

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

Advancing Practices in Climate Change Adaptation at National, Local, and Sectoral Levels

January 31- February 1, 2018 | Manila, Philippines

Introduction

The workshop on Climate Change Impact Assessments and Adaptation Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region: Advancing Practices in Climate Change Adaptation at the National, Local, and Sectoral Levels was held in Manila, Philippines from January 31 to February 1, 2018 as part of the initiative of the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Japan (MOEJ) in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN). The workshop was co-organized by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and the Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. (MRI) in collaboration with the ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat. It aimed to support stronger implementation in climate change adaptation (CCA) by addressing key areas for moving from planning to practice.

The workshop served as an affective platform for representatives of governments, international organizations, universities/research institutes and NGOs from 16¹ countries to share good practices and lessons learned from existing programs and projects on CCA as well as to identify challenges and opportunities for countries to implement these good practices. The participants were also able to explore ways to fill in the gaps by taking into account the resources that they have in their countries, region, and beyond.



Workshop Outline

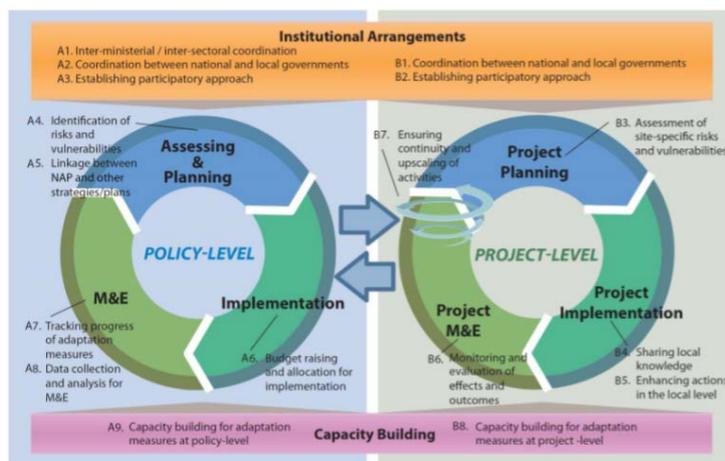
The first day of the workshop was facilitated by IGES and focused on strengthening vertical integration of CCA. Representatives from Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines discussed their respective national support mechanisms for vertical integration and local implementation of CCA plans and policies. An expert panel also shared effective tools and approaches for local-level adaptation implementation. The National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) Japan presented on the Asia Pacific Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT), which is to be established by 2020 and aims to share climate risk information online with research institutes/universities in both developing and developed countries. Other tools and approaches discussed included the core elements of climate change planning and budgeting at local level, which were presented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s AWARE, which is a web-based platform used to screen projects based on climate risks; Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), which the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) employs to accommodate community perceptions and needs; and the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) support and review criteria for adaptation planning processes. Representatives from Indonesia, Mongolia, and the Philippines reported on local level good practices for adaptation planning and implementation. North Sumatra Province in Indonesia presented an overall picture of their legal and regulatory framework as well as CCA programs implemented in various sectors and levels including villages. Notable exchange was observed in relation to Mongolia's presentation on its integrated river basin management system and the presentation on integrated watershed management in the Philippines in which several neighboring local governments are participating. Facilitated discussions reviewed how local governments can frame and define effective adaptation implementation; what roles national governments play in supporting this; opportunities to mainstream and accelerate local adaptation efforts; and how to strengthen stakeholder engagement in adaptation implementation.

¹ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

Table 1. Challenges, opportunities and words of encouragement for vertical Integration of CCA

Challenges	Opportunities	Words of Encouragement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreaming across government and different development tiers Effective administrative governance and management approaches incorporating CCA (e.g. eco-system governance) Balance between vertical and horizontal integration Need for continuous capacity building and training Better data management and information sharing Need for widespread scaling and deployment of risk and vulnerability assessments Understanding and selecting from a long list of adaptation options Balance between addressing adaptation as stand-alone projects and as <i>climate proofing</i> integrated into all development activities Monitoring, reporting and evaluation systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading of NAPs and CCA strategies, as well as related capacity development programmes Climate change communication is strong Increased climate literacy Global policy integration Increasing national policies and mechanisms to support local action Integration of climate risks into planning and budgetary processes Improved sectoral analysis of impacts and risks Availability of climate finance Integration of CCA into educational curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The knowledge, capacity and efforts of national governments on CCA have grown at a considerable pace. Strong foundations are laid across most countries for adaptation with relevant plans, policies and horizontal-integration/mainstreaming mechanisms. Strong opportunities for international support, technical expertise, and financing exist and are accessible. Many existing good practices at the local level offer transferable lessons

On the second day of the workshop, representatives of MRI took the helm and facilitated group discussions on key factors for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and scaling up of national/regional adaptation. In terms of M&E, the discussion was held on policy level and implementation (project) level M&E, as well as on the definition of the effectiveness of adaptation and approaches to measuring the effectiveness of adaptation plan/implementation. Participants agreed that a strong and robust coordination mechanism is needed to accommodate inputs from different sectors at both national and local levels. Bottom-up M&E or community-led M&E could lead to continuous reporting activities. For measuring effectiveness of adaptation, strict criteria should be set at various levels of implementation, objectives and goals. Targets should be clear and concise at the onset, and there should be a robust system for data validation and collection.



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Diagram 1. Summary of lessons learned in mainstreaming adaptation taken from case studies in the Asia-Pacific region

In terms of scaling up, the discussion considered aspects of science policy interface, attracting finance and private sector involvement. To translate scientific data into policies, scientific information should be packaged in a way that policymakers can readily understand. The participants also noted that academia can bridge the gap between policymakers and scientists, and help develop policies which are informed by climate risk projections and other pertinent data. Potential sources of finance for CCA include global climate funds, national budget lines, and bi-/multi- lateral support. Therefore, it is important to convince governments to allocate budget for CCA. Developing proposals that communicate feasibility and viability is also imperative to attract global climate financing. To secure private sector involvement, it is important to provide the private sector with business-related climate information and explain how their operations are affected by climate change. Government and the private sector should work together to provide climate-related risk information as well as to take advantage of business opportunities created by climate change.

For details of this workshop, please access:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/advancing-practices-climate-change-adaptation-national-local-and-sectoral-levels>

Acknowledgement

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