

Preliminary Programme

As of 21 July 2017

Venue: *Aqua Innovation Center at Shinshu University (AICS), Nagano City*

DAY 1 – Thursday 7 September

09:30 - 09:50 **Opening remarks**

*Ministry of the Environment of Japan; German Federal Ministry of Environment;
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; other speakers TBC*

09:50 - 10:20 **Keynote address: German and global trends in renewable energy**

Prof. Peter Hennicke, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

10:20 - 10:40 Break

10:40 - 12:00 **Parallel session 1**

1-A: The role of local energy companies—“Stadtwerke”

The role of local energy companies in linking local renewable energy production and consumption with community revitalization is drawing broad attention. In Germany, over 900 “Stadtwerke”—local utilities established from local government investments—are operating across the country, which account for nearly 50% of the German electricity retail. In Japan, approximately 20 local energy companies have been established since the deregulation of electricity retail. While many local governments are interested in establishing similar companies, various challenges still exist. This session will showcase specific examples of successful local energy companies, looking into experiences of their establishment, focusing especially on the significance of investments and engagement by local governments, and the companies’ role in community revitalization.

1-B: Public participation and community power

To achieve the 2-degree goal set forth by the Paris Agreement, a shift to renewable energy is imperative. In Germany, local residents actively invest in renewable energy, which accounts for almost half of the overall renewable energy investments. Public interest in renewable energy and the expansion of community energy projects have played a key role in leading the energy shift in Germany. This session will focus on the significance of community participation and investment in the growth of renewable energy, and will explore effective promotion efforts, roles expected by local governments, and the current state of community energy projects.

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 - 14:00 **Presentations by leading local governments**

14:10 - 15:30 **Parallel session 2**

2-A: The potential of solar power generation

Solar power is one of the leading sources of renewable energy, and increased generation through various methods is needed. New installation of rooftop solar panels could be further accelerated in private homes and large-scale commercial facilities by utilizing visualization tools such as solar mapping. The installation of residential storage battery that increase the efficiency of on-site solar power consumption is expanding as well. This session will look into the potential of rooftop solar power generation in Japan and the actions needed to expand them by learning from current efforts by local governments and local energy companies.

2-B: Expansion of wind power and biomass

On-shore wind power is one of the cheapest renewable energy options. Potential for off-shore wind power generation is also significant, as costs are rapidly lowering. Meanwhile, biomass must be consumed sustainably, as production requires time and resources could be exhausted unless it is used wisely. While biomass is applied in district heating in rural areas across many countries, utilization in Japan is still limited. Learning from current examples, this session will discuss challenges in expanding wind power and smart use of biomass as well as possible efforts to overcome those challenges.

15:30 - 15:40 Break

15:40 - 17:00 **Parallel session 3**

3-A: Power of networks for accelerating local action

A growing number of cities and regions are joining the movement to drive the transition towards 100% renewable energy (RE). At the same time, networks are being built to help these local governments in sharing and learning from one another's efforts to advance and accelerate the shift towards a decarbonized society. These networks, which are run by the collaboration of various stakeholders, including NGOs, local governments, national governments, and international organizations, play a significant role in further promoting renewable energy and energy savings. Drawing from various initiatives, this session will address the role of intermediary organizations in helping accelerate local action, how local governments can overcome the hurdle of pledging "100%RE," and the essential functions that such networks ought to serve.

3-B: Local economic impacts of renewable energy and energy saving

Taking action towards a decarbonized society and maintaining a sustainable local economy is a balancing act, a critical challenge that many local communities face. It is becoming apparent that the transition towards local renewable energy and the promotion of energy savings through improved building insulation can contribute significantly to the local economy by maximizing the engagement of local businesses and citizen investment. This session will explore: ways in which the promotion of renewable energy use and energy saving contributes to local economies; effective approaches to broaden the understanding that "renewable energy can support local economies;" and the role of local governments, citizens, and local businesses in these efforts.

DAY 2 – Friday 8 September

09:00 - 09:30 **Reports from parallel sessions**

09:30 - 11:00 **Local Leaders' Summit: "Towards 100% Renewable Energy cities and regions"**

- *Mr. Dieter Salomon, Lord Mayor, City of Freiburg*
- *Dr. Marlon Bröhr, District Administrator, Rhein-Hunsrück-Kreis*
- *Mr. Wilfried Roos, Mayor, City of Saerbeck*
- *Mr. Shuichi Abe, Governor, Nagano Prefecture*
- *Other Governors and Mayors TBC*

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 11:25 **Conference summary and conclusions**

11:30 Adjourn