

OUR COMMON FUTURE UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE:
Conference Theme: Responding to Climate Change Challenges
Paris, France; 7-10 July 2015

Session 3342: Responding to Climate Change by Capacity Building in Asia-Pacific
UPMC Jussieu - ROOM 101 (Block 14/24) - 15:00-16:30

Session Title:

DEVELOPING CAPACITY THROUGH LOW CARBON INITIATIVES, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND INCREASED RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE IMPACTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Abstract:

Organised by a network of 22 countries supporting regional research and capacity development, the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) under its capacity building arm, CAPaBLE, has conducted 128 projects since 2003. CAPaBLE develops scientific capacity in Asia-Pacific to improve decision-making from grassroots to regional levels. The session will share outcomes of climate-related capacity building activities and initiatives to address capacity development, particularly scientific gaps and needs. APN places high emphasis on capacity development to scientifically capacitate young, early-career scientists, civil society, and decision-making and local communities. The session will have seven speakers; five of whom will highlight specific activities at the project-based level. All speakers and participants will engage through active discussion with the audience in an interactive panel and audience session.

Climate change adaptation and low carbon development are receiving increasing attention among developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Under a number of initiatives linked with UNFCCC processes; approaches to address adaptation and mitigation associated with extreme and slow-onset events, particularly for countries most vulnerable to climate change, are ongoing in the APN under a number of special initiatives. Through its Climate Adaptation Framework and Low Carbon Initiatives Framework, APN is addressing capacity building options for adaptation and mitigation in the region from local/grassroots levels to regional levels and responding to climate change challenges through capacity development initiatives under its capacity development programme, CAPaBLE. In this context, the session will address capacity development; and identify important gaps and future pathways for effective capacity development to respond to climate change.

APN places high emphasis on local/grassroots through to regional-level needs for capacity development to scientifically capacitate early-career scientists, civil society, and decision-making and local communities. Specific emphasis in the session is placed on adaptation and low carbon initiatives and, during the session, a series of ongoing projects will be presented that are looking at climate impacts including the risk of slow onset events; approaches to slow onset and extreme weather events, integrating slow onset and extreme events into climate resilient development processes. On low carbon initiatives, the session will address local government capacity development for GHG mitigation and reaching emission targets; capacity building for a low carbon Asia and key messages from the recent high level Regional Forum on Climate Change.

Agenda (1 hour and 30 minutes):

Time	Details	Presenter
15:00-15:05 (5 min)	Introduction of the Session and Speakers	Dr. Linda Anne Stevenson Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Japan
15:05-15:15 (10 min)	Keynote Presentation: 20 Years of Capacity Building in the Asia-Pacific Region	Dr. Linda Anne Stevenson Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Japan
15:15-15:25 (10 min)	Keynote Presentation: Assessing Linkages between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Floodplains of Southeast Asia	Dr. Rodel D. Lasco Oscar M. Lopez Center, Manila, Philippines.
15:25-15:33 (8 min)	1. Addressing Capacity Building through the Asia-Pacific Loss and Damage Forum	Dr. Saleemul Huq / Ms. Stephanie Andrei International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Bangladesh (ICCCAD), Bangladesh.
15:33-15:41 (8 min)	2. Building Capacity on Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Broader Context of Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region	Prof. Dr. Kanayathu K. Koshy Centre for Global Sustainability Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia.
15:41-15:49 (8 min)	3. Mobilising Wisdom through Capacity Building for a Low Carbon Asia	Dr. Shuzo Nishioka, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan.
15:49-15:57 (8 min)	4. Building Local Government Capacity on 'Measurable, Verifiable and Reportable (MRV)' in a Mid-Sized Thai Municipality	Ms. Shom W.C. Teoh, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Bangkok Branch, Thailand.
15:57-16:05 (8 min)	5. Outputs from the Regional Forum on Climate Change (RFCC) – Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Societies: Bridging Science, Practice and Policy	Dr. Victor Shinde, Asia Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand.
16:05-16:25 (20 min)	Panel and Audience Q&A Session	Moderator: Dr. Rodel D. Lasco
16:25-16:30 (5 min)	Wrap-up	Dr. Linda A. Stevenson, APN

