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Greetings from the President

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am deeply honored and pleased to extend my greetings as the new president of the association. I am filled with gratitude for being chosen for this prestigious position.

The Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (AAERE), established in 2010, has continuously evolved as a leading society in the field of environmental and resource economics representing Asia. I extend my respects to the predecessors who have contributed to the society's development. While expressing gratitude for their efforts, I am committed to continuing this journey of progress during my term, starting from September 2023, and strive for further development.

Environmental and resource economics emerged in response to the pollution issues that intensified with the rapid post-World War II global economic development. In the 1970s, natural resource exhaustion and pollution problems on a global scale raised questions about the limits of growth and the survival of humanity. By the 1980s, sustainable development, emphasizing the sustained harmony between development and environmental conservation, became a widely recognized global goal. In the 1990s, as symbolized by the United Nations Conferences on Environment and Development in 1992, international cooperation on solving global environmental issues began in earnest. Now, we have faced a strong crisis in climate change and biodiversity loss. At the same time, we have had international environmental commitments worldwide, such as the Paris Agreement of UNFCCC and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of CBD after overcoming several political difficulties.

Given this situation, the role of environmental and resource economics is significant, encompassing the formulation of policy objectives, proposing effective environmental policies for goal achievement, and shaping societal institutions to prevent environmental damage. In particular, the Asia region has sustained remarkable economic growth since the post-World War II era, maintaining an unwavering position as a growth sector driving the world economy. This concurrently signifies Asia's focus on environmental resource issues, which will persist in the future. The expectations and roles for environmental and resource economists conducting research in the Asian region are substantial. Hence, the role of our association is also immensely significant. The following three missions set by the association are my policies as president, and I will work for their realization with your collaboration. Thank you for your support.

1. Encourage the exchange of ideas, research, and other professional activities that are of an interdisciplinary nature relating to the economics and management of the environment and natural resources, particularly in Asia.
2. Develop a platform for scholars and economists to exchange ideas and stimulate research.
3. Offer opportunities for its members to present the findings of their studies in workshops and conferences.

Sincerely,
Ken-Ichi Akao
President, AAERE

The 12th Congress of the Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics



The 12th Congress of the Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (AAERE) was held at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, from August 29 to 30, 2023, with the theme “Accelerating Energy Transitions and Resource Use Efficiency Toward Carbon Neutrality in Asia.” The 12th Congress was a hybrid (in-person and online) congress: The audience could utilize both in-person and online channels, while the presenters made the presentation basically in person at the venue.

A total of 220 papers for presentation were submitted by 16 countries from Asia, 7 countries from the EU, and 2 countries from America. Finally, 162 papers, after the review process, were presented at the congress. The congress was sponsored by the Society for Environmental Economics and Policy Studies (SEEPS), Institute for Advanced Social Sciences at Waseda University (IASS), Research Institute for Environmental Economics and Management at Waseda University (RIEEM), Boston Consulting Group (BCG), i Grid Lab, Tokyo Gas, and supported by Waseda Institute for Advanced Study (WIAS), Global Asia Research Center of

Top Global University Japan, and Waseda Center for a Carbon Neutral Society (WCANS).

The congress opened with remarks delivered by Professor Budy P. Resosudarmo (President of AAERE) and Professor Ken-Ichi Akao (Chair of the Congress LOC). The opening session was followed by a keynote speech by Professor Eiji Hosoda, entitled “Circular Economy Japan's Experiences.” Professor Hosoda convincingly presented that the development of the circular economy can benefit both resource-saving and carbon-neutral societies. Following the opening remarks, the AAERE Fellow ceremony was held. Dr. Kazuhiro Ueta (Honorary Professor, Kyoto University, Japan) and Dr. Daigee Shaw (Adjunct Research Fellow, Institute of Economics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan) were awarded as the first AAERE Fellows.

Just after the lunch break on the first day of the Congress, the AAERE General Assembly led by Professor Budy P. Resosudarmo began. At this assembly, the new directors and auditors for the term 2023-2025 were approved.

Followed by the Parallel Session after the General Assembly, the LOC Organizing Session titled “Japanese Climate Policy Toward Carbon Neutrality” was presented. This session was coordinated by Professor Toshi H. Arimura (Waseda University) and moderated by Professor Makoto Sugino (Hosei University). On the first night of the Congress, a Gala Dinner was organized for all participants attending the Congress in person. A combination of very nice Japanese dishes and cultural music performances provided a relaxed environment for participants to interact, get to know each other, and expand their networks.

