

SOME LESSONS AND THOUGHTS FROM ASIA PACIFIC ADAPTATION NETWORK (APAN)

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APN Workshop Climate Change Framework
Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Loss + Damage - Linkage, Priorities, Limitations -
22 August 2013
Kobe, Japan

OUTLINE

- **Rationale for a regional platform to support climate change adaptation**
- **About APAN**
 - How APAN is operated
 - Mission, main activities
- **Lessons and observations from network operator's point of view**
 - Knowledge sharing /management
 - Aid /resource efficiency
- **Potential research areas**
 - For APN's or science community's consideration

RATIONALE

- **The region is extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts.**
- **The region is socially, economically, and environmentally diverse.**
- **Adaptation to climate change is part of development, but BAU/conventional development path is not sufficient to build adaptive and resilient societies.**
- **Relatively new area, weak institutional capacity, difficulties in dealing with cross-sectoral issues and mainstreaming it into development plans**
- **Cross learning from regional supporting mechanisms**



WHO WE ARE

- **A regional adaptation-specialized network for Asia and the Pacific launched in 2009 under UNEP's Global Adaptation Network (GAN)**
- **Operated jointly by UNEP's Regional Office Asia-Pacific (ROAP) and research institutes (AIT, IGES and SEI) from Bangkok, Thailand, where the network interacts with many international/regional organizations/initiatives**
- **Supported by multiple donors/ development agencies**
 - Ministry of the Environment, Japan; ADB; USAID through ADAPT Asia-Pacific project; and others



WHO WE ARE

- **Working with dedicated leading professional organizations (nodes) in each of five sub-regions to cover the entire region (48 countries) and three priority areas for adaptation**

Five sub-regional nodes:

- Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)
- Research Centre for Climate Change Adaptation at Keio University (RCCCA)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- Climate Action Network for South Asia (CANSA)
- Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

Three thematic nodes:

- Water: Global Water Partnership South Asia (GWPSAS)
- Mountains: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- Agriculture: Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA)



APAN'S MISSION STATEMENT

APAN is the leading climate change adaptation network in Asia-Pacific region.

Its goal is to assist countries to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies.

APAN strives to equip key actors in the region with knowledge for designing and implementing adaptation measures, building capacity to access technologies and finance in support of climate change adaptation, and integrating climate change adaptation into policies, strategies and plans.

FOCUS AND MAIN ACTIVITIES

Focuses on capacity development of climate change policy makers through:

- **Knowledge generation**

- To respond to the needs of and priorities of the policy makers and other key stakeholders. APAN can use more help from APN.
- Intellectual contribution to the field of CCA

- **Web-based knowledge management**

- Web portal (14 CCA themes totaling over 1,800 entries)
- Over 5,000 subscribers of online newsletter, community of practice (CoP)

- ***Adaptation Forum and sub-regional/thematic conferences***

- To provide opportunities for networking and learning (from lessons and experience)
- Government of Korea's contribution and engagement with a regional process
- 4th Forum in KL, Malaysia (1-3 October, 2014, TBC)



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Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2013

18-20 March 2013 Incheon Republic of Korea

MAINSTREAMING ADAPTATION IN DEVELOPMENT:
STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE



- Join us
- Groups
- Discussions

Latest Resources

Jun 13, 2013

APEC Climate Symposium 2013 to be held 11-13 November

Adaptation Strategies / Adaptation-Mitigation Nexus

Communication and Awareness

Latest News & Events

NEWS Jun 12, 2013

Bangladesh: Cultivation of climate-change adapting crops a must for food security

NEWS Jun 10, 2013

Philippines government adopts Albav's new

Join Community of Practice

Share your climate change adaptation activities, events and new initiatives.

SIGN UP NOW >



UPCOMING APAN ACTIVITIES RELATED LOSS & DAMAGE

- **International Conference: Adaptation and Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change in Asia Pacific: Integrating Scientific Aspects (30-31, August, 2013, Bangkok, Thailand)**

LESSONS AND SOME THOUGHTS

- **Common challenges and gaps between service providers (donors) and recipients**
- **Opportunities**
- **Potential research areas**

COMMON CHALLENGES

- **Difficulties in dealing with cross-sectoral issues**
 - Weak mandate of leading agency
 - Weak coordination among agencies/line ministries
 - Insufficient data/basis to make decision/prioritize
- **Differentiation of adaptation ‘additionality’ from development**
- **Decision making under uncertainties**
 - Difficulties in translation of highly technical matters into policies or bridging science community and policy makers
 - Complex modalities of available and future funds
 - Insufficient local data or lack of means
- **Funds, HR, and Time**
 - High dependency on project funds and hired consultants
 - Multi-tasked officials, thin human resources (in the Pacific in particular)
 - Private sector’s involvement

GAPS BETWEEN SERVICE PROVIDERS AND RECIPIENTS

Service recipient:

