

Strengthening Research System for Realization of Green Society

(Research period: FY 2023 –)

Green Society Realization Research Promotion Committee

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1. Creation of the Green Society Realization Research Promotion Committee

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) established the “MLIT Green Society Realization Promotion Headquarters” in 2021 toward the realization of a green society, including realizing the Japanese government’s aim of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, responding to the climate crisis, etc., and revised the “MLIT Environmental Action Plan” as part of its efforts to realize a “carbon-neutral society,” “society adapting to climate change,” “nature-harmonious society” and “recycling society.”

Until now, NILIM has promoted climate adaption measures in the “Climate Change Adaptation Research Group” and efforts to mitigate climate change in the “Environmental Research Promotion Group.” However, it is necessary to concentrate our total capabilities more comprehensively to keep pace with the above-mentioned moves.

To achieve this, in July 2023, NILIM merged the two groups to create the Green Society Realization Research Promotion Committee, with the Director-General of NILIM as Director and the Deputy Director-General/Executive Director for Research Affairs as Deputy Director, and organized a cross-sectional research system in which all NILIM research department Heads and center Directors participate as members.

Table-1 Relationship of research fields of NILIM and “Four Pillars”

	Housing and buildings	Urban development and infrastructure	Flow of people and goods
Decarbonized society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures for CO₂ absorption sources and carbon recycling Decarbonization in infrastructure development Energy-saving in housing, buildings and cities Diffusion of next-generation automobiles, etc. Introduction and use of renewable energy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart transportation Green distribution
Society adapting to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response in natural disaster field Adaptation in people's lives and city life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation of water resources and water environment field 	
Nature-harmonious society		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilization of green infrastructure, etc. Sound water circulation Sea conservation and restoration 	
Recycling society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of distribution and renovation of existing houses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction recycling prioritizing quality 	

2. Activities of the Green Society Realization Research Promotion Committee

In the Green Society Realization Research Promotion Committee, in order to promote environmental research based on the four pillars of environmental measures (**Table-1**) shown in the MLIT Environmental Action Plan, NILIM’s Planning and Research Administration Department, which did not have a clear role until now, is positioned as the Secretariat, and efforts are made to strengthen cooperation and information sharing between research departments and centers.

3. Exchanges with Other Research Organizations in the Environmental Field

(1) 5th Research Exchange Seminar of the Environmental Research Institute Coordinating Council

At the “Research Exchange Seminar” hosted by the “Environmental Research Institute Coordinating Council,” which is made up of research institutes involved in environmental research, the Research Coordinator for DX introduced NILIM research contributing to carbon neutrality and conducted exchanges of views with other organizations.

(2) FY 2023 Research Group Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation

The Research Coordinator for Integrated Water Disaster Management made a presentation on efforts for “Visualization of the Degree of Flood Risk in River Basins” for climate change at this symposium, which was held as an activity of the “Environmental Research Institute Coordinating Council for Climate Change Adaptation” to promote coordination and cooperation between related research institutes based on the Climate Change Adaptation Act and Plan.

For more information:

1) Website of the NILIM Green Society Realization Research Promotion Committee

https://www.nilim.go.jp/japanese/organization/gx_honbu/indexgx.htm

2) 5th Research Exchange Seminar of the Environmental Research Institute Coordinating Council

https://kankyorenrakukai.org/seminar_05/

3) FY 2023 Research Group Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation

<https://adaptation-platform.nics.go.jp/archive/conference/2023/1221/>