

Summary of the meeting with Dr. William Glanville

1. Personal profile

(1) Name

Dr. William Glanville

(2) Affiliation

Vice President, International Institute for Sustainable Development

(3) Major professional experiences (only selected ones)

Ph.D. in educational administration

Academic Vice President, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology

Chief Operating Officer, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Board member (Director), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

(4) Areas of expertise

Strategic planning; Science education; Educational policy

2. Meeting specifications

(1) Date

January 31, 2013

(2) Venue

Special Conference Room, NIES

(3) Participants

Dr. William Glanville

Dr. Shinichiro Ohgaki, President

Dr. Akimasa Sumi, Vice President

Mr. Yoshiro Kaburagi, Vice President

Dr. Shogo Murakami, Executive Research Coordinator

Dr. Hideyuki Shimizu, Manager, International Coordination Office

(4) Discussion procedure

To begin, President Ohgaki presented an overview of NIES, and indicated to the advisor the following three general topics as guiding points for discussion:

(A) Distinctive features of NIES in the areas of advisor's specialization,

(B) Distinguishing features of NIES as a research institution involved with the environment, and points of expectation,

(C) Points which NIES should address and strengthen.

Dr. Glanville visited the five facilities with the highest correspondence to his fields of specialty and interests - Center for Global Environmental Research; Center for Social and Environmental Systems Research (these two centers jointly introduced the Climate Change Research Program); Center for Regional Environmental Research; Center for Environmental Risk Research; and Center for Material Cycles and Waste Management Research - and exchanged opinions with researchers affiliated to these research centers. Subsequently, Dr. Glanville offered his comments (see below) to President Ohgaki, based on the information provided, followed by wide-ranging discussions between the attendees.

3. Comments by Dr. Glanville

(1) NIES is a unique institute which has the capacity to cover an extensive research scope over the full range of environmental sciences from basic to policy-related research

What strikes me the most about NIES is the extent of the research areas which it has the capacity to cover. NIES can cover fronts over the full spectrum of environmental sciences from basic to policy-related research. There may be similar types of research institutes around the world which conduct research in the field of environment; however I am not aware, in my experience to date, whether there exists an institute that can cover as extensive a research scope as NIES does. In this sense, my experience at least suggests that NIES may be unique. It also struck me that this point relates well to the Research on Disaster Environment, as the respective fields at NIES have critical roles to play and expertise in these fields of environmental research will facilitate further contributions.

(2) NIES's capacity to implement basic research to find solutions is one of its key strengths

The key to finding solutions to the challenges which are inherent to the issue of sustainable development is the data provided by research outcomes from basic sciences. Basic sciences are in fact fundamental to the field of sustainable development. One example of such data would be that produced by long-term monitoring initiatives. Without these long-term undertakings it would not be possible to propose solutions that are based on science. During the presentations by NIES researchers, I repeatedly emphasized the importance of solutions. Some of the research areas seemed more solution-driven and thus closer to finding solutions. I strongly believe a key strength of NIES is that it carries out basic research to find

solutions and that this should be emphasized further.

(3) NIES's regional environmental research to solve local/regional issues is valuable and NIES should continue to share its expertise on these issues with regional/local communities

I found it interesting that NIES conducts regional environmental research covering a wide range of issues, e.g., lake eutrophication. These researches are valuable to municipalities and regions. In IISD, we are also expected to play an important role in solving local environmental issues. Hence, I would like to suggest that NIES continues to widely share its expertise with regional and local communities.

(4) NIES restructuring has been successful and will facilitate its potential to act as a hub institute in Japan and Asia

My impression is that NIES has high research skills and experiences corresponding to its 40-year history. Since my last visit to your institute, NIES has been restructured into eight research centers which correspond to the eight major areas of research carried out here. I believe that this restructuring has been successful and good organization is especially important for an institute the size of NIES. This will also facilitate NIES acting in the capacity as a hub institute for the region. Therefore, I believe that NIES has the potential to and should act as the leading research institute in Japan and Asia.

(5) NIES has the capability to coordinate and liaise with other domestic organizations relating to environmental issues

There are a number of domestic organizations whose work relates to environmental issues. NIES has the capability to coordinate and liaise with such organizations in order to bring the people together who are working in similar fields. For example, NIES and an organization such as the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), have common fields in which both institutes work. One example of a common field is climate change issues. Their respective focuses have fundamental differences, however there is still much merit in the two maintaining open channels of communication. It would be a good idea to start regular meetings on a trial basis at a working group level, in order to keep each other informed as to the progress of their respective research activities. IISD is in this sense similar, in terms

of being engaged in efforts to extend our collaborative relationships with other institutes in Canada. My experience is that such collaboration can be gradually developed and strengthened over a period of time.

(6) Identifying the users of research outcomes is necessary in order for NIES to target and reach out to these users

NIES should cultivate and maintain an awareness of the markets for its research outcomes. Depending on the objective of each research, the users of research outcomes are varied, e.g., the user of policy related research is different from that of basic science. It is thus necessary to identify who will need the type of research that NIES conducts. NIES then should actively target and reach out toward those people using appropriate communications and engagement strategies.

(7) The NIES campus is a good environment for researchers and visitors and the appeals of this setting could be further emphasized with signposts in English

I had a very favorable impression of the NIES campus. The greenery and idyllic setting impressed me in particular. The researchers at NIES seemed enthusiastic and welcoming, thus I feel that the campus is a good environment for researchers. Foreign researchers would also benefit from this healthy environment. One idea would be to emphasize the setting by having signposts for visitors in English towards the particular features which make the grounds such an appealing setting.



Dr. William H. Glanville

グランビル博士

Discussions between the
International Advisor and the
NIES President's Office

理事室との意見交換



Explanation of research using
the NIES Vehicle Test Facility

国環研の低公害車実験施設での
研究説明

Group photograph after the
conclusion of discussions

会議終了後の集合写真

