



Academic Background

Dr. Kanako Morita has been a Project Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Media and Governance at Keio University in Japan since 2013. She earned her Ph.D. from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan in 2010. She attended the Young Scientist Summer Program at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria in 2005, and was a visiting researcher at the University of California Santa Barbara in the United States from 2006 to 2007. From 2010 to 2013, she worked at the National Institute for Environmental Studies in Japan as a research associate.

Her research interests focus on the effectiveness of climate change, biodiversity, forest, and renewable energy-related institutions, the links between international environmental regimes, and the effectiveness of sustainable development goals. Her background is in international relations and development financing, and she uses interdisciplinary approaches, including case studies in the Asia-Pacific region (South Pacific Island States, Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, Lao PDR, Korea, Japan, etc.), to address the above issues.

One of her major research projects explores effective and efficient institutions and financing systems to promote climate change and biodiversity activities in developing countries. Her research examines the effectiveness and performance of climate financing systems by analyzing (1) the effectiveness of both public and private finance and (2) the effects of institutional links between climate change and biodiversity conservation financing, with a focus on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and adaptation, which must be addressed under the two environmental issue areas. Another major research endeavor explores the need for effective financing to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which uses the cases of Korea, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

Currently, she is participating in three climate change and sustainable development projects funded by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment: (1) Project on Sustainability Transformation beyond 2015, (2) Study on the Decision-Making Process in Major Countries Concerning International Negotiation on Climate Change, and (3) Comprehensive Research on the Development of Global Climate Risk Management Strategies. Further, she was a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change WGIII Chapter 7 Energy Systems, which has been published in 2014.

Furthermore, since 2010, she has been involved in climate change and biodiversity-related work at the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, and attended the Convention on Biological Diversity COP10, COP11, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP16, COP17, COP18, COP19, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification COP10, and intersessional meetings as a member of the Japanese delegation.