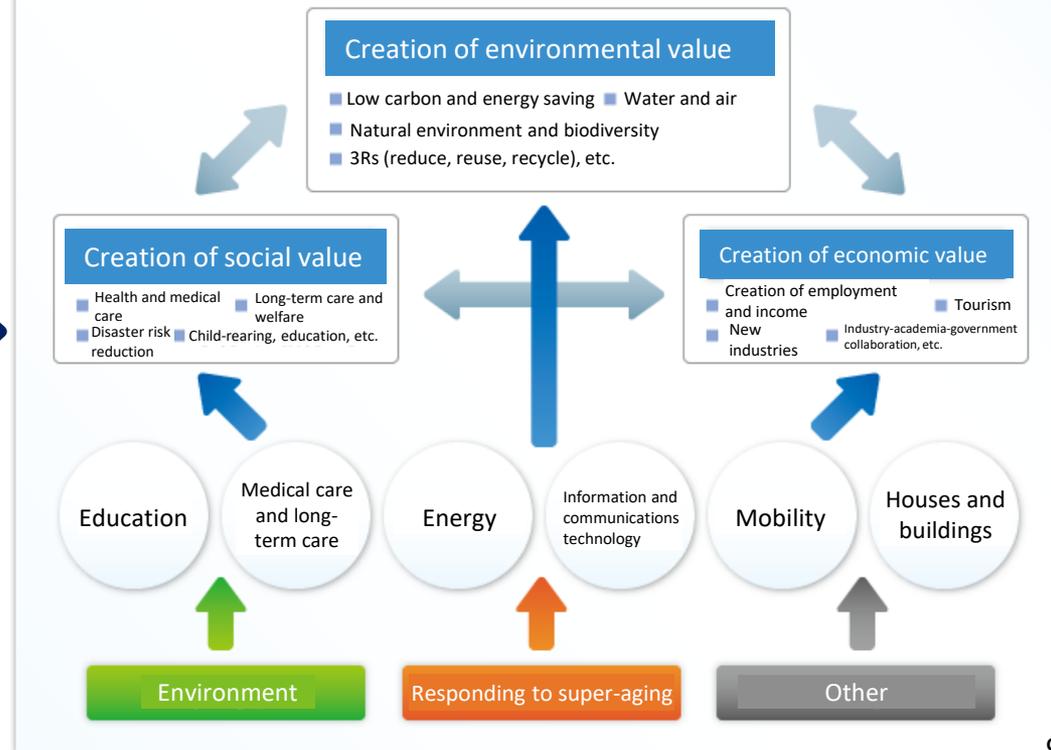
Local governments and other local stakeholders are absolutely essential to the nationwide implementation of SDGs-related measures. The national government will therefore encourage local governments to **incorporate the SDGs into their strategies and policies as much as possible**. **Government ministries** will support the efforts of local governments **through measures to promote partnership among various stakeholders** in achieving the SDGs.

# Concept of FutureCity

Realization of a "city where everyone wants to live" and a "city where everyone has vitality" by continuously creating the three values of environmental value, social value, and economic value

FutureCity has shared similar concept of SDGs, which call for integrating the three aspects of the environment, society, and the economy to realize a society leaving no-one behind

