November 17, 2026
Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization

Addressing Interconnected Climate Challenges at the COP31 Japan Pavillion Seminar Explores Pathways toward a Sustainable Society through Insights from Area Studies

Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO; President: KIMURA Fukunari), in collaboration with the Institute of Economic Research, Kyoto University (KIER), **will hold a seminar entitled "Unraveling the Complexities of Climate Action through Area Studies"** on Wednesday, November 18, 2026. **The seminar will take place as an official side event at the Japan Pavillion during the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) in Türkiye.**

Climate change is intensifying natural disasters and affecting a wide range of areas, including water resources, food, energy, and security. In countries of the Global South in particular, reconciling economic development with climate action has become a critical policy challenge.

Drawing on research conducted across Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and other regions, **the seminar will examine the complex intersections of climate change, development, industrial policy, and economic security. It will share policy insights with the international community to support progress toward a sustainable society.**

■Background and Objective

Climate action extends beyond the environmental task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is closely connected to diverse policy challenges, including water resource management, food security, the energy transition, industrial restructuring, supply chain resilience, and economic security. **Countries of the Global South face the particularly demanding task of pursuing economic growth and industrial development while experiencing the effects of climate change. Reconciling decarbonization with sustainable development is therefore a major challenge.**

IDE-JETRO has accumulated extensive research grounded in local realities, covering topics such as river basin governance in the Mekong region, water resources and security in the Nile Basin, climate change adaptation in Pacific Island countries, and marine plastic pollution.

The seminar will bring these findings together to re-examine global challenges through the lens of Area Studies. In collaboration with KIER, it will also facilitate dialogue with representatives of government agencies, international organizations, development finance institutions, and businesses, **sharing practical insights into the low-carbon transition and sustainable development in the Global South**.

By disseminating these findings widely, the seminar aims to provide information that can strengthen economic partnerships between Japan and countries of the Global South, help Japanese companies identify business opportunities and respond to risks, and contribute to policymaking on climate change and development.

■Event Details

Unraveling the Complexities of Climate Action through Area Studies

Date and Time	Wednesday, November 18, 2026　15:45-17:00 Türkiye Time (UTC+3) 21:45-23:00 Japan Time (UTC+9)
Venue	COP31 Japan Pavilion, Blue Zone
Organizer	Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO
Co-organizer	Institute of Economic Research, Kyoto University (KIER)
Format	In-person event with online streaming
Language	English
Details	https://www.copjapan.go.jp/cop31/seminar/1804/
Zoom link	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87221925109?pwd=2DwJ3lLWfbDFGncD0boCzMhWaV0Qtd.1

IDE-JETRO Researchers Scheduled to Speak


Cheng Fang-Ting


OTSUKA Kenji


DARWISHEH Housam


KOJIMA Michikazu


YAMADA Kosei

※The online stream can be accessed via the Zoom link above. Please refer to the attached program for details.

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(Attachment)

Official Side Event at the COP31 Japan Pavillion

“Unraveling the Complexities of Climate Action through Area Studies”

Program

Opening Remarks	
HISATA Keiji	Senior Negotiator, Global Environmental Affairs Office, GX Policy Group, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan
Part I Presentation	
Moderator/Commentator CHENG Fang-Ting	Senior Research Fellow, IDE-JETRO
Mekong Basin Governance and International Cooperation under Frequent Climate Disasters OTSUKA Kenji	Director-General, Inter-disciplinary Studies Center, IDE-JETRO
From Water Disputes to the Climate-Security Nexus: The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and Regional Geopolitics in the Nile Basi (GERD) DARWISHEH Housam	Research Fellow, Inter-disciplinary Studies Center, IDE-JETRO
The Nickel-coal Nexus in Southeast Asia: Examining the Carbon Foundation of Green Supply Chains DE LOS REYES Julie Ann	Associate Professor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), Kyoto University
Part II Presentation	
Moderator/Commentator HATTORI Takashi	Professor, KIER
Climate Change and Plastic Pollution KOJIMA Michikazu	Senior Research Fellow, Inter-disciplinary Studies Center, IDE-JETRO
Capacity Building for the Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation: The Case of REDD+ in Papua New Guinea YAMADA Kosei	Research Fellow, Inter-disciplinary Studies Center, IDE-JETRO
Panel Discussion	
Moderator HATTORI Takashi	Ditto
Discussant IGARASHI Yusuke	Associate Professor, KIER
Panelists All speakers	