SDGs in Japanese Context
How to break the chains of “Status Quo”

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A Mechanism to ensure coherent actions of Civil Society: Establishment of “SDGs Japan”

SDGs (17 Goals, 169 Targets, 230 Indicators)

- End Poverty
- Sustainable Economy
- Environment
- Peace and Governance
- Partnership

Program Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development</th>
<th>Health, Education, Financing, etc.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Climate change, Biodiversity, etc.</td>
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<td>Poverty and Inequality</td>
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<td>Rural Revitalization</td>
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<td>Social responsibility etc.</td>
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Annual Assembly

Board of Trustees

Governance

Civil Society Members

- General Official Members
- Network Official Members
- Information Members

Partners

- Corporate Partners
- Organization Partners

Secretariat

Japan Civil Society Network on SDGs (SDGs Japan) est. 2016
Outcomes of the SDGs Japan for HLPF: An Independent Civil Society Report on the progress of SDGs in Japan

Independent civil society report on the progress of SDGs in Japan

An evaluation and recommendation based on independent analysis of the SDGs implementation framework of Japan, as well as the current situation of 11 specific issues including domestic poverty/inequality, education, health, environment, gender, social responsibility, etc.
Government Structure and Stakeholder Map
Multispectral Partnership for SDGs: “PPAP”

Government side

- SDGs Implementation Principles (approved Dec 22, 2016)
- Inter-Ministry Liaison Committee (All Ministries, Director Level)
- SDGs Promotion HQs (PM Office, Member: All Ministers)
- Secretariat:
  - Global Issues
  - Cooperation Division, MoFA

SDGs Promotion Round Table (14 Members)

- Secretariat: Global Issues
- Min of General Affairs
- Min of Env.
- Other Ministries
- GPIF

Non-Government Side

- Civil Society
  - Development, Environment, Poverty, Disability, Disaster etc.
- Trade Union, Co-op, Consumer Movement
- Academia, Research
  - UNU-IAS, Future Earth Japan, SDSN Japan, IGES, etc.
- Private Sector
  - (CSR, ESG Investment, Responsible supply Chain...)
- Other PS Oriented forums

Secretariat

SDGs Japan and JANIC
### GoJ SDGs Guiding Principles (Dec 22, 2016)

**Vision:** Become a leader toward a future where economic, social, and environmental improvements are attained in an integrated, sustainable and resilient manner while leaving no one behind

#### Priority Areas (list of existing policies)

- Empowerment of all people
- Achievement of good health and longevity
- Creating Growth Markets, revitalization of Rural areas, and Promoting science, Technology and Innovation
- Sustainable and resilient land use, promoting quality infrastructure
- Energy conservation, renewable energy, climate change countermeasures, material-cycle society
- Conservation of Environment, including biodiversity, forests and Oceans
- Achieving peaceful, safe and secure societies
- Strengthening the means and frameworks for the implementation of SDGs

#### Principles

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<th>Universality</th>
<th>Inclusiveness</th>
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<td>Participatory approach</td>
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<td>Integrated approach</td>
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<td>Transparency and accountability</td>
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#### Implementation framework

- **Governmental Framework:**
  - Control Tower = SDGs
  - Implementation Headquarters
- **Mainstreaming SDGs:**
  - Maxim reflection of SDGs to policy development
- **Multi-Stakeholder Approach**
  (Civil Society, Private sector, academia...)

#### Follow-up and Review: 2019

### Challenges of the Principles

- **Priority Area:** no new policies; just a list of existing policies
- **Overall:** “Inside-out” approach dominated and no “outside-in” approach
- **Implementation framework:** where is the leadership to leave no one behind?

### Outcomes of civil society advocacy

- **Principles:** emphasizing “leave no one behind”, “human security”, gender and participatory approach
- **Implementation framework:** clear mention on partnership including CSOs and local governments
- **Follow-up and Review:** clear mention of “by year 2019”
VNR and the relationship between Civil Society and Gov’t: Japan’s case

◆ An official Dialogue between CSOs and Gov’t (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
◆ A official meeting of SDGs Promoting Round Table (an official multi-stakeholder dialogue for SDGs)
◆ Some unofficial negotiations
◆ Last minutes:
  a) Request to input on the paragraph of CSOs in the Gov’t’s official report
  b) Unofficial discussion about the question from CSOs in Japan’s VNR session
Challenges for CSOs in Japan in the VNR Process

- Fundamental difference on the conceptualization of SDGs (SDGs for Abenomix and Japan’s economic growth aiming Japan’s GDP 6 trillion US dollars)

- Less priority for CSOs rather than private sector and celebrities
  - GoJ was very enthusiastic to mobilize celebrities and finally succeed to get “Pico-Taro”. He will come to Japan’s Gov’t Reception (7 pm in UNHQ)

- Pushing good things, especially partnership with private sector, and ignore Japan’s challenges on sustainability (domestic poverty/inequality, aging and shrinking population, climate change and disaster, gender inequality)
Japanese Civil Society Recommendation for Japan’s SDGs Implementation Framework

1. Development Process of SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles
   The process still lacks inclusion of a wide range of society and regions
   Need a more inclusive participation from a wide range of social sectors, such as youth, people with disabilities, representatives of local governments, communities, etc.

2. Lack of concrete vision for 2030
   When there is no vision or targets, there are no gap analysis, and no strategy.
   Develop a “2030 Vision” in participatory manner, take measures to ensure cohesiveness of important national strategies with SDGs.

3. A command center is there but not working adequately with budget
   Lack of clear political will to leave no one behind
   Increase transparency and effectiveness in government institutions through participatory approach. Leadership of SDGs Promotion HQ and cooperation of line ministries with securing substantive budget for SDGs.
To achieve SDGs in Japan we need to change the course

**Is SDGs just “global”?**
- Most of the divisions of ministries in charge of SDGs are “international division”, etc.
- For Japan, SDGs is for “Sustainable, fair and equal Japan”.

**Where is money for SDGs?**
- It means nothing when the gov’t say “All ODA budgets are for SDGs”
- Sufficient amount budget for SDGs is necessary.

**Go beyond existing Policy lists**
- Current “SDGs Priority Policy List” is a cherry-picked list of existing policies related to SDGs that each ministry would like to fund more
- More coherent, integrated new policies are necessary for Japan’s sustainability

**Is Civil Society still marginalized?**
- Scientific or technology innovation won’t solve all the social problems.
- “Innovation on the social and economic structures” beyond market mechanism is necessary to solve social problems leaving no one behind.
Abenomix-based SDGs for “USD 6 trillion” GDP: The way for “Destructive Development Goals (DDG)”?

**Is it SDGs?**

- Drastic increase of food by GMO-related technology!!
- Expensive “Japanese way” private elderly care houses in poor Asian countries “preparedness for aging society!!”

**We face “Everything is SDGs” trend**

- Solve all social problems by science and technology innovation of private sector!!
- Many “SDGs-related” initiatives by UN, Private sector, government...
- “Leave no one behind”? Boring! Select one strong technology and export overseas! That’s SDGs!

**360° review of SDGs**

- An enterprise of a company contributes for “Goal X” but harm against “Goal Y”
- “Innovation of social and economic structure” is needed beyond Science/technology innovation

**Vision on “planetary boundary?”**

- We can’t allow more inequality = inefficient use of natural resources.
- “More production by scientific innovation” can’t overcome “planetary boundary”