



Funded by the
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International Urban and Regional Cooperation
Turku City (Finland), and Nagano City and Obuse Town (Japan)

Urban-Rural Circular Economy for Climate and Sustainable Tourism

Date: 14 September 2023

Time : 8:30-11:00 Finnish Time; 14:30-17:00 Japanese Time (JST)

Venu: Online

Language: English and Japanese, Simultaneous Interpretation Service available

Since the first phase of IURC (2018), Turku City, Finland, and Nagano City and Obuse Town in Japan, cooperated for “Integration of urban-rural circular economy in water-food-energy nexus.” Turku and Nagano shared a common interest in climate change action and renewable energies, in particular biomass. Obuse, a small town surrounded by countryside, is interested in sustainable tourism and urban development harmonious with its natural environment, history, and culture. For exchange visit, Nagano and Obuse visited to Turku and Turku visited Nagano and Obuse in November 2019 and October 2022, respectively. Through the visits and online meetings, they learned each other’s good practices. Nagano and Obuse were inspired by Turku’s ambitious roadmap towards carbon neutrality. Turku was enlightened by the real damage caused by the flood of Chikuma River in 2019 and the remedial actions undertaken in Nagano and Obuse. In this workshop, we will look back on the history of international exchange between Turku and Nagano, Obuse, and share the knowledge and wisdom gained with citizens, and exchange ideas about the city-to-city international cooperation for the future.

08:20-08:30 Finland

Registration and Setting the Scene

14:20-14:30 Japan

Participants can enter the meeting room and test the line connection and interpretation service.

Operated by Michiko Inoue, IURC Japan Helpdesk (IGES)

08:30–08:40 Finland

Welcome and Opening

14:30-14:40 Japan

Moderated by Toru Omiya, Director, Department of General Affairs, Obuse Town

Hidefumi Imura, Team Leader of the IURC Japan will open the meeting and introduce the history of the cooperation between Turku City, and Nagano City and Obuse Town since 2018.



08:40– 09:20 Finland

Opening Speech

14:40-15:20 Japan

Representatives of Turku City, and Nagano City and Obuse Town will report their activities and what they learned each other from the cooperation.

Report from Turku City (15 min)

- **Iris Kriikkula**, Project Specialist, City of Turku, Climate and Environmental Policy Unit

Report from Nagano City and Obuse Town (25 min)

- **Yutaro Arai**, Manager, Biomass Promotion Team, New Industry Creation Department, Nagano City
- **Toru Omiya**, Director, Department of General Affairs, Obuse Town

09:20– 09:50 Finland

Round Panel for Recapturing

15:20-15:50 Japan

Moderated by Toru Omiya, Director, Department of General Affairs, Obuse Town

Experts from Turku, and Nagano and Obuse, who participated in the cooperative activities, will comment on what they learned through the cooperation, how they were inspired and enlightened by each other, and what they identify as future challenges.

Panellists

- **Iris Kriikkula**, Project Specialist, City of Turku, Climate and Environmental Policy Unit
- **Yutaro Arai**, Manager, Biomass Promotion Team, New Industry Creation Department, Nagano City
- **Toru Omiya**, Director, Department of General Affairs, Obuse Town

09:50-10:00 Finland

Coffee Break

15:50-16:00 Japan

10:00– 10:30 Finland

Break Out Rooms-Future Vision of Cooperation

16:00 -16:30 Japan

Participants will be divided into several groups for a free exchange of ideas on the challenges, modality and topics of cooperation, engagement of wider stakeholders such as young people / students, etc. for fruitful international city-to-city cooperation in the future.

10:40– 10:55 Finland

Wrap-up

16:40 -16:55 Japan

Moderated by Toru Omiya

From each session, the discussion will be reported, and the moderator will summarize the entire discussion.

10:55-11:00 Finland

Quick Evaluation and Closing

16:55-17:00 Japan

Participants will be requested to submit brief comments for evaluation.

