

APN SESSION at 2016 ASIA-PACIFIC CLIMATE ADAPTATION FORUM

S4-PS.4 – Informing decision-making and effective policy reform with research on adaptation measures

16:00 – 17:30, 18th October 2016, Orchid, BMICH, Colombo, Sri Lanka

This session addresses the Forum theme: Adapting and Living under 2°C: Bridging Gaps in Policy and Practices

KEY MESSAGES

Dr. Stevenson summarized the session by stressing some key points:

- Reducing vagueness/ operationalizing the concept
- Benchmarking performance against peers
- Enhancing accountability of authorities
- Identifying gaps and prioritize resource allocation
- Functioning as a risk communication tool
- Functioning as a planning support system
- Lowering insurance rates could be rewarded to projects
- Enhancing participatory approaches to enhance social capital
- Increasing interaction across actors, sectors and scales
- Capacity building is needed to decrease the gap between scientists and policy makers

ABSTRACT

This session showcased 3 APN projects as well as presentations from other speakers from Pakistan and Viet Nam and their activities that undertake research and/or build capacity on adaptation strategies for enhanced resilience specifically targeted to highlight the importance of science-policy interactions and science-informed decision-making processes.

The main objectives of the sessions were to:

- Stress the importance of science-policy interactions to respond to and enhance resilience to climate change
- Transfer knowledge on research/capacity building activities for informed decision-making processes that enhance resilience to climate change.

SESSION INTRODUCTION

Moderator, Dr. Linda Anne Stevenson, introduced the session, speakers and panel members. She opened the session by acknowledging the work of all participants in supporting APN and their efforts

for advancing the global change and sustainability agendas in the region, particularly climate adaptation strategies.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Keynote – Mr. Ali Tauqueer Sheikh, CDKN
2. *Communicating and operationalizing site-specific climate change adaptation strategies in selected vulnerable upland communities in Southeast Asia (sub-regional Southeast Asia)* – Dr. Christine Wulandari, INAFE
3. *Integrated, resilience-based planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Asia-Pacific Cities (Pan Asia-Pacific)* – Dr. Ayyoob Sharifi,
4. *Enhancing capacity of policy makers and practitioners in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal for adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies (sub-regional South Asia)* – Ms. Vositha Wijenayake,
5. *"Necessary but not sufficient" – Why improving the evidence base on community based adaptation is not enough for effective and equitable climate action. Experiences from the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), Vietnam* – Ms. Thea Konstantinidis, CCWG, Vietnam

INTERACTION I: AUDIENCE Q&A

Ms. Naznin from ICCCAD Bangladesh questioned that while the Green Climate Fund is committed to support both mitigation and adaptation, why does it appear that more funding is being spent on adaptation?

Mr. Ali Tauqueer Sheikh answered that it depends on the quality of the proposal submitted. At the present, total funding for mitigation is less than US\$ 300 million. Further, some proposals showed adaptation/mitigation co-benefits. He suggested that applicants need to prepare proposals with high quality to increase the opportunity.

Ms. Perlyn from OML Center, Philippines questioned the outputs of Dr. Sharifi's project and wondered if such outputs can be applied to other countries, i.e. Philippines.

Dr. Sharifi responded that the major outputs of the projects were 3 published journal papers, which provide details and frameworks that should be followed. However, how to apply such toolkits to a specific country should be done by the institutions inside the country because the specific indicators should be built bottom up from the specific communities.

Dr. Nop Polin, Program Officer from DCA/CA Cambodia while agreeing with Dr. Sheikh, noted that adaptation should reflect a long-term planning processes to avoid maladaptation.

Dr. Stevenson questioned Ms. Konstantinos's statement that in order to close the gap between top down and bottom up, whose capacities need to be developed?

Ms. Konstantinidis stressed that firstly the objectives of each group should be identified to find the common goals of both groups and the differences. It is not a direct progress and the capacities should be built for both sides, especially the policy makers as sometimes it is not easy to work with this community. Some even do not comprehend the problems that they are dealing with.

Dr. Stevenson then gave the final question to Dr. Wulandari: What are the top 3 actors that need to work together to advance climate change adaptation?

Dr. Wulandari stressed that the first actor must be the community, the second is the government and the third is the facilitators which can be private sectors, NGOs, etc.