



Pathways to Decarbonisation in Asia and Latin America

Challenges, Limits, and Possibilities

2022 | **Nov. 14 (Mon) 16:00-18:00 JST**

3rd Floor, Large-size Meeting Room, Inamori Foundation Memorial Bldg, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University

Program

16.00

Welcome and
Opening Remarks

Fumiharu Mieno

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Yusuke Murakami

Center for Southeast Asian Studies

16.10

Presentation 1

16.30

Presentation 2

16.45

Presentation 3

17:00 - 17:15

Discussion

17:15 - 17:55

Speakers' Reply and
Q&A

17:55 - 18:00

Closing Remarks

Presentation 1

Japan's Resource Investment Strategy amidst Crisis and Uncertainty

Jewellord Nem Singh

International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands

Jewellord (Jojo) Nem Singh is the Principal Investigator of a five-year research programme Green Industrial Policy in the Age of Rare Metals: A Trans-regional Comparison of Growth Strategies in Rare Earths Mining (GRIP-ARM) funded by the European Research Council Starting Grant No. 950056 (2021-2026). He is an Assistant Professor (tenured) at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague and a Research Fellow at the International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), The Netherlands.



Ray Asada

JICA Ogata Research Institute

Ray Asada is a research fellow at JICA Ogata Research Institute and a post-doctoral research assistant for the GRIP-ARM project. She is interested in critically questioning conventional development which has been aimed at maximising economic growth, and examining alternative paths of development in which rural areas will not be sacrificed to the cities. One of her most recent research projects examines the rise of China in the Indo-Pacific region and the new geopolitics of neighbouring countries.



Presentation 2

Approaches to the Energy Transition: The Case of Brazil

Eliza Massi

International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands and Embassy of Brazil in London, United Kingdom

Eliza Massi is the Lead of Energy and Mining at the Trade and Investment Department, Embassy of Brazil in London. She was awarded a doctorate from SOAS, University of London in 2015. Her research focuses on the political economy of development, industrial policy, energy economics, and the mobilization of finance for development in Latin American and East Asia.



Presentation 3

Post-Fossil Fuel Capitalism, a view from Latin America

Lorenzo Pellegrini

International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands

Lorenzo Pellegrini is a Professor in Economics of Environment and Development at the International Institute of Social Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research interests include the socio-environmental impact of extractive industries, environmental justice, impact evaluation, institutions and corruption. He has led and participated in a number of research and capacity-building projects in the Global South. He teaches courses on research methodology, development economics, development theory, sustainable development, and ecological economics.



Discussant

Rohan D'Souza

Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University

Rohan D' Souza is an Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies at Kyoto University where he teaches environmental anthropology and environmental histories of South Asia. He has written extensively on environmental history, climate change, and anthropocene politics. He is the author of *Drowned and Dammed: Colonial Capitalism and Flood control in Eastern India (1803-1946)*, published by Oxford University Press.



No
Reservation
required

※Language:English



Moderator

Julie de los Reyes

Center for Southeast Asian Studies



Presentation 1

Japan's Resource Investment Strategy amidst Crisis and Uncertainty

Jewellord Nem Singh International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands

Ray Asada JICA Ogata Research Institute

The success of Japan's post-war industrial strategy was underpinned by a highly effective resource investment policy aimed at securing natural resources to sustain its export-led growth model. With permissive external contexts, the Japanese state deployed a range of economic, diplomatic, and trade policies to support its resource needs during the 20th century. Yet, with the rise of China and its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Japan has faced multiple challenges in order to sustain its industrial competitiveness, and as a consequence, in securing its geopolitical interest in the Indo-Pacific region and the world. This increasingly complex setting—currently exacerbated by uncertainties from the Ukraine-Russia conflict and U.S. posturing vis-à-vis China—sets the stage for the worldwide trend of embracing a rapid transition towards clean energy technologies.

Our presentation offers an initial assessment over the Japanese strategy on how to deal with the twin challenge of industrial competition and energy transition. We examine Japan's resource investment strategy, specifically the ways economic policies are organized around several focal points: (a) adapting dual defence-civilian technology to pursue geopolitical ends within the constitutional limits; (b) promoting resource efficiency and recycling policies to achieve resource security; and (c) mobilizing domestic resources aligned with existing state-business relations to accommodate Japanese capital overseas. Employing a global value chains approach, we will look at nickel and rare metals sectors—two of the most important primary minerals in energy transition and geopolitics—and the role played by Japan in these supply chains.

Presentation 2

Approaches to the Energy Transition: The Case of Brazil

Eliza Massi International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands and Embassy of Brazil in London, United Kingdom

The energy transition is taking different paths across the world. Countries are exploiting their comparative advantage in designing their own paths, particularly in the context of heightened uncertainties regarding the worldwide supply of energy and minerals critical to transition. Brazil is in a privileged position in this regard as it has one of the cleanest energy matrices in the world, with over 84 per cent of its electricity generated by renewable sources. It is also a leader in biofuels production, a top producer and exporter of critical minerals, and holds significant reserves of lithium, nickel and rare earth. This presentation will discuss the distinctiveness of Brazil's energy transition strategy and its evolving policy towards the development of critical mineral reserves supportive of the transition process.

Presentation 3

Post-Fossil Fuel Capitalism, a view from Latin America

Lorenzo Pellegrini International Institute of Social Studies, Netherlands

The incipient transition from fossil capitalism to renewable capitalism is a transition from a set of resources (fossil fuels) to a set of technologies (renewables). With renewables, there is nothing equivalent to the role that fossil fuels have played in shaping the global economy and the political economy of Latin America.

President Boric of Chile, elected in 2022, has made the commitment to environmental protection a central plank of his programme, which includes also a new taxation regime for mining and the funding of a new state-owned company in charge of extracting lithium. President Petro of Colombia, also elected in 2022, has made commitments to abandon the exploration and expansion of fossil fuels.

The incipient/current new wave of left-wing governments have been more ambitious in terms of environmental regulations, ultimately promising to limit the possibility to expand extractive activities. This is potentially a real break with the history of extractivism in the continent. The question is whether a post-extractivist consensus might be at hand in Latin America and what will be the implications in terms of scarcity of materials for the renewables transition.