- Sectionalism, weak coordination among agencies, lack of mandate
- Insufficient collection and assessment of data
- Undocumented knowledge/wisdom
- Aid fatigue
- Insufficient local institutional capacity
- Rapid changes in situations



Service provider:

- Weak coordination
- Insufficient knowledge of needs and local context
- Difficulties in accessing local data
- Racing to quick unscientific solutions
- Limited project period
- Requirements imposed on donor recipients
- Conventional mode of technical assistance

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Reduced search cost by topic-specialized network**
 - Network of networks
 - Forming alliance to pool knowledge
 - Topping up existing activities (some donors prefer joint events rather than stand -alone because of better resource mobilization)
- **Experience/evidence-based knowledge: untapped resources**
 - Fresher and livelier knowledge than out of textbooks
 - More chances to learn from other than one-size-fits-all solutions
 - South-south and peer-to-peer learning
 - Community of practice (CoP)
 - APN's research activities
- **More joining forces and resources**
 - Support from emerging economies

OPPORTUNITY IN VIRTUAL SPACE

More and more information is available on the web.

“Messages galore, but no time to think”
An article by Phyllis Korkki, *NY Times*
(*Bangkok Post* on 19 June 2013)

“Something may have been lost as we adopted these new communication tools: the ability to concentrate.”



Peer-to-peer
learning
opportunities in
virtual space



Face-to-face learning opportunities (meetings, workshops, training, seminars, etc.)

POTENTIAL RESEARCH AREAS

- **Collection and documentation of local knowledge and data**
 - Basis of objective and scientific discussion (advantage of research network)
 - Local champion, good practices
- **Action-oriented, replicable, and fundable research that can:**
 - Narrow gaps between policy makers and science community;
 - Empower local implementing organizations for sustainability; and
 - Induce regional cooperation or south-south/twinning projects;
- **Development of tools or studies on decision making/ prioritization at national or local level**
 - Efficient use of limited sources
 - To choose viable and affordable options
 - Integration/ mainstreaming CC
 - Any lessons from poverty, gender issues?

POTENTIAL RESEARCH AREAS – CONT'D

- **Stakeholder analysis in CC or adaptive policies**
 - Governance (national, local)
 - Private sector to induce its involvement
 - Role of international organizations, networks/initiatives
 - Harmonization of modalities for regional cooperation, alternative modes of development/cooperation (programmatic approach) ?
- **Impacts on economic integration and CC**
 - ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)
- **Biodiversity and CC**
- **SDGs and CC**
 - Low carbon development, DRR, adaptation
 - Employment, job creation

Please visit our website and find out more.

Asia Pacific Adaptation Network

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net>

APPENDIX

KEY MESSAGES FROM USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FIJI, JUNE 2013

From *donors' perspective* (to increase aid effectiveness and predictability):

- Improving donor coordination and harmonizing donor funding requirements are critical;
- Donors should first consider the use of national systems already in place in each country, raise country ownership, and reduce transaction costs; and
- Donors should also tailor assistance to respond to diverse conditions and unique circumstances, including capacity constraints, of small island developing states.

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KEY MESSAGES FROM USAID ADAPT ASIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FIJI, JUNE 2013 – CONT'D

From **PICs' perspective** (to increase country readiness):

- Improving coordination among national and local government agencies is critical to increase readiness;
- PICs should mainstream climate change into national priorities, address cross-sectoral issues, and link climate change priorities to national budgetary processes;
- PICs should develop capacity for better financial management, including raising fiduciary standards and improving accountability, to give confidence to donors; and
- PICs should look towards replicating good practices within the Pacific and beyond and modify them accordingly to address their own national climate change and development.

More info at: <http://adaptasiapacific.org/>

APPENDIX

EXAMPLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Asian Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Network (AECEN): a regional network dedicated to promoting improved compliance with environmental legal requirements in Asia through regional exchange of innovative policies and practices

Six elements of effective *TWINNING*

1. Counterpart Exchange: Twinning partnerships facilitate direct exchange between practitioners in sharing information on improved policies and practices.
2. Reciprocal Benefits: Both twinning partners receive benefits from the partnerships in strengthening their policies, practices and capabilities.
3. Demand Driven: Twinning partnerships respond to an agency's priority needs, which are matched with another agency's proven approaches and capabilities.

APPENDIX

EXAMPLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Six elements of effective *TWINNING* – cont'd

4. Results Focused: Twinning partnerships result in the adoption of improved policies and practices as well as increased capacity, leading to measurable improvements and tangible outcomes.
5. Replication: Twinning partnerships aim to replicate proven policies and practices across Asia.
6. Cost Sharing: All partner agencies support twinning activities on a cost-share basis, providing in-kind and direct funding support.
 - >>> Development agencies bring additional resources to facilitate, opportunities for new funding agencies