



## Side Event: Development and utilization of information platforms towards climate-resilient societies in the Asia-Pacific Region

Japan Pavilion, SEC Blue Zone, 2 November 2021

Effective interaction among climate science, policy and action is key to building a climate-resilient society. As mentioned in the Paris Agreement, climate-related capacity development for developing countries should be accelerated to deal with the many challenges brought about by climate change. Considering this, the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) was launched to provide an enabling environment for climate-risk informed decision-making and practical adaptation action through collaboration with partners, including international organizations, universities, and research institutions. This session shared good practices and challenges in information platforms on how science can be used to inform evidence-based strategic planning and implementation of adaptation action for a climate-resilient Asia-Pacific region. This session explored the potential of partnerships between information platforms, organizations, institutes, and initiatives in accelerating adaptation in Asia-Pacific countries.

### Session Organizers

- National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES)
- Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)
- Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

### Speakers and Panellists

- Dr Yuji Masutomi, Section Head, CCCA, NIES  
Introduction of Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT)
- Dr Tetsuo Kuyama, Director, Bangkok Regional Center, IGES  
Capacity development through AP-PLAT
- Dr Youichi Ishikawa, Director, Center for Earth Information Science and Technology (CEIST), Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC)  
Introduction of Data Integration and Analysis System (DIAS)
- Ms Yvette Kerslake, Technical Advisor, Science to Services, Pacific Climate Change Centre  
Activities of PCCC: Challenges in Pacific countries
- Dr Kim van Nieuwaal, Strategic advisor, Climate Adaptation Services  
Outcomes of Knowledge Exchange between Climate Change Adaptation Platforms (KE4CAP)
- Dr Linda Anne Stevenson, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)  
APN's role in bridging science-stakeholder communities for a climate-resilient Asia-Pacific region
- Dr Mozaharul Alam, Asia and the Pacific Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
Activities of APAN and UNEP; Outcomes of 7th APAN forum



Mr Yutaka Shoda, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ)

## Opening Remarks

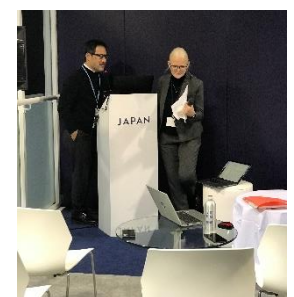
In his opening remarks provided by video message, Mr Yutaka Shoda, Vice-Minister for Global Environmental Affairs of the Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), stated that climate change is globally recognized as one of the adverse issues facing the world today, both politically and economically. He emphasized that international communities and governments should work together to realize the Paris Agreement 1.5oC target. He noted that the government of Japan has committed to reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 46% by Fiscal Year 2030 from 2013 levels. Mr Shoda emphasized that to address the impacts of climate change, we must work towards adaptation in a wide range of sectors. The Japan cabinet approved a new adaptation plan on 22 October this year, considering the assessment report of climate change impacts in Japan published in December 2020. Japan continues to support developing countries across the world and provides capacity building for policymakers. To this end, AP-PLAT was established by MOEJ in 2019 to provide relevant scientific knowledge and best practices that support decision-making for climate change adaptation.

## Speakers Presentations and Summary

Dr Yuji Masutomi, Chair of the Side Event, introduced the first session of speakers' presentations, followed by a summary delivered by the moderator, Dr Linda Stevenson. In seven presentations, various issues were discussed by speakers from a range of networks and platforms. The speakers presented efforts to advance climate-resilient societies in the region, mainly related to the kinds of approaches, outcomes, lessons, needs and challenges for developing climate-resilient societies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Masutomi introduced the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform, otherwise known as AP-PLAT. This website-based platform provides scientific information on climate change, including future projections, impacts, and action-oriented adaptation. CMIP6 climate scenarios available on the platform provides information on climate projections for all stakeholders, and the Climate Impact Viewer provides climate change impacts information based on scientific results. Via the 3 pillars of AP-PLAT, tools, scientific information and capacity development, the platform provides a bridge between science and stakeholders for effective climate change adaptation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Tetsuo Kuyama focused on the capacity development pillar of AP-PLAT. He outlined many initiatives, including developing e-learning courses for accessing the GCF funds for adaptation; Climo-case for National Adaptation Planning processes; nature-based solutions and adaptation for local communities; and disaster risk reduction. He outlined, too, a publication that is currently under development entitled Capacity Development in International Cooperation on Climate Change Adaptation.





