# Sustainable Groundwater Management towards SDGs

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### (1) Industrialization & Nexus (Water-Energy)





#### **70%** of human freshwater consumption is through agriculture,

Increase in groundwater consumption for irrigation in Anthropocene

(Dallin, Taniguchi, Green, Global Sustainability, 2020)

through global food trade

GW depletion (mm/y) (1980-2009, Döll et al. (2014))

# Virtual water export via food trade from sub-region in Asia



- "Footprints" which can <u>visualize the tele-connection</u> and <u>internalize the external</u> <u>environment</u>, are good tools for analyzing multi-scale stewardship and sustainability.
- Resources (food, water, energy, etc. ) and environment are connected, and should be governed by integrated manner

## (3) Urbanization & Water-Energy-Food Nexus

## **World Population ↑**



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### **Urbanization** ↑



Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects (2018) OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.

Population in Urban 30 % at 1950 68 % at 2050

### **Belmont Forum** projects "Sustainable Urbanization Global Initiative: Food-Water-Energy Nexus"

Intelligent Urban Metabolic Systems for Green Cities of Tomorrow: an FWE Nexus-based Approach (2018-2021)







## Nexus Approach for system dynamic







### **SDGs indicators**

Tradeoff and synergy between:
➢ Resources (water, energy, food, land, etc.)
➢ Society, Economy, Environment
➢ Local, National, Global
➢ Past, Present, Future



# **Disconnection of governances/institutions**



### A framework of SDGs-Nexus

**SEE (Social, Economy, Environment) -WEFL (Water, Energy, Food, Land)** 



## (4) Nexus analyses with scenarios



### **SEE-WEFL SDGs-Nexus indicators**

#### **SEE (Social, Economy, Environment) -WEFL (Water, Energy, Food, Land)**

#### **SEE-WEFL Nexus**



# **Recovery of lost synergy of water-energy-food nexus**



Kumamoto city depends on 100 % of groundwater as water resources which is recharged at outside of the Kumamoto city





Increase in impermeable area (90 $\rightarrow$ **230km**<sup>2</sup>) due to urbanization and unused paddy fields r  $\rightarrow$  **Decrease in GW recharge rate** 

### Transboundary governance



Kumamoto city pays subsidies to farmers who **put water** into their paddy fields outside of Kumamoto



Increase in GW level and discharge from Ezu Lake

✓ Nexus Synergy: Rice productions with groundwater recharge in upstream as well as groundwater use in downstream without any additional energy for water allocation.

Taniguchi et al. 2019, Frontiers in Env. Sci.

# **Multiscale Stewardship**



# Summary

- Food and industrial materials/goods which consumes groundwater are globally traded, then distant areas and countries are indirectly connected with groundwater footprint. Therefore, groundwater issue is not only local but also global issue.
- For achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs), it is important to manage groundwater as nexus, which connects direct and indirect, local and global, water-energy-food, and economy-environment-society.
- Increasing efficiency of groundwater use makes reduction of energy consumption, then it creates a synergy among water and energy for carbon neutrality and sustainable groundwater management.
- A good practice with synergy of nexus and transboundary governance of groundwater is important for achieving SDGs not only locally but also globally.