S3-PS.3 – Collectively addressing climate change, disaster risk reduction and loss and damage.

14:00 – 15:30, 18th October 2016, Nugasewana, BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka

WRAP UP WITH KEY MESSAGES

1. Loss and Damage is universal - it's important to explore how to manage L&D, identify metrics of loss and damage as it's different in each specific country.
2. Informing science to policy is not only one nation's problem. In South Asia, for example, we share the same ecosystem which means we have to look at issues collectively and collaboratively. This is no longer a choice if we want to make progress.
3. Without knowledge and collaboration, we are unable to manage on the ground level.
4. It's more necessary to link loss and damage to natural phenomena and if we can estimate model/project without investigation, it would be better.
5. **Multiple stakeholders should value partnerships and be aware of the co-benefits that partnerships can provide**
6. **Governments, local authorities and communities are the top 3 actors.**

SESSION ABSTRACT

While understanding the manifestation of extreme and slow onset events and associated residual loss and damage, the need for disaster risk reduction/management strategies and effective climate adaptation practices in all sectors and locations across the region; APN, together with ICCCAD and APAN as partner in APN's Climate Adaptation Framework, are engaged in APN's focused activities that link climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and loss and damage (CCA-DRR-L&D). With the belief that it is important to learn from past risks by focusing on climate impacts as a result of extreme and slow-onset events, and adopting strategies to cope with them; the activities/projects shared in the session over Asia and the Pacific will share tangible outputs and approaches that will contribute to increased resilience and relevancy for the policy- and decision-making communities to effectively address residual loss and damage for extreme and slow-onset events.

PRESENTATIONS

MODERATOR

Dr. Linda Anne Stevenson; Head, Communication & Scientific Affairs Division, APN Secretariat,
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KEYNOTE SPEECH

Dr. Saleemul Huq; Director, International Centre for Climate Change Adaptation & Development (ICCCAD), Bangladesh: Email: saleemul.huq@iied.org

PRESENTATIONS

Building Capacity for Reducing Loss and Damage Resulting from Slow and Rapid Onset Climatic Extremes through Risk Reduction and Proactive Adaptation within the Broader Context of Sustainable Development: Prof. Kamarulazizi Ibrahim; Director, Centre for Global Sustainability Studies (CGSS); Malaysia: Email: kamarul@usm.my

Methods Toolbox for Assessing Loss and Damage at Local Level (Pakistan): Dr. Hina Lotia, LEAD Pakistan; Email : hlotia@lead.org.pk

Integrated Flood Modeling and Pre-Disaster Loss Estimation in Asian countries
Dr. Srikantha Herath; Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development, Sri Lanka
Email: srikantha.herath@gmail.com

Can Traditional Livelihoods and Mining Co-Exist in a Changing Climate: Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships in Mongolia to Reduce Risk and Address Loss and Damage: Dr. Vigya Sharma; Research Fellow, Energy and Poverty Research Group, Australia: Email: v.sharma@uq.edu.au / vigya80@gmail.com

INTERACTION I: PANELISTS' PERSPECTIVE

Panelists
Dr. Saleemul Huq; Director, ICCCAD, Bangladesh: Email: saleemul.huq@iied.org
Dr. Harjeet Singh; Action Aid International (AAI), India: Email: harjeet.singh@actionaid.org
Mr. Santosh Kumar Patnaik; CANSA, India : Email: santosh@cansouthasia.net
Ms. Perlyn Pulhin; The Oscar M. Lopez Center, Philippines: Email: ppulhin@omlopezcenter.org

Dr. Harjeet Singh

- Future climate models are crucial when considering climate adaptation and loss and damage, however, although we have data, high resolution downscaling is not actually happening. If local authorities can have access to data, it can aid planning processes for climate adaptation.
- How can we engage multi-stakeholders for cross-learning and to develop new solutions? As we are moving forward in a very unpredictable world, we need to be flexible, taking into account the importance of stressing uncertainties that we will face.
- If local communities can be empowered, their resilience can be enhanced.