Speakers and Audience on Zoom and at the Venue

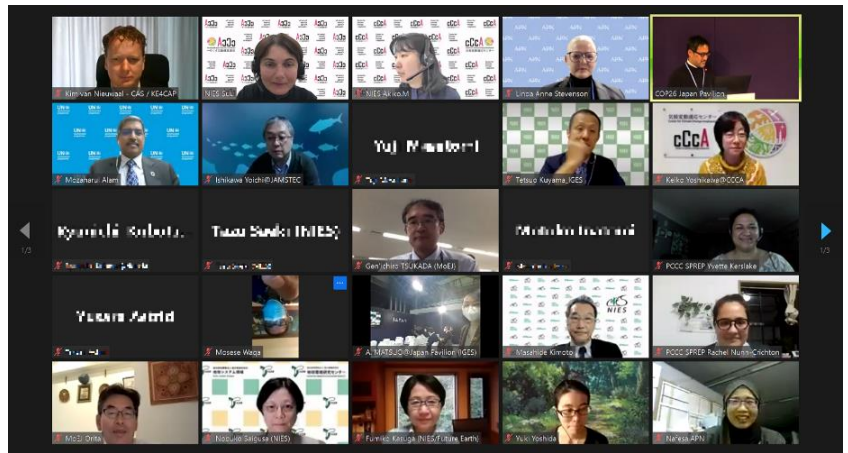
Dr Youichi Ishikawa explained that the Data Integration and Analysis System, or DIAS, was initiated in 2006. Numerous climate datasets have been archived and are in the public domain with open access for all. The DIAS end-to-end applications for early-warning systems and adaptation have been developed with collaboration among climate and IT researchers. DIAS, essentially, is striving towards being a collaborative platform of researchers associated with climate change, including modelling, impact assessments and adaptation implementation.

Ms Yvette Kerslake provided information on the activities of the Pacific Climate Change Centre established in Samoa in 2019. The four key functions of PCCC are Knowledge Brokerage, Innovation, Applied Research and Capacity Building. She stressed that building partnerships could effectively improve the coordination of climate change training efforts in the Pacific region. The Pacific Climate Change portals remain an essential tool to access information and play a vital role in information knowledge management and brokerage. To counter the many challenges faced in the Pacific, she stressed the importance of co-designing projects with local stakeholders from inception to production and further training on new innovative technologies for longer-term sustainability.

Dr Kim van Nieuwaal discussed the growing international knowledge exchange network between climate change adaptation platforms. He discussed the various roles and activities undertaken by the climate adaptation project partners of the KE4CAP project. For example, 93% of these provide decision-support tools, 89% share adaptation solutions and case studies. There is wide and varied support for adaptation that includes raising awareness, providing guidance, quantitative data and literature from scientific research.

Dr Linda Anne Stevenson outlined the importance of networking on climate change adaptation and the importance of knowledge sharing and understanding the needs of a range of stakeholders. The knowledge created by APN projects and activities can be for policy planning, scientific research, decision-making by communities or for individual choices. Importantly she stressed the importance of networks in preserving, sharing, synthesizing and monitoring data; and cooperating with other platforms and networks. Partnerships allow us to minimize gaps and challenges and leverage opportunities to enhance accessibility and use of climate information and coordinated adaptation.

Dr Mozaharul Alam stated the aims of APAN, the Asia-Pacific Climate Adaptation Network, which are to equip key actors with the knowledge to design and implement climate adaptation measures, build capacity to access technologies, finance and integrate adaptation into policies and plans. APAN collaborates with AP-PLAT and partners with MOEJ in several important events. In March this year, APAN convened the 7th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum on "Enabling Resilience for All: The Critical Decade to Scale-up Action". Key messages delivered included leveraging partnerships, transboundary cooperation, and knowledge exchange to support adaptation and resilience through collective actions to provide the best solutions and opportunities for all, including local and indigenous knowledge communities.



