

Profile

SESSION 3:

From Vision to Reality:
Aligning the Global
Agenda with Local
Benefits

WORKSHOP 2:

Future of Coastal Cities

Workshop Presenter: Blue Carbon Challenges of Future City Yokohama

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Abstract

“Blue Carbon” is carbon captured and fixed by oceanic and coastal ecosystems as a term newly defined in the “Blue Carbon” report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2009. Conversely, the carbon captured and fixed by forests is known as Green Carbon. The report cited total annual global CO₂ emissions of 7.2 billion metric tons, 0.9 billion tons of which are absorbed by forests and 2.2 billion tons by oceanic and coastal ecosystems. 0.25 billion tons are absorbed by coastal areas as Blue Carbon. The remaining 1.95 billion tons merge directly into marine water.

Also, Japan has the sixth longest coastline in the world and is thus one of the countries with the greatest potential for Carbon Storage. Besides, the blue carbon shows promise for global warming prevention measures.

Yokohama City, which has a coastline of approximately 140 km, focused on the Blue Carbon as a countermeasure to global warming in ocean.

Yokohama City which is Japan's second largest and bayside city with a population of over three million, has studied the “Yokohama Blue Carbon Project” since 2011. Under this project, the City is examining the following three sub-projects: enhancement of CO₂ absorption by marine organisms (Blue Carbon), reduction of greenhouse gas by optimal utilization of marine resources (Blue Resources) and the development of good relationships between humans and the sea (Creation of a Friendly Ocean). Based on the Project Master Plan 2013, a social experiment for carbon offset was carried out in 2014, based on which the City developed the world's first Blue Carbon Credit Scheme and offset CO₂ emissions from the Triathlon Race in Yokohama. In 2015, the City examined the quantification of fixed CO₂ by regenerating and maintaining eelgrass beds.

Yokohama advances this project with citizens and private companies.



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Global Targets
Local Benefits

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for
the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

Biography

Mr Oshima Takashi is currently served as Assistant Manager for Project Promotion Division, Climate Change Policy Headquarters City of Yokohama.

The Climate Change Policy Headquarters publish Yokohama City Energy Action Plan and Minato-mirai 21 2050 Project Action Plan. Both plans are aiming to establish globally and nationally recognized city as Environmental Future City.