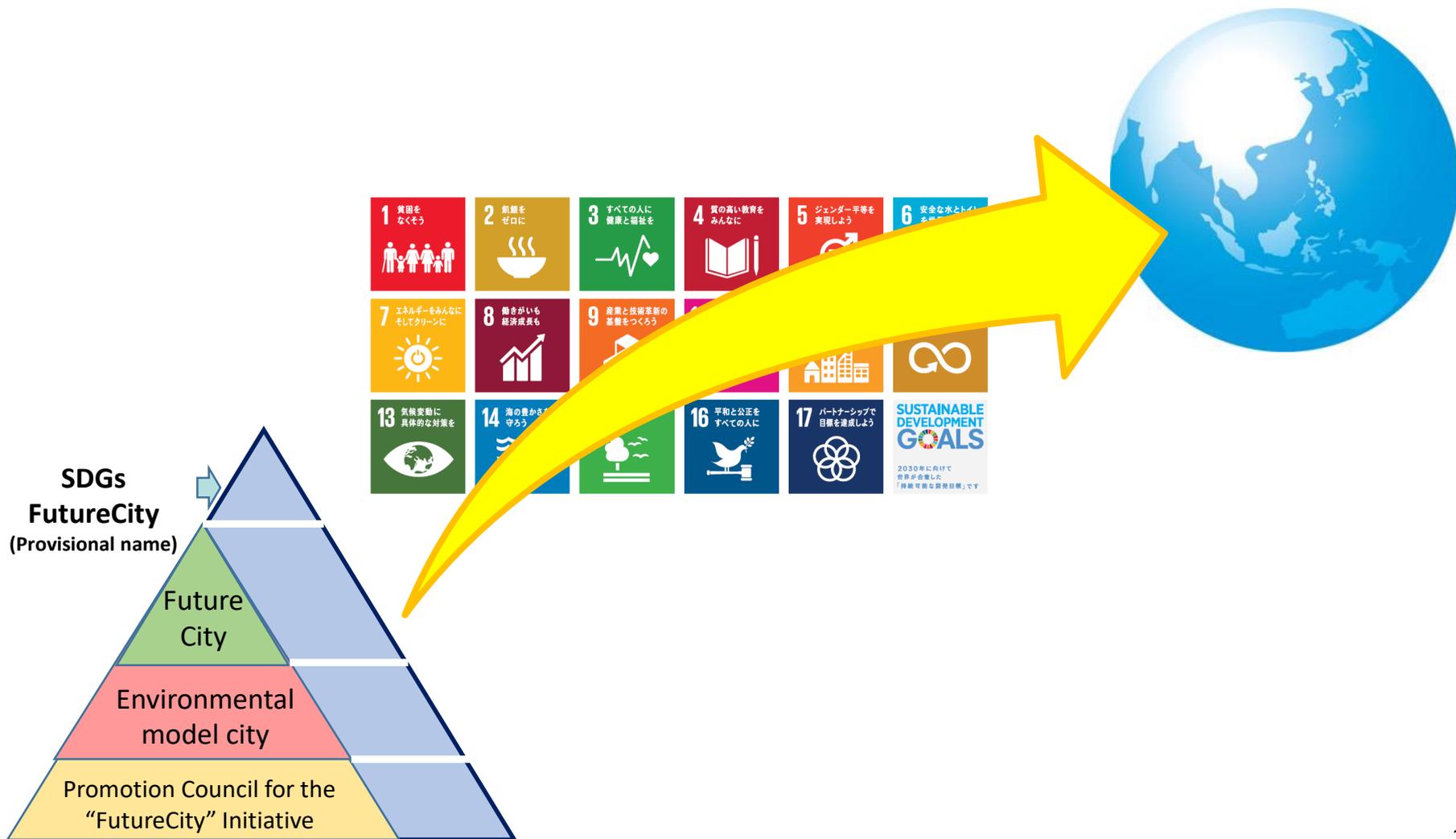
Cities that create new human-centered value toward responding to the environmental issues, super-aging.



# Expectation for Cities or Local Governments for Achieving SDGs

1. Cities are the administrative organizations closest to the citizens. They produce realistic and highly effective policies taking into account local circumstances such as the history, culture, society and economy, and have the capacity and responsibility to implement policies.  
→ **Enhancing the quality of life of residents**
2. Their position stands between the Governmental Ministries and local communities including industries and citizens, and therefore, they can enhance partnership between stakeholders in implementing measures toward achieving SDGs.  
→ **Leaders for local vitalization**
3. Initiatives and experience in advanced cities (pioneers) will be shared with local governments in Japan and overseas through SDGs as a “common language”.  
→ **Leaders for international cooperation**

# Cities' initiatives will contribute to the global sustainability through SDGs as a "common language"!



# **This session aims to:**

**Share advanced initiatives of cities (local governments) in Japan and overseas for achieving the SDGs, and further discuss the following points:**

- 1. What are the challenges in implementing 2030 Agenda toward achieving the SDGs at city level;**
- 2. Possible solutions to address these challenges; and**
- 3. Lessons learned from experiences toward invigorating localities.**