Side Event Group Photo

## Panel Discussion

Dr Stevenson, as moderator, introduced the next session of the panel discussion. To maximize the potential of information platforms, the panellists were asked to discuss what is lacking in information platforms for bridging science and stakeholder communities, the next steps needed, and explore ways to achieve our final goal of enabling climate-resilience societies.

Specifically, three questions were posed:

1. What gaps are there between stakeholders and science communities? How can information platforms fill these gaps?
2. What are the most important features of information platforms that link science with stakeholder communities?
3. What kinds of collaboration and partnerships are needed among information platforms, organizations, institutes, and universities that can accelerate the realization of climate-resilient societies?

Addressing question two, Mr Kuyama noted the importance of minimizing gaps between the scientific community and stakeholders and drew on two crucial issues related to gaps. The first is the lack of information and data available in developing countries, which results in these countries' inability to conduct scientific-based planning and implementation. AP-PLAT and similar networks and platforms can play a supplementary role to address the issue. The second is the gap between scientists and stakeholders or communities on the ground. Sometimes scientific information available is not needed or useful for the stakeholder. So, there is a gap between what scientists have and what stakeholders need on the ground. In this context, AP-PLAT can provide a solution by creating a common platform for better communication and mutual understanding between both actors.

Dr Ishikawa emphasized the importance of co-design and co-working processes to solve stakeholders' specific problems, something that DIAS strives to achieve. When a platform like DIAS can provide information and tools and promote co-design processes, understanding between the institutions/actors engaged, particularly between scientists and stakeholders, will help minimize the gap between the main actors engaged.

Dr van Nieuwaal shared the perspective of the KE4CAP project, and he stressed the gaps between scientists, policymakers and stakeholders, with science providing what is feasible and stakeholders expressing what they need. In this respect, the role of climate adaptation platforms, particularly the people behind them, as independent and trustworthy knowledge brokers is crucial. Another gap identified is how these platforms and the people behind them – the human capital – operate. An understanding of how these platforms operate at the interface can speed up our efforts.

Dr Mozaharul Alam talked about applying scientific information in the community in the context of the solution. So, the science and the solution part need to work together, so essentially co-designed. One example was in the discussions that took place in Manila with local communities in terms of how to address adaptation. The discussion focused on the science and how local communities didn't want the scientific information but instead wanted to know what to do with the information in terms of the solution. He reiterated the importance of co-design, not just in jointly designing scientific information and data but more profoundly translating the data into solutions that users can use.

A participant from the Open University of Scotland addressed a question to the panellists. As a social scientist, he expressed his interest in sharing socioeconomic data and best practices for science-community engagement. He asked the panellists what a best practice example of this might be for effective adaptation.

Dr Mozaharul Alam responded on the aspect of behavioural science for adaptation planning and implementation and that some emphasis needs to be put here in the future. While this gap has been identified, there is not yet sufficient attention to this when it comes to climate change adaptation.

Addressing question one, Dr Masutomi acknowledged that, as a scientist, he does not fully understand the needs of policymakers and local stakeholders and that better communication is needed to bridge this gap. Providing such a platform for this kind of interaction and communication among policymakers and scientists is one of the issues that AP-PLAT will address in the next steps of its development.

## Closing Remarks

Dr Masahide Kimoto, President of NIES provided closing remarks. He thanked the speakers, panellists and audience for an interesting and dynamic session. We heard about the recent developments of adaptation networks. What was evident in the panel discussion is that there are still gaps between science and platforms with the various end-users, stakeholders and local communities. We want to close these gaps through communication, collaboration and co-design for adaptation planning and implementation. He noted his strong belief from the discussions at the side event that platforms and networks for adaptation can not only be for the delivery of information for adaption but also can address the gaps by providing a common forum for communication. He hopes to see the development towards better adaptation globally and emphasized the benefits of platforms and networks for stakeholders.



Dr Masahide Kimoto, President of NIES

## Acknowledgements

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# Selected Photograph and Screenshots from the Hybrid Event

