

**Pre-Conference of SEEPS 2021**

Challenges of Decarbonization Policies and  
Technological Innovations  
toward Carbon Neutral Societies in East Asia

14:00~18:00, September 24, 2021

## Opening Remark

# The background and The Purpose of the Conference



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# The Background of the Conference

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👉 Measures to address climate change have shifted course toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. In March 2020, the EU unveiled a long-term strategy with a firm commitment to climate neutrality by 2050.

👉 In East Asia, the roadmap toward decarbonization society has begun as Japan, China and Korea declared Carbon Neutral last year. This movement will inevitably leads to carbon neutrality announcements in other Asian nations.

👉 In order to achieve this ambitious target in the region, it is crucial that well-designed decarbonization policies are in place and there are coordinated supports for revolutionary decarbonization technologies among different sectors.

👉 In East Asia, 80~85% of the primary energy supply comes from fossil fuels, which is largely in line with the global average (BP, 2020). This suggests that the path to carbon neutrality by 2050 will be challenging, given the current technologies to reduce greenhouse gas and policy options available. Reducing the consumption of fossil fuels to virtually zero over the next 40 years would likely impose considerable economic burdens.

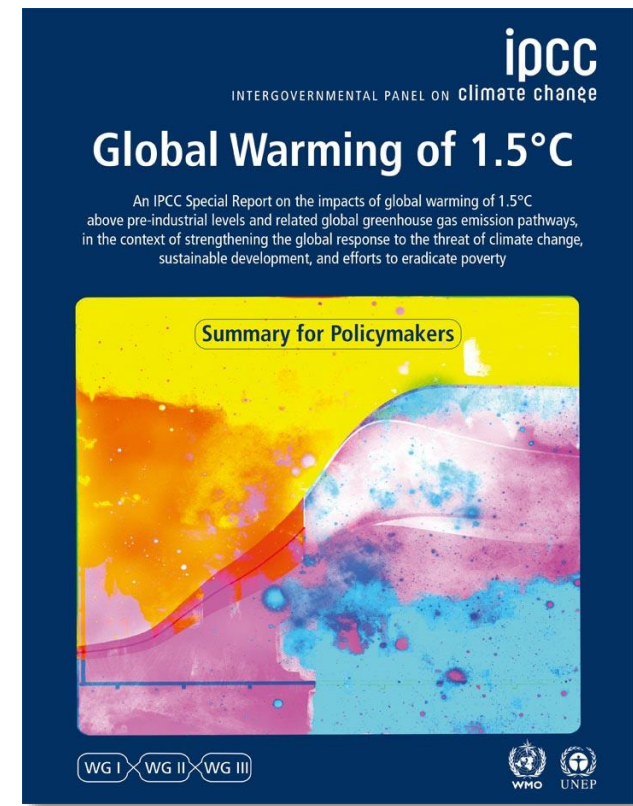
👉 However, recent years have seen rapid development in a variety of decarbonization technologies, including renewable energy, EV, and hydro-gen production, shining a light of hope on the road to carbon neutrality.

👉 The EU's early declaration of its carbon neutral aspirations was based partly on expectations that innovations in decarbonization technologies created in the process would strengthen its industrial competitiveness, cementing its position as a global economic leader (European Commission: 2018).

# IPCC (2018) 「Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C」



- Limiting warming below or close to 1.5°C would require to decrease net emissions by around 45% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.
- Even just for limiting global warming to below 2°C, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should decline by 25% by 2030 and by 100% by 2075.



# Climate Ambition Alliance



⇒ Participants who commit to achieve net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 2050  
(September 27, 2021)

- Cities : 799
- Regions : 35
- Companies : 4,468
- Organizations : 778
- Investors : 221
- Countries : 136



