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BACKGROUND
OBJECTIVES

Background

Climate change is a challenging issue as it is one of the most complexes, multilayered and interdisciplinary intellectual puzzles facing us today. The questions are numerous. What scientific processes underpin climate change? To what extent do human activities become a driver of climate change? Can future changes be reliably predicted? What are the likely consequences of climate change, and what policies are needed to mitigate these changes? Its complexity of problems and consequences reflects the need of wider, more comprehensive and integrated perspective and approaches to cope with the implication of the climate change. Therefore, a new paradigm in science and research development is needed.

There is no single definition of Sustainability Science (SS). Komiyama and Takeuchi (2006) describe SS as a discipline that points the way toward a sustainable society. Keitsch (2010) defines SS as treating sustainable development from scientific perspective. Sustainability Science can also be defined as a trans-disciplinary effort addressing symbiosis between human activity and the environment (Rapport 2007). Even though definitions are varies, Kauffman (2009) pointed out three fundamental characteristics of SS, i.e.transdisciplinary, integrated analysis, and action-oriented.

In light of sustainability science, climate change can be understood either as a "threat" or as an "opportunity" which is important to promote the human well-being. However, sustainability science should grab any issues, concepts, approaches, and methodologies relevant to the handling of the challenges. Therefore in order to reach a sustainable society, we are challenged to uncover opportunities under the threats that reside behind climate change. This symposium will facilitate the sharing of ideas and integration of the relevant works, as well as to frame the future trans-disciplinary sustainability research and science.