SPEAKER ABSTRACTS



Keynote 1: Twenty Years of Capacity Building in the Asia-Pacific Region. *Linda Anne Stevenson*

The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research is celebrating 20 years of operation and this achievement is underscored by profiling some of the work APN has funded over the years in the Asia-Pacific Region. Most recently, APN took stock of its work in its 3rd strategic phase (2010-2015) and, under its capacity development programme, CAPaBLE, has made considerable steps towards developing scientific capacity in the region. Since 2003, when CAPaBLE was established, APN has completed 128 projects. As a most recent concrete example, APN's 3rd Strategic Phase report (2010-2015) provides comprehensive information of the work undertaken in capacity development and, more importantly, shows how APN was able to meet growing needs of the region. This is seen by capacity development in numbers showing that APN, as a regional network, continues to have an important niche in Asia and the Pacific in developing capacity to undertake policy-relevant regional-based research in the region. Of the 60 project activities completed, 223 events were conducted; 4,117 people were engaged: Scientists, decision makers and general public; 161 publications were published: Workshops/Conference proceedings, policy briefs, toolkits and manuals, synthesis reports; 44 peer-reviewed papers were published; 72% were policy-relevant and/or engaged policy makers via various approaches and over 90% provided monetary co-financing by way of partnerships.



Keynote 2: Assessing linkages between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Floodplains of Southeast Asia. *Rodel D. Lasco*

Southeast Asian countries are among the most disaster prone in the world. In 2013, four of the top ten most affected countries by climate hazards are in Southeast Asia. Climate change will worsen losses due to disasters. Indeed, changing climate is already altering hazard levels through warming temperatures, changing precipitation, and rising sea levels. The paper presents the case of Typhoon Haiyan which struck the Philippines in 2013 killing more than 6,000 people and causing more than US\$ 1 billion in damages. Regional efforts to better prepare for disasters are discussed.



Presentation 1: Addressing Capacity Building through the Asia-Pacific Loss and Damage Forum. *Saleemul Huq*

The Asia Pacific Forum on Loss and Damage is coordinated by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The Forum's main objective is to disseminate research on loss and damage,

promote discussion and provide a platform for sharing research findings and best practices in addressing loss and damage in the region.

With the aim of creating a community of practice for researchers conducting loss and damage-relevant research, the Forum has successfully attracted readership to the website, newsletter series and LinkedIn discussion board. The main purpose of the forum website (www.lossanddamageforum.org) is to share research on loss and damage in the region and respond to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Developed using feedback and suggestions from an international expert panel, the FAQs not only help shed light on the difficult concept of loss and damage, but also provide links to additional literature for further reading. Since loss and damage remains an emerging issue at national and local levels, finding relevant research has been challenging and differentiating “loss and damage” from “adaptation” research has been a point of discussion since the establishment of the Forum.



Presentation 2: Building Capacity on Climate Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Broader Context of Sustainable Development in the Asia-Pacific region. *Kanayathu C. Koshy*

Increasing frequency, intensity and cost of climatic disasters have serious implications for the sustainable development capabilities of most low lying areas of Asia and all the Small Island Developing States of the Pacific.

Heightened alertness across the world is critical to engage in mitigation and adaptation measures to prevent the impacts of climate change from becoming disasters beyond the capacity of vulnerable communities. For the Asia-Pacific region which is already living with increasing risk from existing stresses, the capacity to bring about these changes in innovative ways is sub-optimal. With the realization that natural hazards cannot be prevented, but their disaster potential can be reduced through a four-part cycle of *prevention, preparedness, response* and *recovery*, the Centre for Global Sustainability Studies has developed a Disaster Risk Management for Sustainable Development (DRM-SD) model which was used in a Southeast Asian training first (2013), and later in an APN funded four-country (Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos) capacity building initiative (2013-1015). A similar APN sponsored *Climate and extreme events training institute* in the Pacific Islands (2004-06), used a community based climate adaptation approach to integrate indigenous knowledge with modern climate science for progressive risk reduction. During these trainings, we defined risk more broadly to cover sustainability challenges such as poverty, climate change and loss of biodiversity, and to advocate the importance of risk reduction for resilience building. This inclusive approach is being promoted as ‘development with a difference’.



