

Information Infrastructure on Adaptation Measures and Technologies Session Summary

Track: Cross cutting issues

Date: 15:45-17:15, 17 October, 2018

Venue: Auditorium Annex

This session highlighted the importance of scientifically sound and policy relevant information to accelerate actions on climate change adaptation. It also identified the need for collaborative actions at the regional level in the production, integration, and communication of information.

- The session was moderated by Mr. Osamu Mizuno, Principal Fellow of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). Six speakers from Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Mongolia shared experiences on good practices and efforts to fill adaptation information gaps, including on the development of information infrastructure. The presentations were followed by a lively panel discussion and questions from the audience.
- The speakers introduced a few national initiatives on integrating national databases and developing information platforms, such as Japan's national Climate Change Adaptation Platform (A-PLAT) and the Thailand Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (T-PLAT) to facilitate better adaptation. .
- The speakers underscored the importance of regional partnerships for linking information platforms and capacity building organizations for project development. The speakers also stressed the need for securing the involvement of local governments, communities, and other stakeholders for effective adaptation.
- Dr. Oka from the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan explained that AP-PLAT is an initiative by the Japanese Government to develop a regional information platform on adaptation. He explained that the establishment of such information platforms can help fill information and knowledge gaps for various stakeholders in Asia. Dr. Oka emphasized the need for collaboration among various government ministries and agencies in developing such information platforms.
- Ms. Chompunut Songkhao – Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), MONRE, Thailand – explained the vision and mission for Thailand's NAP Process and Implementation, and T-PLAT. T-PLAT provides information of climate change risk and adaptation, promotes capacity development including the preparation of an appropriate toolkit for adaptation, and facilitates climate risk-informed adaptation projects. She emphasized the need for collaboration with the many existing adaptation projects supported by international and domestic organizations in Thailand to collect relevant information from them. This will contribute to better decision making in Thailand's NAP

process and implementation. She also emphasized that the aim of T-PLAT is to contribute to climate change adaptation in Southeast Asian countries through partnership with AP-PLAT.

- Dr. Sudhiani Pratiwi – Deputy Director for Climate Change and Environmental Quality, BAPPENAS, Indonesia – introduced Indonesia’s Climate Change Adaptation Development Plan Framework. She also presented on her country’s efforts to fill knowledge gaps through scientific study and multi-stakeholder partnerships. Dr. Pratiwi stressed the importance of developing an innovative communication strategy to make and transfer relevant information including scientific information to many stakeholders, especially to local stakeholders. She also mentioned the importance of partnership between national and local governments and other stakeholders, and of mobilizing local human, financial, and other resources to support local governments and promote adaptation actions on the ground.
- Ms. Ana Mariquina, from Philippine Red Cross explained how the 510 database is useful for community risk assessment. This database aims to fill an information gap for identifying those most in need of disaster relief or disaster risk-reduction. The database locates and integrates all relevant open and closed data sources at a detailed spatial level. The indicators employed range from hazard exposure to vulnerability to coping capacity. She expressed expectation for support from AP-PLAT and other initiatives by providing needed information. Ms. Mariquina also at the same time highlighted the need to overcome the difficulty of collaboration among initiatives, as each data set has its own characteristics. She emphasized that the development of common user-friendly data sets is key.
- Ms. Alith Leyba – Climate Change Commission, Philippines – provided an overview of the National Integrated Climate Change Database and Information Exchange System (NICCDIES). This data set comprises consolidated information on climate change, climate actions, and financial resources NICCDIES aims to make it easy for decision makers responsible for policy, development planning and investment to access the data set. She emphasized the importance of an integrated information platform through which stakeholders can easily find and share relevant climate change related information.
- Ms. Erdenetsetseg Baasandai - Head of Agrometeorological Research Division, Information and Research Institute of Meteorology, Mongolia – introduced a climate change study and assessment on *dzud* (a winter disaster in which deep snow, severe cold or other conditions lead to high livestock mortality) and its early warning system. She emphasized the usefulness of developing the *dzud* early warning system, displaying data on livestock loss and the resultant economic damage.

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

- Information for climate change adaptation should be science based, policy relevant, regularly

updated, user friendly, and available to all stakeholders including local people.

- Appropriate adaptation measures should be promoted at all levels.
- There are many opportunities for shared learning, strengthening regional partnerships, mobilizing resources, and translating the information into action. Among these opportunities, the AP-PLAT initiative is very encouraging as it promotes A-PLAT and T-PLAT integration, as well as collaboration with APAN and other information platform initiatives.
- An integrated regional-level database for better sharing of adaptation-relevant information would assist the development of bankable climate change adaptation actions.

Key takeaway/message from the session

Sound scientific information provides a foundation for effective adaptation. Integration of databases, knowledge and best practices through promotion of regional partnerships could better facilitate adaptation actions and bankable project proposal formulation.

Acknowledgement

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