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Release of CASBEE for Cities (Pilot version for worldwide use (2015)) and its announcement at COP 21

Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation

The Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation (IBEC) has published a new assessment tool, CASBEE for Cities (Pilot version for worldwide use (2015)), which assesses the environmental performance of cities around the world. The tool was developed by the committee in IBEC for the development of an environmental performance assessment tool for cities, and was released during the United Nations conference on climate change (COP 21) on December 2nd.



Fig. 1. Announcement of the new tool at “Japan Pavilion” at the COP 21 Fig. 2. Publication of the new tool

Characteristics of the CASBEE for Cities (Pilot version for worldwide use (2015)) are as follows:

1. An assessment tool aligned with international documents such as UN SDGs and ISO 37120, etc.
2. A tool adopting the concept of environmental efficiency (= Quality (Q) / Load (L))
3. A tool that can be applied to various types of cities including those in developed countries (they tend to have a good score for Q and a bad score for L) and cities in developing countries (they tend to have a bad score for Q and a good score for L)
4. A tool that supports tool users in understanding their local conditions and to devise their future action plans
5. A tool that helps achieve sustainable development through visualizing assessment results

CASBEE for Cities was initially developed for Japanese municipalities to support the understanding of local characteristics and to support developing future action plans. Development of the tool started in 2008 and the first version was published in 2011. Revised versions were published in 2012 and 2013, and the tool has recently been used in the “FutureCity initiative” by the Japanese government to monitor the development of Future Cities. Entire municipalities in Japan (n=1,750) are also assessed by using the tool and results are published in a research paper. The new tool, CASBEE for Cities (Pilot version for worldwide use (2015)), which was published at COP 21, is a tool that expands the assessment target cities from Japanese cities to entire cities throughout the world.

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