

Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Development Planning Session Summary

Track: Resilience in Human and Social Systems

Date: 11:00-12:30, 19 October, 2018

Venue: Auditorium B

This session highlighted the importance of integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction for making institutions and society resilient to uncertain global changes and extreme weather conditions.

- The session was moderated by Dr. Peter King, Senior Policy Advisor of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). He explained that the objective of this session was to discuss the real challenges to integrating climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs. Dr. King stated that climate planning was relatively simple in the 1990s, as it was assumed that the future could be projected from the historical climate record. Climate change has invalidated this assumption. We now need more sophisticated climate models and ability to cope with uncertainty.
- Five speakers, one from Indonesia and four from the Philippines, shared local and regional experience on approaches and activities to integrate CCA and DRR. The presentations were followed by a lively panel discussion and questions from the audience.
- Although all speakers endorsed the idea of integration, they pointed out several practical challenges, particularly at the local government level. These include information and data gaps, temporal variations in project execution due to separate CCA and DRR projects, lack of integrative policies, and lack of coordination among agencies on program development and budget allocation.
- Mr. Putra Dwitama – Head of RAN API (National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation) Secretariat, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia – presented challenges to integrating CCA and DRR in the development planning system. These include coordinating different sectors and levels (national, sub-national and local) when policy development and planning takes place within silos and the complexity and multiple stages of planning. He explained that Indonesia is trying to develop data and information systems using various sources such as different ministries/agencies and other stakeholders, and to develop a common baseline and targets for priority sectors. The aim is to promote CCA-DRR integration in national development plans.
- Prof Damasa B. Magcale-Macandog (University of the Philippines Los Banos) and Ms. Erlinda C. Creencia (City Environment and Natural Resources Office from Santa Rosa City)

presented the results of IGES research in the watersheds in Laguna de Bay. They reported how local government units (LGUs) in this watershed introduced the idea of co-designing comprehensive land-use planning to make land use more climate sensitive. Prof. Macandog introduced the project's participatory watershed land use management model, which links science and policy in developing local land-use and climate change action plans. Ms. Creencia explained the importance of the integrated watershed management council, which the four local governments in the watershed had established to coordinate planning, in the context of autonomous LGUs.

- Mr. Jose Bernardo B. Gochoco III from Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) presented the process and steps necessary for better DRR-CCA integration for resilience in Philippines. These are data collection, vulnerability analysis and sensitivity analysis for different countermeasures. He introduced the ICLEI-Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) process, explaining that it builds the capacity of local governments to assess their climate risks and vulnerabilities and formulate corresponding resilience strategies, such as local climate change action plans.
- Ms. Jessica Bercilla (Climate Change Advisor for Asia and the Middle East, Christian Aid, and Partner, National Resilience Council) introduced the history of mainstreaming DRR-CCA in national and local government policies and plans. She stressed the need to ensure that DRR-CCA is mainstreamed in all executive decisions. Science is the key tool for this. She also addressed the role of public-private partnerships in integration processes including the importance of sharing co-benefits among the stakeholders.

Summary of actions / recommendations / solutions presented in the session to overcome the challenges and opportunities to materialize them

- There is a strong need for integrated approaches, supported by an umbrella policy and a common baseline and targets, that link bottom-up and top-down processes and engage ministries, local governments and other organisations working on climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction.
- The planning of green space and infrastructure in different sectors such as water, city and agriculture should be co-designed for DRR and CCA employing the most updated scientific data and information.
- Integration of DRR and CCA can be promoted through knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and translating information into action. Collaboration between academia and local government can facilitate DRR-CCA at the local level.

Key takeaway/message from the session

Science and scientific information provide the foundations for effective disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation integration. Research institutes and academia, NGOs, local and

national governments, communities and faith-based organizations need to work together on co-designing approaches for CCA and DRR.

Acknowledgement

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