Presentation 3: Mobilising Wisdom through Capacity Building for a Low Carbon Asia. *Shuzo Nishioka*

Stabilizing climate is a huge challenge for our generation in the 21th Century. Within short time allowance set by the dispensation of nature, we need urgent action for low-carbon transformation. Growing Asia has the key role to contribute to this global transition, which affects Asian countries’ future substantially, so that they should decide leapfrog-development

pathway with their full ownership. Towards it, academia should transform themselves to more solution-oriented, change agent. Policy side, which tends to depend on foreign assistance now, should foster own research communities for their policy consultation. LoCARNet (Low Carbon Asia Research Network) is an open network of researchers, research organizations, as well as like-minded relevant stakeholders that facilitate formation and implementation of science-based policies for low carbon development in Asia, whose final goal is to implant researchers' communities with their full ownership. Since 2011, LoCARNet has organised workshops/dialogues among research communities and with policymakers.. In the past few years research communities have progressed rapidly. Many interdisciplinary research centres and communities, south-south collaborations, CoE leagues have started their work. LoCARNet launched Bogor Declaration in 2014, entitled "Asia is Ready to Stabilize Climate" and now is promoting "A decade of Accelerating Climate Dialogue for Action (DacDac)".



Presentation 4: Building Local Government Capacity on 'Measurable, Verifiable and Reportable (MRV)' in a Mid-Sized Thai Municipality. *Shom W.C. Teoh*

The project built the capacity of local government officers in a medium-sized Thai municipality (Phitsanulok Municipality; population size of 100,000 – 120,000 persons) to develop and implement a 'Measuring/Monitoring, Reporting and Verification' (MRV) framework for quantifying city-level greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In the process, a pilot global standard for city-level greenhouse gas (GHG) accounting was tested and experience exchange was conducted with a peer municipality (Nonthaburi Municipality). The outputs were: (i) a draft municipal-level GHG Inventory was developed (in the forms of an online database and a public report), with routine data collection practices among municipality staff strengthened and enhanced; (ii) Preliminary data was collected for a higher-order, more complicated city-level GHG Inventory; (iii) Deeper understanding of local government perspectives and practical challenges of raising local government capacity on MRV. The findings provide a foundation for Phitsanulok Municipality's future work on low-carbon city, and may be helpful to researchers, policymakers and other supporting stakeholders involved in capacity building activities for local governments on local-level GHG-accounting and MRV.



Presentation 5: Outputs from the Regional Forum on Climate Change (RFCC) – Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Societies: Bridging Science, Practice and Policy. *Victor Shinde*

From July 1-3, 2015, the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in collaboration with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, European Union and ASEAN Secretariat will organize a Regional Forum on Climate Change (RFCC) - Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Societies: Bridging Science, Practice and Policy. The Forum seeks to provide the 400 odd participants, from diverse sectors and streams in Asia and Europe, a platform to engage in multi-perspective discussions in order to ease the translation of climate science into practice and

policy. Furthermore, it will also offer a venue to ASEAN climate change negotiators to build increased positions of ambition prior to the COP-21. The Forum is designed to accommodate 22 technical sessions covering a gamut of topics under climate change, and two plenary panel discussions in areas relevant to the region. This presentation will focus on the key outcomes of these technical sessions and panel discussions. There will also be a special emphasis on a consolidated message from scientists, practitioners and policy-makers from the ASEAN region for the COP-21.

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