# Climate Ambition Alliance



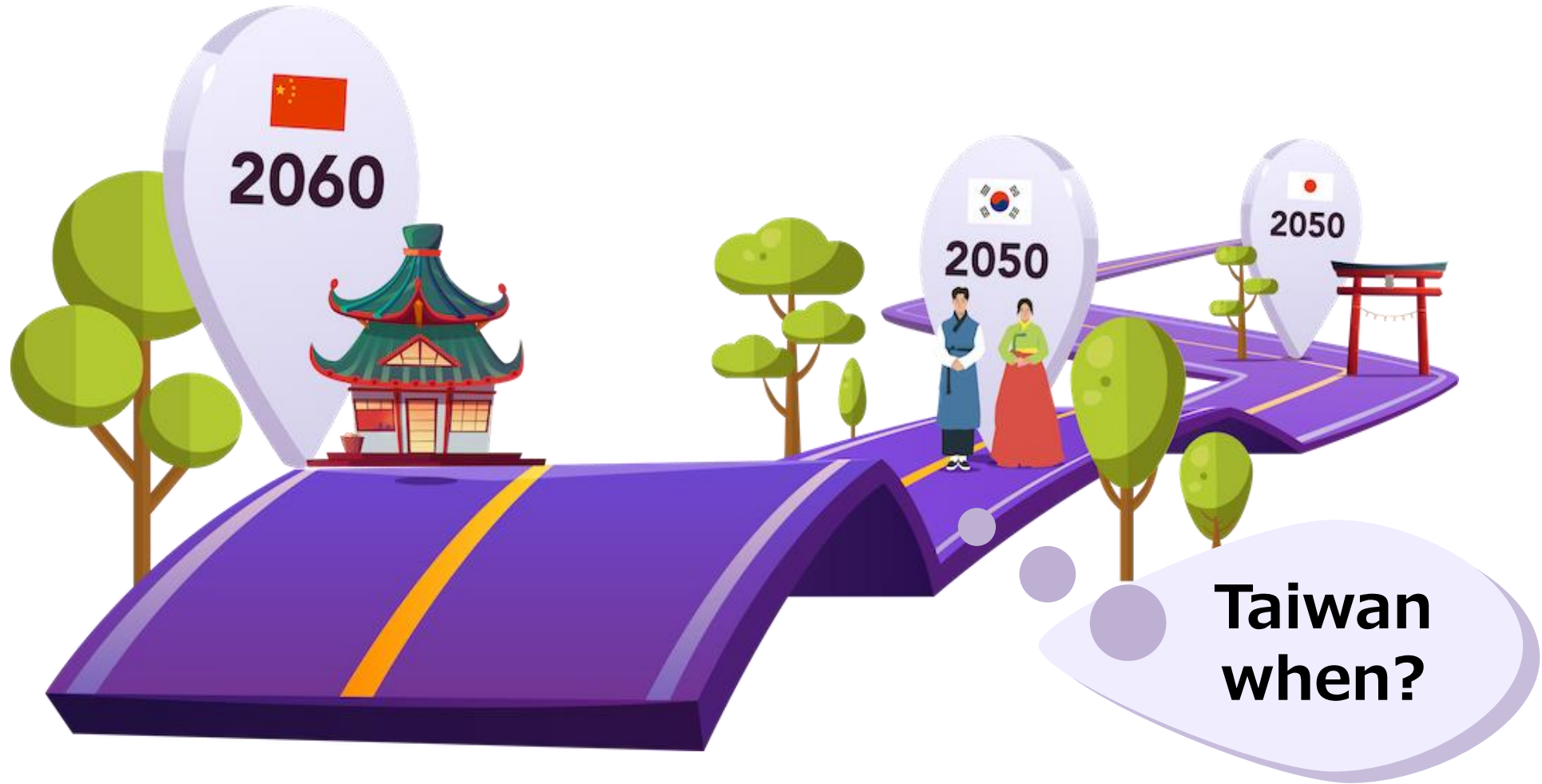
⇒ Participants who commit to achieve net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 2050  
(September 20, 2021)

- Cities : 733
- Regions : 31
- Companies : 3067
- Organizations : 661
- Investors : 173
- Countries : 121





# East Asia's Race to Carbon Neutrality



Source: <https://futureneutral.com/south-korea-joins-china-japan-in-pledge-to-be-carbon-neutral/>



# Purpose of the Conference

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👉 We invite leading academics of East Asia to exchange ideas on how to effectively design decarbonization policies and support decarbonization technologies toward carbon neutrality.

👉 Furthermore we will discuss policy cooperation and strategy in East Asia to maximize the benefits and minimize the costs associating with carbon neutral climate policies.

👉 Successful policy design, supporting of new technologies, and cooperation in East Asia will not only lead to climate neutrality but will also strengthen future industries and businesses in the regions.

👉 I hope this conference will be one of good place of discussion to collect ideas towards bright future of carbon neutral society in East Asia.



**Thank you very much!**

**Soocheol Lee**

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