On the second day of the congress, the WCEREA (The World Council of Environmental and Resource Economists Associations) sponsored session was presented with the title “Energy Policy in the Face of Global Instability.” The moderator was Professor Hsiao-Chi Chen (National Taipei University), and speakers were Professor Shiqiu Zhang (Peking University), Professor Soocheol Lee (Meijo University), Professor Yongsung Cho (Korea University), and Professor Dina Azhgaliyeva (Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)).



The remaining two days of the congress were filled with approximately 40 parallel sessions presenting 162 papers. Almost half of the papers were on climate change and energy transition issues, while the rest focused on various resource and environmental economic topics. These papers were presented by academics from 16 Asian countries and 9 non-Asian countries. Most participants were from Japan, China, Korea, and Taiwan, with others coming from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, Israel, Singapore, Myanmar, Vietnam, Nepal, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Non-Asian participants were from the USA, France, the UK, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Chile, Hungary, Germany, and Canada.

The Congress was then closed with remarks by Professor Ken-Ichi Akao, as the chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). In his speech, he expressed his gratitude to all members of the LOC for their superb performances in organizing the Congress. An Award for Best Poster was also presented in this section by Professor Soocheol Lee, Chair of the Scientific Committee. The Best Poster Awardee was Dr. Ju Young Park (Korea Environment Institute) presenting “The Effect of Flood Experience on Property Values: The Evidence from South Korea.”

Before the Congress was finally closed, Professor Budy Resosudarmo, on behalf of the AAERE, thanked Professor Ken-Ichi Akao for his leadership in managing the Congress. He also thanked the staff members of Waseda University for their hospitality during the event. In ending the event, Professor Resosudarmo then invited Professor Jin-Li Hu of National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU) to give a brief explanation about the place and dates where the next AAERE Congress will be held, that is, National Tsing Hua University (NTHU), Hsinchu in Taiwan, on August 26-27, 2024.

Finally, Professor Soocheol Lee announced that AAERE planned to publish a study series featuring selected papers presented at the congress starting this congress. From the numerous papers presented at the congress, 10 outstanding papers have been selected by thorough peer review and will be published before the congress of AAERE 2024 as part of the AAERE Book Series No.1. This initiative by AAERE reflects our commitment to addressing environmental challenges in the region, contributing to a sustainable future in Asia.

Soocheol Lee
Professor, Meijo University
Chair of AAERE2023 Scientific Committee



About NTHU in Hsinchu

The venue of the 13th Congress of the Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (2024), Taiwan

The National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) is widely regarded as one of the foremost academic institutions in Taiwan. Its establishment coincided with a period marked by the fusion of Chinese and Western cultures. Originally founded in Beijing in 1911 as "Tsing Hua Academy," this university later established at its current location also in Hsinchu, Taiwan, in 1956. Hsinchu is a high-tech place with the famous Hsinchu Science Park, which is recognized as a City of Science and Technology.

Notably, NTHU stands as the only university in Taiwan that has produced three Nobel Prize laureates, including Nobel Physics laureates Dr. Cheng-Ning Yang and Dr. Tsung-Dao Lee, as well as Nobel Chemistry laureate Dr. Yuan-Tseh Lee. Over the past four decades, NTHU has maintained a robust connection with the Scientific Park in Hsinchu and the high-tech industry across Taiwan. Consistently ranking among the premier universities in East Asia, NTHU is a leading incubator for future leaders.

At present, NTHU's faculty comprises 1,325 academic

staff, and it has an enrollment of 18,125 students. The university excels in per capita rates for receiving significant academic accolades, surpassing other universities in the country. The collective academic performance of NTHU's faculty members per capita is higher than that of all other universities in Taiwan.

Sustainability at NTHU is an ongoing commitment without a finite endpoint. In research, addressing global SDG issues necessitates interdisciplinary solutions, and we will enhance opportunities for faculty involvement. In the curriculum, NTHU will continue to build up a sense of responsibility in each faculty member and student, encouraging positive impact. Furthermore, resources, including the Endowment Fund, energy use, and campus greenery, will be allocated sustainably. In engaging external stakeholders, the university will build an inclusive platform for co-development, fostering cooperation with the government and industry. NTHU aims to propose innovative, interdisciplinary solutions to sustainability issues, disseminating them to society

through technology, education, humanities, and social sciences.

Externally, the university proactively advocates for public policies aimed at increasing awareness of the significance of sustainability in everyday life. The enduring nature of the sustainability ethos is apparent, as each day brings forth new objectives. The collective mindset of every NTHU member underscores the university's unwavering dedication to sustainability.

This commitment is a testament to our triumph in establishing an international campus environment fortified by abundant resources and a well-organized structure, thereby fostering the success of the 13th Congress of the Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economics (2024) in Hsinchu, Taiwan.

For more information about NTHU, please visit NTHU's English web address: <https://nthu-en.site.nthu.edu.tw>

