

Workshop for Capacity Building on Climate Change Impact Assessments and Adaptation Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region:

Technical Review of Background Assessment for Climate Change Adaptation
 27-28 January 2016, Manila, Philippines

Introduction

The “Workshop for Capacity Building on Climate Change Impact Assessments and Adaptation Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region: Technical Review of Background Assessment for Climate Change Adaptation” (hereinafter called the Manila Workshop) was held on 27-28 January 2016, in Manila, Philippines. This workshop responds to Japan’s “National Plan for Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change” approved in November 2015, which aims to further promote international cooperation and contribute to climate change adaptation (CCA) by supporting adaptation planning in developing and emerging countries. In addition, the Paris Agreement on climate change in December 2015 recognized the importance of international cooperation and assistance for CCA.

This workshop followed on from the previous Bangkok Workshop on 1-2 October 2015, and it aimed to facilitate a more technical discussion on the background assessments necessary for effective adaptation planning, such as climate change impact and risk assessments. Participants included governmental representatives engaged in the field of CCA from 14 countries¹ in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan, as well as the representatives of international organizations and researchers. The participants had the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and capacity-building on CCA background assessments.



Workshop outline

In this workshop, the government representatives presented their current usage and experiences in conducting CCA background assessments. Three distinct categories (or phases) are used to classify CCA background assessments, as follows:

- **Climate change (CC) scenarios and impact assessments** – analyse current climate and future CC scenarios and impacts.
- **Risk, hazards and vulnerability assessments** – assess vulnerability to CC, rank CC risks and vulnerabilities, identify adaptation options to address priority vulnerabilities.
- **Effectiveness assessments of CCA countermeasures** – appraise adaptation options, including economic, social costs and benefits.

While various related approaches or tools for CCA background assessments have been used, the representatives also highlighted their major challenges and needs faced in conducting effective assessments (see Table 1). Although each country has a different perspective on their current implementation status and challenges, the information about their status and challenges is very useful to understand the key implementation requirements of CCA background assessments generally. Moreover, experts in the field of CCA shared their information and scientific knowledge about effective and feasible tools of CCA background assessments. To effectively implement these tools, an adequate understanding of scientific knowledge and the active involvement of multi-stakeholders are essential.

Table 1. Major challenges and needs on CCA background assessments

CC scenarios & impact assessments	Risk, hazards & vulnerability assessments	Effectiveness assessments of CCA countermeasures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unavailability of consistent CC scenarios, and weather / meteorological data ● Lack of technical and institutional capacity on climate modelling ● Lack of public awareness and understanding of future CC ● Need for communication the local level, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of effective tools ● Needs for capacity development, technical supports and transfers ● Lack of public awareness, and laws / policies ● Low-quality related data, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lack of understanding and availability of adequate effectiveness tools ● Lack of institutional arrangements ● Lack of cross-cutting coordination at the local level ● Lack of linkage among studies, policies and adaptation options, etc.

(Source: Project)

¹ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam

Box CCA Background Assessment: Current status and beyond

The findings from the survey of 14 participating countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) show that many countries have used the related approaches or tools to assess CC scenarios and impacts, and also risk, hazards and vulnerabilities. Compared to that, only a few countries have used the related approaches or tools for assessing the effectiveness of CCA countermeasures (Fig. 1.). The above result suggests that it is important to enhance CCA background assessments for developing effective adaptation planning, especially effectiveness assessments of CCA countermeasures, and this can be done through technical and institutional capacity development for, for example, a better understanding of the related approaches and tools, an adequate interpretation of scientific knowledge, and an effective communication at the local level.



Fig. 1. Current use of approaches or tools for the three levels of CCA background assessments, i.e.:
 (a) Climate change scenarios and impact assessments; (b) Risk, hazards and vulnerability assessments;
 (c) Effectiveness assessments of CCA countermeasures (Source: Project)

For details and presentation materials, please see:

The Manila Workshop:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/workshop-capacity-building-climate-change-impact-assessments-and-adaptation-planning-asia-0>

The Bangkok Workshop:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/workshop-capacity-building-climate-change-impact-assessments-and-adaptation-planning-asia>

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