

# ACTIVITY BRIEF

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum

18-20 March 2013 | Incheon, Korea

### BACKGROUND

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum was organised by the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES); the Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP); and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

The Forum was hosted by the Korea Environment Institute (KEI) in association with the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change (KACCC). The Forum was also supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ); the Ministry of Environment, Korea; Asian Development Bank (ADB); Incheon Metropolitan City; and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Forum collaborators include the South East Asia Climate Change Network (SEAN-CC), the USAID ADAPT Asia-Pacific project, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Forum brought together over 550 policy-makers, scientists, donors, international organisations, regional intergovernmental bodies, youth, media, researchers, NGOs and other representatives from countries in the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

The Forum was structured around the main theme - “Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development” - and four selected topics:

- I. Adaptation strategies: What strategies governments, organisations and communities are adopting to deal with a variable and changing climate? Are they likely to be successful? Are they sufficient?
- II. Critical and neglected groups: What are governments, organisations and communities doing to better engage critical, but neglected, actors in adaptation plans and actions?
- III. Adaptation in sectors and systems: How are stakeholders in different sectors and systems adapting to a changing climate? What actions have they taken?
- IV. Knowledge management for adaptation: How can better use be made of existing knowledge to support adaptation efforts? How can learning from success and failure become more systematic?

The Forum was designed with various activities, such as plenary and keynote sessions, panel discussions, side events, including marketplace to provide networking opportunities.



Plenary session at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum at Incheon, Korea.

### FORUM PARTNERS



## ABOUT APAN

APAN is the leading climate change adaptation network in the Asia-Pacific region. Our primary goal is to assist countries to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies. Our initiatives turn knowledge into policy action and trainings into tangible benefits.

## APAN PARTNERS



## CONTACT APAN

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## OBJECTIVE

The Forum's broad objective was to assist decision-makers at all levels of government, as well as representatives from the private sector, civil society organisations, and other partner agencies to be more strategic and effective in addressing the challenges of development in a changing climate.

## OUTCOMES

The Forum provided an excellent opportunity for a range of actors working in different sectors and systems to share their knowledge about successes, and failures, to effectively adapt to climate. The needs and interests of critical and neglected groups were highlighted, alongside the need for improving knowledge management.

It also provided an opportunity to share the latest developments, findings, opportunities and challenges in mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development.

The mixture of plenary and panel discussions, as well as diverse side-events, provide participants an opportunity to interact and learn about the latest ideas and practices in mainstreaming adaptation, helping to improve adaptation strategies and actions.

## KEY MESSAGES

1. Current adaptation strategies have merits, but also many limitations. There is value in starting with existing policies and practices and learning from experience, but there is also a need to develop more robust, learning-oriented strategies to effectively handle change and uncertainty.
2. There are still many critical groups that need to be more directly and meaningfully engaged in adaptation conversations. This includes disadvantaged and marginalised people as well as powerful and influential actors such as international businesses.
3. Different sectors and systems face specific challenges, but there are many opportunities to learn from one another's experiences and strategies. Adaptation will benefit from building more relationships across sectors and systems.
4. Effective knowledge management fosters multi-way exchange of diverse kinds of knowledge, increasing rates of learning and building capacity to adapt; shared learning can be fostered with good facilitation and engagement that builds trust and mutual respect.
5. Development can reduce vulnerability to climate change, but it must be sustainable. Social-ecological systems are important sources of resilience to deal with a range of disturbances, including those from the climate system, and should not be undermined by forms of development that create large inequalities, poverty or environmental degradation.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/adaptationforum2013>