Ms. Perlyn Pulhin

- stressed that knowledge should be communicated in a language that can be well understood and acted upon by a specific stakeholder or public that we are trying to reach out whether it's the government or policy-makers, the private sector, media or the science community.
- We cannot manage what we cannot measure so the better we can value and quantify both the economic and non-economic losses and damages considering the long-term changes and

uncertainties, the better we can manage our risks, then the more adaptive and resilient we can become.

- In defining resilience, this is the ability of individuals, communities and states and their institutions and systems to absorb and recover from current stresses and future shocks, while positively adapting, learning from and transforming their structures and means for better living in the face of disaster, long-term climate changes and uncertainty.

Mr. Santosh Patnaik

- Stressed the importance of policy-making communities to understand what is really happening on the ground, especially loss and damage as only adaptation and mitigation are insufficient.
- Partnerships across all levels are also crucial. Information needs to be translated and informed to local and national levels.

Dr. Saleemul Huq

- Informed that two reports are being prepared and about to be issued. He noted the showcased projects presented are good examples to be incorporated into such reports.
- Loss and Damage is is universal - it's important to explore how to manage L&D, identify metrics of loss and damage as it's different in each specific country.
- Not only developing countries suffer from natural disasters. Therefore, metrics of loss and damage for compensation is an important part of the UNFCCC negotiation process in the future.

AUDIENCE Q&A

Q1: While we are in the process of preparing mechanisms for loss and damage, what we lack is data. What is the state of data in Pakistan and India? Are there chances for collaboration to improve the status?

- The answer is not simple and requires great progress across sectors
- It's important but difficult to bridge the gap between the research community and policy-making community.
- Informing science to policy is not only one nation's problem. In South Asia, for example, we share the same ecosystem which means we have to look collectively at issues collectivelty and collaboratively. This is no longer a choice if we want to make progress.
- data is a great concern in Pakistan as the latest data: it's old and inconsistent. Sharing data across national boundaries is also a problem due to political tensions and/or data-sharing policies

Q2: APN seems to be active in the field of loss and damage which can be shared with other countries. Why is this?

- the Ministry of Environment Japan provided budget for APN to invest on such fields and we have some frameworks that incorporate the linkages between cclimate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and loss & damage in a way that scientific results can be produced and shared with the Asia-Pacific community in a way that is policy-relevant and not policy-prescriptive
- The Japanese government is contributing massively to help other countries in many ways, for i.e. technology transfer, transferring knowledge and skills while APN is doing good job in regional collaboration.

- Without knowledge and collaboration, we are unable to manage on the ground level.

Q3: Agree that post-disasters estimation aftermath is insufficient as it already happened. Is it necessary to invest more in pre-disaster prediction before events happen?

- It's more necessary to link loss and damage to natural phenomena and if we can estimate model/project without investigation, it would be better.
- 30 different models and methods were introduced and the research found that climatic events have not increased but become more frequent.
- The problems of loss and damage prediction is due to the diversity and geographical differences.

Q4: How can we define loss and damage? Natural disasters have been present for thousands of years even before the industrial era, are they really attributed by the climate change?

- It doesn't matter if such natural disasters are attributed by the climate change or not. The fact is we are all suffering from loss and damage. The natural disasters frequency and magnitude are increasing at an alarming rate so it's no longer natural disasters but human-induced disasters.
- As the frequency and magnitude is going to get worse, we need to be prepared. We are actually doing the estimations for the coming negotiation and will announce soon.

Q5: For Pakistan, Are landslides due to climate change or other factors? In addition, the Loss and damage concept is very new to Nepal and Nepal could benefit from similar work.

- Landslides can be caused by heavy rain which can be triggered by climate change.
- Regarding the concept of loss and damage, LEAD Pakistan can help Nepal to connect with their local authorities to organize more collaboration.

Finally, two questions were posed by the moderator on how to sustain partnerships and to Dr. Ibrahim about the top 3 actors that need to work together to overcome challenges of climate change adaptation.

- Multiple stakeholders should value partnerships and be aware of the co-benefits that partnerships can provide
- Governments, local authorities and communities are the top 3 actors.

APPENDIX 1 - Agenda