[Research Title] SDGs Localization Research: Pursuing Solutions to Sustainability Challenges

Project Period (FY) :	2021-2023
Principal Investigator :	Kawakubo Shun
(PI ORCID) :	0000-0003-3676-8057
Principal Institution :	Hosei University 2-33 Ichigayatamachi, Shinjuku, Tokyo 162-0843, JAPAN
Cooperated by :	University of Hyogo, Osaka University
Keywords :	Sustainable Development, Local SDGs, Indicator, Online SDG Platform, Post 2030 Agenda

[Abstract]

Since the adoption of the 2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development, global SDG initiatives have been promoted. In Japan, guidelines have been established to address the SDGs and support has been provided to promote collaboration between government, academia, industry and the private sector. Although most local governments are aware of the SDGs, the proportion of active players is still low, and therefore facing notable challenges.

This research aims to enhance local challenges by developing and supporting local SDGs, providing essential information to local officials, creating an open innovation platform to share achievements, and facilitating stakeholder matchmaking using the platform for outreach to implement research findings are key solutions.

To address various current societal challenges through local SDGs, an SDGs open innovation platform has been launched online. The platform aims to generate innovation by connecting stakeholders from industry, government, academia and the private sector. The platform has four functions: (1) search for diverse user initiatives for a sustainable society, (2) disseminate user initiatives and their organisations' efforts, (3) exchange ideas to promote collaboration and co-creation with other users, and (4) visualise community initiatives by creating and disseminating their integrated information portal pages. The Ministry of Environment's Regional Circular and Ecological Sphere Project and the co-creation project for the 2025 World Expo in Japan joined this digital ecosystem.

In addition, according to interviews with local government departments, improving management and communication in promoting SDG policies is a key need. Local governments also need to improve their internal management and communication with citizens. The findings of this study are expected to serve as a reference for other local governments in formulating and implementing SDG policies, and to contribute to the exploration of new management methods based on the SDGs.

In addition, an AI-based natural language processing model was developed to help non-experts understand the

[1-2104]

relationship between their initiatives and the concepts of the SDGs. Furthermore, based on this model, the nexus between the 17 goals of the SDGs was identified. A method was also proposed to support matchmaking between stakeholders who can provide effective resources and solutions, and the various SDG challenges. This matchmaking function will be implemented on the backend of the platform to leverage stakeholders. The findings of the study are believed to contribute to the generation of co-creation initiatives towards 2030.

[References]

Masuda,H., Kawakubo,S., Okitasari,M., Morita,K. (2022) 'Exploring the role of local governments as intermediaries to facilitate partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals', Sustainable Cites and Society, 82. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scs.2022.103883

Matsui,T., Suzuki,K., Ando,K., Kitai,Y., Haga,C., Masuhara,N., Kawakubo,S. (2022) 'A Natural Language Processing Model for Supporting Sustainable Development Goals: Translating Semantics, Visualizing Nexus, and Connecting Stakeholders'. Sustainability Science, 17, pp. 969-985. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-022-01093-3

This research was funded by the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund (ERTDF).