

The 9th International Conference on Low Carbon Asia 2023 hosted in Okayama City



OKAYAMA, 17th October 2023 - The 9th *International Conference on Low Carbon Asia* (ICLCA'23) was successfully held in Okayama City, Japan on 17th - 19th October 2023. The conference was co-organised by Okayama University and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). The theme of the conference was "*Sustainable Transitions towards a Resilient & Carbon-Neutral Future*". A key highlight of the annual conference was the City Mayors Forum that brought together six Mayors from Japan and Malaysia to share their cities' achievements and commitment to taking decarbonisation actions towards carbon neutrality.

The opening remarks of ICLCA'23 were delivered by:

- Mr. Ryuta Ibaragi, Governor of Okayama Prefecture
- Prof. Yasutomo Nasu, President of Okayama University
- Prof. Ahmad Fauzi Ismail, Vice Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
- Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, President of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies
- Prof. Yoshiteru Sakaguchi, Director, Chugoku-Shikoku Regional Environment Office



Opening speeches by Okayama City's Governor- Mr. Ryuta Ibaragi (Left) and President of Okayama - Professor Yasutomo Nasu (Right).



Opening Speech by UTM Vice Chancellor: Professor Datuk Ir. Ts. Dr. Ahmad Fauzi bin Ismail.

Immediately following the opening speeches was the *City Mayors Forum* which was themed *Regional Leading Cases towards Decarbonization and Expectations for Academia*. The Forum featured mayoral panellists from the following Japanese and Malaysian cities who presented their commitment and actions geared towards net-zero emission development:

- Mr. Yasuo Hayashi, Vice Mayor of Okayama City
- Mr. Noboru Ota, Mayor of Maniwa City
- Datuk Sr. Hj., Kamarulzaman Bin Mat Salleh, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur City Hall
- Dato Rajendran P. Anthony, Mayor of Penang Island City Council
- Tuan Haji Hilmy Bin Haji Othman, Mayor of Kuching North City Hall
- Tuan Aznan bin Haji Hassan, Deputy Mayor of Petaling Jaya City Council



ICLCA'23 City Mayors Forum (from left: Mayoral panellists representing Okayama, Maniwa, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, North Kuching, Petaling Jaya cities, and Ms. Kokoru (youth representative)).



ICLCA'23 City Mayors Forum. From left: Prof Koji Shimada, Vice Mayor of Okayama City, Prof Ho Chin Siong, Prof. Masanobu Abe, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Prof. Yasutomo Nasu, Ms. Kokoru, Mayor of North Kuching, Mayor of Penang Island, Deputy Mayor of Petaling Jaya and Dr. Junichi Fujino.

The mayoral panellists presented their green initiatives, blueprints and policies implemented in their respective cities. The Mayors Forum session was moderated by Prof Koji Shimada (Ritsumeikan University) and Dr. Junichi Fujino (IGES), Japan. A declaration for sustainable development to be presented at the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) meeting was also presented by Dr Junichi Fujino. The Voice of Youth for Sustainable Development was presented by Ms. Kokoru, a student representative from Okayama University.

Another key highlight of ICLCA'23 was the industry showcase session, in which industry sponsors showcased their green technologies with a 3-minute corporate video following the Opening Ceremony and Mayors Forum.

The morning session was graced by two keynote speakers. Prof. Masanobu Abe, Vice President, Okayama University, started off with a presentation on *Regional Zero Carbon Initiatives through the Synergistic Approach of Wooden Architecture, Forestry and Digital Transformation*. Prof. Ho Chin Siong, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia followed with a presentation on *Low Carbon Solutions towards Carbon Neutral Cities in Malaysia*.

Prof Henrik Lund, Editor-in-Chief of Energy, Elsevier then delivered the plenary talk entitled *Resilient and Fully Decarbonized Smart Renewable Energy System*, followed by Emeritus Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid, Joint Chairman of Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology, who treated the audience with a talk on *Science Policy Nexus: The Politics of Climate Change*. Other Plenary Speakers were Prof Ahmad Fauzi Ismail (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia), Prof. Yuichi Moriguchi (NIES), Prof. Sheng Zhou (Shanghai Academy of Agricultural Sciences), Prof. Petar Varbanov, (Brno University of Technology) and Prof. Aristotle Ubando (De La Salle University).



Keynote speeches by Prof. Masanobu Abe (Left), the Vice President of Okayama University and Prof. Ho Chin Siong (Right), Director of UTM-Low Carbon Asia Research Centre.



Plenary talks by Prof. Henrik Lund (left) and Emeritus Prof. Zakri Abdul Hamid (right).

Over 180 papers were selected for oral and poster presentations. During the two-day conference, participants actively exchanged their research findings on various topics that contributed towards shaping smart, resilient and sustainable communities. The joint event was supported by Okayama Convention Hall, IGES, LoCARNet and industry sponsors.

A series of high-impact events were organised, including a special editorial talk on high-impact publication was delivered by Prof Henrik Lund, Editor-in-Chief of Energy, Elsevier. On 19th October 2023, the participants joined a field visit to either the Biodiesel Plant in Okayama City or the Maniwa City Biomass Plant.



ICLCA'23 Delegates visited the Biodiesel Plant in Okayama City.

ICLCA was launched by UTM-Low Carbon Asia Research Centre in 2015; the conference series pledges to make significant progress in implementing the Low Carbon Agenda in fast-growing cities in Asia and beyond. The importance of this conference is clear when cast against the findings of the recently released IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) Synthesis Report . It is the goal of ICLCA to provide more action-oriented guidance to policymakers, investors, businesses, NGOs, and communities towards mitigating the impacts of economic and social activities on the environment and climate change.

Prior to ICLCA'23 held in Okayama City, past conferences were held in Johor Bahru (2015, 2018 and 2021-online), Kuala Lumpur (2016), Bangkok (2017), Ho Chi Minh City (2019), Shanghai (2020-Online), and Manila (2022-Online). Over the years, the conference series has grown to become an important regional and international platform for Low-Carbon Society knowledge sharing and dissemination, research networking and collaboration, business pairing and investment matching, and institutional and public-private partnership.

ICLCA 2024 is expected to be hosted by Dalian Technology University in Dalian (DUT), China as witnessed by the symbolic ICLCA Flag transfer ceremony from Okayama University to DUT during the closing ceremony.



ICLCA Flag transfer from the current host (Okayama University) to the next ICLCA 2024 host, Dalian University of Technology at the Closing Ceremony of ICLCA 2023.



Group photo of ICLCA'23 at Closing Ceremony.

ICLCA UTM Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank the local host and organising committee led by Prof. Takeshi Fujiwara and Dr Habuer from Okayama University and Prof Koji Shimada from Ritsumeikan University for their dedicated contribution to making this joint event a great success!

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